

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction & Continuity of Services Plan 2022-2023

The Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief 3.0 (ESSER 3.0) Fund under the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2, was enacted on March 11, 2021. ARP ESSER Funding provides a total of nearly \$122 billion to states and local educational agencies (LEAs) to help safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the nation's students. In addition to ARP ESSER Funding, ARP includes \$3 billion for special education, \$850 million for the Outlying Areas, \$2.75 billion to support non-public schools, and additional funding for homeless children and youth, Tribal educational agencies, Native Hawaiians, and Alaska Natives.

LEAs must develop and make publicly available a **Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan** that meets the following requirements within 30 days of receiving ARP ESSER allocation. If an LEA developed a plan before ARP was enacted that does not address the requirements, the LEA must revise its plan no later than six months after it last reviewed its plan. All plans must be developed with meaningful public consultation with stakeholder groups (i.e., families, students, teachers, principals, school and district administrators, school leaders, other educators, school staff, advocacy organizations representing student groups). The consultation process must include an opportunity for input and meaning consideration of that input. ARP ESSER plans need to be published in an understandable and uniform format; to the extent practicable, written in a language that parents can understand or, if not practicable, orally translated; and upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability, provided in an alternative format accessible to that parent.

ESSER III (ARP) requires iCademy Global to update its **Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan** every six months. through the life of the grant.

Part One: Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Plan

1. Describe the extent to which the LEA has adopted policies and a description of such policies on each of the following health and safety strategies.

<p>Universal & correct wearing of masks</p>	<p>iCademy Global will not require universal indoor masking by students, staff, teachers, and visitors to our school regardless of vaccination status. iCademy Global will follow current ACHD guidance released on 8/26/2022 which allows staff and students to choose to wear a mask at any time. Anyone who chooses to wear a mask will be supported in their decision to do so.</p> <p>It is still <u>recommended, but not required</u>, that staff and students wear a mask when they have an exposure with someone who tests positive, they have tested positive and are returning to school during the remaining five (5) days of isolation, or if they are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms but tested negative.</p> <p>Masks are no longer required on buses.</p>
<p>Physical distancing (e.g, including use of cohorts)</p>	<p>Classroom groups at the Y5-5 level continue to serve as natural cohorts. Students at this level will travel to and from specials, lunch and recess as they had prior to COVID. Following current CDC guidelines, students in grades 6-8 will continue in non-cohorted classes, including lunch. Physical distancing is not required at iCademy Global, and as of 8/11/2022, the CDC has removed all recommendations regarding cohorting students in schools.</p>
<p>Handwashing & respiratory etiquette</p>	<p>iCademy Global will continue to encourage students to appropriately and frequently wash their hands with soap and hot water, including prior to eating breakfast or lunch. Signs are posted in our building asking all to cover their mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing to limit droplets.</p> <p>Tissues are provided in the building, and masks are available for students and staff members who are showing symptoms and waiting to go home.</p>
<p>Cleaning & maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation</p>	<p>iCademy Global will continue to be cleaned and disinfected in accordance with CDC guidelines. Sanitizer is available throughout our building. Custodians clean the building every night. Throughout the day, teachers may sanitize their classroom, if desired. This year, several projects will begin to improve HVAC systems.</p>

Contact tracing in combination with isolation & quarantine

Isolation Guidance:

Students, teachers, and staff who test positive for COVID-19 and/or display COVID-19 symptoms should isolate regardless of vaccination status:

- Stay home and isolate for five (5) days; and
- If asymptomatic, monitor for symptoms for days 0 – 10 and isolate for days 0-5 (day “0” is day symptoms begin or day test was taken for those without symptoms); and
- If symptoms have improved or no symptoms developed, return to school, while wearing a well-fitted mask, for days 6 -10 (5 additional days); or
- Stay home for days 0 - 10 if unwilling/unable to wear a mask.
- (If you have a fever, stay home until you are fever free for a period of 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications.)

Exposure Guidance:

iCademy Global is following the current COVID-19 exposure guidance recommendations; this guidance may change if COVID-19 cases and/or hospitalizations rise.

- During days 1-10 following exposure:
 - Watch for symptoms, such as fever, cough, shortness of breath, or other COVID-19 symptoms.
 - Wear a high-quality mask around others indoors for 10 days.
 - Test 5 days after exposure. If symptoms develop, test immediately and isolate until receiving test results. If they test positive, then follow isolation recommendations.
 - For the full 10 days after last exposure, avoid people who are immunocompromised or at high risk for severe disease, and nursing homes and other high-risk settings.

Students, teachers, and staff should monitor for symptoms throughout the quarantine period (days 1 through 5). Day “0” is the day of last close contact with any COVID-19 positive student, teacher, or staff. If symptoms develop, get tested.

Testing is not required to determine the end of isolation or mask use. iCademy Global will not recommend quarantine for people

	who are only exposed to COVID-19. iCademy Global will continue to partner with the local health department for contact tracing, when warranted.
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Diagnostic and screening testing	iCademy Global will continue to encourage students and staff to stay home if sick or have COVID-19 symptoms. iCademy Global will encourage students and staff to get tested if they have symptoms or if they have been exposed to someone with COVID-19. iCademy Global will not require a negative test for students to return to school.
Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, staff, and students, if eligible.	Information was provided to staff through an email and to families through our weekly blog.
Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies.	Students with disabilities receiving in-person instruction are afforded individualized accommodations that have been identified through the IEP team process. Students are provided with both the learning accommodations and the health and safety accommodations that have been agreed upon and developed by the entire IEP team.

2. Describe how the LEA will ensure continuity of services including but not limited to services to address the students’ academic needs, and students’ and staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services.

iCademy Global will resume our virtual learning with continuity of all services, such as opportunities for students to come on campus to meet with their teachers and mentors, beginning in August 2022 for all students in Grades Young 5s-8.

Ensuring Students’ Academic Needs:

As in previous years, iCademy Global will continue its use of the NWEA assessments in reading and mathematics for 22-23 for students in grades 2-12; this year, we will use Diebels assessments for grade K-1. iCademy Global will report benchmark assessment data to parents and legal guardians within 30 days of students completing the assessment. The assessment will be administered three times a year: the first during the first six weeks of the school year, the second

during the month of January, and the third during the spring prior to the last day of school in June. iCademy Global will also continue to use extensive assessments (Fountas & Pinnell, Delta Math) in grades K-8 to determine interventions and supports to better meet the needs of its learners in both reading and mathematics. Progress reports will be available on the iCademy Global website in February and June indicating NWEA and Dibels results.

Using the district's continuous improvement process, iCademy Global will continue to engage stakeholders in the district's assessment system, including publicly sharing aggregate and student subgroup performance reports on NWEA results.

Following the pandemic, iCademy Global will provide a continuity of services, as well as implementing new research-based programs and digital resources to support, enrich, and accelerate student learning.

Interventionists at iCademy Global will continue to provide additional academic support during the school day.

iCademy Global also has a part-time English Language Learner consultant to support students with language needs.

Ensuring Students' Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs:

The landscape of teaching and learning has changed following pandemic learning. While we can anticipate that students returning in the fall will exhibit both learning and social-emotional challenges, staff and leaders at iCademy Global are well-prepared to support their needs. While much of this is a natural part of our existing approaches to support our iCademy Global students, the inclusion of additional support staff for the 22-23 school year will help to provide individualized, meaningful, and appropriate socio-emotional support for our students.

Our BASE Education program through high school is an evidence-based program to promote social and emotional growth.

Ensuring Staff's Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs:

We have a teacher-led group (SR - School Responsibility) that is dedicated to staff wellness and support. In addition, we ask staff to work a reasonable amount of time in their day and have provided a quiet space for staff.

Part Two: Consultation with Stakeholders

3. Describe how the LEA will, in planning for the use of ARP ESSER funds, engage in meaningful consultation with stakeholders. Provide an overview of how the public stakeholder input was considered in the development of the LEA's Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan.

From the inception of the Extended COVID Learning Plan developed for the 2020-2021 school year, staff, parents and community members have been given opportunities to voice their opinions, provide perspectives, and offer feedback regarding plans for pandemic learning. iCademy Global continues to utilize Board of Education meetings as a conduit to the general public, but also provided other opportunities for stakeholders to share input since 2021.

To meet the requirements of Public Act 149, Section 98a, iCademy Global reconfirmed how instruction was delivered during the 2020-2021 school year on a monthly basis that included public input.

Before an LEA Plan of Use was developed for the expenditures of ESSER III funds, input was solicited in a couple of different venues. In December 2021, a survey was sent out to community members for their input regarding how the funds should be allocated.

Eighteen responses were received asking the community to prioritize funding around student learning and COVID-19 recovery. Through the regular district improvement process more stakeholder input was gathered to help make decisions around spending. In addition, stakeholders were provided the opportunity to provide feedback during three scheduled virtual meetings scheduled in January.

To meet the requirements of the law, every six months the plan will be presented to the iCademy Global Board of Education during their regular meetings as an official Administrative Report agenda item for informational purposes only. iCademy Global will post a copy of the plan and an open-ended survey where participants can provide narrative feedback for modifications as needed.

4. Periodic Review Process and Understandable & Uniform Format

Districts are required to periodically review and, as appropriate, revise their **Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan** at least every six months through September 30, 2023. Each review must include seeking public input on the plan and revising the plan after taking into account public input. The review dates are as follows:

December 2022

May 2023

iCademy Global will use the current template and make it accessible to the public. The plan will be posted publicly on the iCademy Global website, and accommodations can be made for those who require formats related to language or disabilities.