

AMIGOS POR VIDA FRIENDS FOR LIFE

Public Charter School

An Amigos Por Vida - Friends for Life Housing and Education Corporation School

American Rescue Plan Act

Elementary and Secondary School Relief Fund (ESSER)

LEA ESSER Plan Template

Background on ESSER

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) signed into law on March 11, 2021, provided nearly \$122 billion for the Elementary and Secondary School Relief Fund (ESSER). ARP ESSER funds are provided to State educational agencies in the same proportion as each State received under Title I-A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) in fiscal year (FY) 2020. An SEA must allocate at least 90 percent of its ARP ESSER grant funds to its local educational agencies

(LEAs) in the same proportion that the LEAs received under Title I-A of ESEA in FY 2020. LEAs must reserve at least 20 percent of their total ARP ESSER allocation to address the academic impact of lost instructional time on all students, through the implementation of evidence-based interventions.

The U.S. Department of Education (ED) published Interim Final Requirements (IFR) on April 22, 2021 requiring LEAs receiving ARP ESSER funds to submit an LEA ARP ESSER Plan and an LEA Plan for the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services. If an LEA had already developed a plan for safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services prior to the enactment of ARP that meets the statutory requirements of section 2001(i) but did not address all of the requirements in the IFR, the LEA must revise and post its plan no later than six months after receiving its ARP ESSER funds. This applies even if an LEA has been operating full-time in-person instruction but does not apply to fully virtual schools and LEAs.

The IFR and ARP statute, along with other helpful resources, are located here:

April 2021 Interim Final Requirements: American Rescue Plan Act Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund

ED Fact Sheet American Result Plan Act: https://oese.ed.gov/files/2021/03/FINAL_ARP-ESSER-FACT-SHEET.pdf

The American Rescue Plan Act: <https://www.congress.gov/117/bills/hr1319/BILLS-117hr1319enr.pdf>

CDC COVID-19 School Operation Guidance: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/operation-strategy.html#anchor_1616080023247

ED COVID-19 Handbook Volume I: <https://www2.ed.gov/documents/coronavirus/reopening.pdf>

ED COVID-19 Handbook Volume II: <https://www2.ed.gov/documents/coronavirus/reopening-2.pdf>

ESEA Evidence-Based Guidance: <https://oese.ed.gov/files/2020/07/guidanceuseinvestment.pdf>

TEA ARP ESSER III Guidance: <https://tea.texas.gov/finance-and-grants/grants/arp-esser-iii-grant-program>

Purpose of the Template

The IFR issued by ED outlines several requirements for all Districts to ensure that funds under ARP (ESSER III), specifically, are spent in a manner consistent with the new statutory set-aside and that key stakeholders have been consulted in this process. The ARP also requires that LEAs have in place a plan

for ensuring safety during in-person instruction (either in-progress or planned) as well as ensuring continuity of services should the LEA or one or more of its schools be required to close temporarily for COVID-19-related public health reasons in the future.

This template has been created to assist LEAs in the creation of these plans and to ensure all required elements are met. The following requirements and assurances pertain to both the statutory requirements and the IFR published by ED. Plans are required for all districts, regardless of operating status, unless a district is fully virtual with no physical location.

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) may create a single plan that includes all the required elements or may add in additional requirements, as it deems appropriate. Districts may provide any additional information they believe are helpful in assessing their plan. LEAs are required to make these plans publicly available on the LEA's website.

According to TEA's guidance, local boards are not required to approve these plans; however, the local board is required to discuss the uses of funds. The District plan includes all schools, including campus charter schools without separate boards. Any in-district charter schools that have their own boards will need to develop their own separate plans and those plans must meet the requirements for stakeholder input and will be posted on the website.

LEA ESSER Use of Funds Plan Guide

Amigos Por Vida – Friends For Life Public Charter School will ensure that its ARP Funds meet all the required elements and are spent in an allowable manner.

ARP ESSER funds will be used to implement prevention and mitigation strategies that are, to the greatest extent practicable, consistent with the most recent CDC guidance on reopening schools, to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in person learning.

Amigos Por Vida – Friends For Life Public Charter School plans to use our ESSER III funds to pay teacher salaries to keep them on staff for the next year. We will use our ESSER II funds to pay retention stipends for the next two years to help encourage and retain our teachers to remain in **Amigos Por Vida – Friends For Life Public Charter School**. This will allow us to do a better job of mitigating the issues related to COVID-19 by having smaller classes to prevent overcrowding.

We will continue to use hand sanitizing stations and electrostatic sprayers to help mitigate and prevent COVID 19.

Amigos Por Vida – Friends For Life Public Charter School will address the academic impact of lost instructional time through the implementation of evidence-based interventions, such as summer learning or summer enrichment, extended day, comprehensive after school programs, or extended school year.

We are adding an RTI teacher to the campus. The interventionist will be compensated for the next three years from ESSER III funds. 3. The District will spend its remaining ARP ESSER funds consistent with section 2001(e)(2) of the ARP Act.

Amigos Por Vida – Friends For Life Public Charter School will utilize ESSER funds to support the academic needs of students. ARP ESSER funds will be utilized to hire the following positions for the next two years to provide additional support: two (2) TAs (teacher assistants) to better serve the students and support small group instruction.

Amigos Por Vida – Friends For Life Public Charter School made its plan available to the public and provided an opportunity for feedback that was collected and incorporated into the plan.

Amigos Por Vida – Friends For Life Public Charter School published its draft plan on the district website, www.amigosporvida.com. As part of a regularly scheduled board meeting on June 15, 2021, at

4:00 p.m. the ESSER III plan was discussed. Feedback from the Board of Trustees and public were included in the plan.

Amigos Por Vida – Friends For Life Public Charter School engaged in timely and meaningful consultation with students, families, school and district administrators (including special education administrators), teachers, principals, school leaders, other educators, school; and stakeholders representing the interests of children with disabilities, English learners, children experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, migratory students, children who are incarcerated, and other underserved students.

Amigos Por Vida – Friends For Life Public Charter School took the following action steps to engage in timely and meaningful consultation on the plan: the district surveyed all stakeholders including teachers, staff, parents, and community members representing interests of children with disabilities, English learners; the district’s team developed strategies to meet the learning needs of students, including traditionally underserved students; the district reviewed all survey feedback and included feedback in the development of the plan; the APV leadership team a diverse group of school leaders will serve as a ESSER Task Force with representatives focused on underserved populations listed above to review the draft plans of the district for use of ESSER funds and to serve as an advisory board meeting semi-annually to monitor and adjust the plans over the next three years.

In addition, the **Amigos Por Vida – Friends For Life Public Charter School** provides the following assurances:

The District engaged in meaningful consultation with the following groups:

Students, families, school, and district administrators (including special education administrators), teachers, principals, school leaders, other educators, school staff, and their unions.

The District has created its plan in an understandable and uniform format.

The District’s plan is, to the extent practicable, written in a language that parents can understand, or if not practicable, orally translated.

The District will, upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability, provide the plan in an alternative format accessible to that parent.

The District provided the public an opportunity to provide input on its plan and took such input into account.

The District has made its plan publicly available on its website.

LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

Amigos Por Vida – Friends For Life Public Charter School has amended its plan for ensuring safe in-person instruction and continuity of services.

The District has a plan that is already compliant and will review it every six months.

Amigos Por Vida – Friends For Life Public Charter School has a compliant plan for safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of service posted in English at **Amigos Por Vida – Friends For Life Public Charter School** Back to School Plan 2021-2022 and in Spanish at Plan de regreso a clases de **Amigos Por Vida – Friends For Life Public Charter School**. The updated guidance titled Back to School 2021-2022 includes guidance for the 2021-22 school year. The District will review and revise guidance periodically, at least every six months.

The LEA will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other school and LEA staff, and

the extent to which it has adopted policies, and a description of any such policies, on each of the CDC's safety recommendations, including: universal and correct wearing of masks; modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing as possible; handwashing and respiratory etiquette; cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation; contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments; diagnostic and screening testing; efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities; appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and coordination with State and local health officials.

Amigos Por Vida – Friends For Life Public Charter School has a compliant plan for safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of service posted in English and Spanish at www.amigosporvida.com/, titled Back to School 2021-2022. The updated guidance titled Back to School 2021-2022. includes updated guidance for the 2021-22 school year. The guidance includes the district's procedures and protocols for wearing masks, physical distancing, handwashing and respiratory etiquette, and cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities. The District will review and revise guidance periodically, at least every six months.

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

The District discussed the continuity of services in the **Amigos Por Vida – Friends For Life Public Charter School** Back to School 2021-22 plan. The District will utilize distributed technology and learning platforms to ensure continuity of learning in the case of quarantine and/or future school closures. In the event of future school closure, the District will utilize the Back to School 2021-2022 plan with regard to providing services for students with disabilities and English learners. Meal service, in the event of future closure, will continue with curbside meal pick up, which was employed in the 2019-2020 and 2020-21 school years. The Back to School 2021-2022 plan can be accessed in English at **Amigos Por Vida – Friends For Life Public Charter School** Back to School Plan 2021-2022 and in Spanish at Plan de regreso a clases de **Amigos Por Vida – Friends For Life Public Charter School** 2021-2022.

The District sought public comments in the development of its plan and took those comments into account in the development of its plan.

The District included surveys of parents, students, community, and staff in the development of the continuity of learning plans. The District had multiple public meetings regarding the 2020-21 Return to Learn Guidance.

In addition, the **Amigos Por Vida – Friends For Life Public Charter School** provides the following assurances:

The District made its plan publicly available no later than 30 days after receiving its ARP ESSER allocation.

The link to the plan is here: www.amigosporvida.com

The District sought public comment in the development of its plan and took those public comments into account in the development of its plan.

The District will periodically review and revise its plan, at least every six months.

The District will seek public comment in determining whether to revise its plan and, if it determines revisions are necessary, on the revisions it makes to the plan.

If the District revises its plan, it will ensure its revised plan addresses each of the aspects of safety currently recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), or if the CDC has revised its guidance, the updated safety recommendations at the time the LEA is revising its plan.

The District has created its plan in an understandable and uniform format.

The District's plan is, to the extent practicable, written in a language that parents can understand, or if not practicable, orally translated.

The District will, upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability, provide the plan in an alternative format accessible to that parent.

