

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan (ARP Act)



Entity ID	CTDS	LEA NAME
90637	118708000	Leading Edge Academy Maricopa

How the LEA will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff and the extent to which it has adopted policies, and a description of any such policies, on each of the following safety recommendations established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

CDC Safety Recommendations	Has the LEA Adopted a Policy? (Y/N)	Describe LEA Policy:
Universal and correct wearing of masks	Y	Face Coverings are permitted but not required for students or staff.
Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)	N	
Handwashing and respiratory etiquette	Y	Instruction on proper hand washing and coughing/sneezing etiquette.
Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation	Y	Hand sanitizer provided in all classrooms and office space. High touch surfaces sanitized regularly. Daily enhanced cleaning and increased HVAC filter changes.
Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments	Y	School Health Aides coordinate and communicate with affected families and staff. All staff and student required to stay home if symptomatic. Parents and staff encouraged to screen daily for symptoms. All persons testing positive required to quarantine for 5 calendar days and have improved symptoms before returning. The exception is fever. All persons must be fever free for 24 hours before returning.
Diagnostic and screening testing	Y	Symptom screening
Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities	N	
Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies	Y	Accommodations will be included in student IEP's with regard to health and safety if appropriate.
Coordination with State and local health officials	Y	Staff remain up to date with CDC and local health guidelines.

How 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**

How the LEA will Ensure Continuity of Services?

In an effort to ensure a continuity of services for our students, we implemented a variety of measures. We expanded our online campus to serving grades K-12 so that families seeking online instruction would still have that option once our brick and mortar schools stopped formally providing distance learning. In addition, we purchased enough technology devices (Chromebooks) to ensure that all of our students would have a device to utilize for curriculum and district assessments in the event they were unable to participate in in-person instruction (quarantine or school closure). All providers of special services (EL, Special Education, Gifted, Social Worker) were provided the tools and training needed to provide their services and assessments digitally for online learners and those whom for whatever reason may be unable to participate in in-person learning. Summer school was implemented and conducted for all of our schools in the Summer 2022 and Summer 2023.

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Students' Needs:	
Academic Needs	Provide additional tutoring and daily intervention. Increase instructional assistant staffing. Provide technology devices for access to curriculum for those quarantined. Conduct summer school. All students have been provided a technology device by the school. This device will be utilized in the event of a mandated school closure. Curriculum resources are accessible digitally and instruction would be provided via Zoom or Google Meet.
Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs	Addition of School Social Worker. Provide information to families for mental health and counseling resources. Providing SEL training for staff.
Other Needs (which may include student health and food services)	
Staff Needs:	
Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs	Team Building and social opportunities monthly, hiring of additional instructional staff, training provided for SEL, focus on wellness program and available EAP program.
Other Needs	

The LEA must **regularly, but no less frequently than every six months** (taking into consideration the timing of significant changes to CDC guidance on reopening schools), **review and, as appropriate, revise its plan** for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services **through September 30, 2023**

Date of Revision	August 9, 2023
Public Input	
Describe the process used to seek public input, and how that input was taken into account in the revision of the plan:	Parent and staff surveys were sent out in May 2023 and then parent and staff input were reviewed. Following that review, policies were submitted to and approved by the school board. Surveys will be sent out again in May 2024.

U.S. Department of Education Interim Final Rule (IFR)

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

- (a) An LEA must describe in its plan under section 2001(i)(1) of the ARP Act for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services—
 - (i) how it will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff and the extent to which it has adopted policies, and a description of any such policies, on each of the following safety recommendations established by the CDC:
 - (A) Universal and correct wearing of masks.
 - (B) Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)
 - (C) Handwashing and respiratory etiquette.
 - (D) Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation.
 - (E) Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments.
 - (F) Diagnostic and screening testing.
 - (G) Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities.
 - (H) Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies.
 - (I) Coordination with State and local health officials.
 - (ii) how it 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.



- (b)(i) During the period of the ARP ESSER award established in section Start Printed Page 212022001(a) of the ARP Act, an LEA must regularly, but no less frequently than every six months (taking into consideration the timing of significant changes to CDC guidance on reopening schools), review and, as appropriate, revise its plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services.
- (ii) In determining whether revisions are necessary, and in making any revisions, the LEA must seek public input and take such input into account
 - (iii) If at the time the LEA revises its plan the CDC has updated its guidance on reopening schools, the revised plan must address the extent to which the LEA has adopted policies, and describe any such policies, for each of the updated safety recommendations.
- (c) If an LEA developed a plan prior to enactment of the ARP Act that meets the statutory requirements of section 2001(i)(1) and (2) of the ARP Act but does not address all the requirements in paragraph (a), the LEA must, pursuant to paragraph (b), revise and post its plan no later than six months after receiving its ARP ESSER funds to meet the requirements in paragraph (a).
- (d) An LEA's plan under section 2001(i)(1) of the ARP Act for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services must be—
- (i) In an understandable and uniform format;
 - (ii) To the extent practicable, written in a language that parents can understand or, if it is not practicable to provide written translations to a parent with limited English proficiency, be orally translated for such parent; and
 - (iii) Upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA, provided in an alternative format accessible to that parent