

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

Section 2001(i)(1) of the ARP Act requires each local educational agency (LEA) that receives ARP ESSER funds to develop and make publicly available on the LEA’s website, no later than 30 days after receiving ARP ESSER funds, a plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services. In New Mexico, districts and state-chartered charter schools are LEAs.

This is a federal requirement and is not the same as the past state requirement for LEAs to submit Reentry Plans.

Pursuant to ARP requirements, LEAs must post on their website a fully compliant Plan for Safe Return to In-person Instruction and Continuity of Services by **September 30, 2022.**

This is the template we are providing for you to complete the ARP ESSER Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services. The template incorporates the federally required components of this plan.

This template incorporates the federally required components of the LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services. **Highlighted items reflect recent CDC changes.**

PED hopes this template will allow LEAs to efficiently and effectively plan and to easily post their LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services on their websites as required by the ARP Act.

<p>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 Safe Return to In-person Instruction and Continuity of Services through September 30, 2023.</p>	
Date of Revision	September 27, 2022

District ID	County	LEA NAME
001	Bernalillo	Albuquerque Public Schools

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)**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>

CDC Safety Recommendations	Has the LEA Adopted a Policy? (Y/N)	Describe LEA Policy:
Masking (optional). At a high COVID 19 community Level, universal indoor masking in schools and ECE programs is recommended.	Y	Masks are required for days 6-10 post isolation due to positive COVID-19 test result status. Otherwise, mask wearing is an option; universal mask wearing is not required.
Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing.	N	
Handwashing and respiratory etiquette.	Y	APS follows procedures as outlined in the New Mexico School Health Manual, Chapter 10: Communicable Disease.
Cleaning and disinfection; improving facilities, including improving ventilation systems.	Y	APS follows procedures as outlined in the New Mexico School Health Manual, Chapter 10: Communicable Disease.
Quarantine- will be the determination of a local school district or charter school and should be based on the local COVID-19 Community Level .	Y	APS has in place a core set of infectious disease prevention strategies as part of normal operations. School nurses, school nurse practitioners, and health assistants are guided by the New Mexico School Health Manual and the Albuquerque Public Schools Nursing Manual in the identification and management of symptoms related to infectious disease.
Diagnostic and screening testing (school district can consider implementing screening testing for students and staff for high-risk activities).	Y	<p>In consultation with the APS COVID-19 response team, school administrators and department supervisors shall do the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Determine who needs to be isolated. ● Encourage any symptomatic persons to be tested for COVID-19 after exposure to a COVID-19 positive person. ● Provide over-the-counter test kits (while supplies last) to symptomatic students or staff, and on request, to test with at home. ● Determine additional mitigation strategies as necessary.

Continued...		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● If on site, ensure the positive individual has been isolated and sent home. ● Inform the positive individual(s) and their parents/guardians (if a student) that the positive individual(s) will need to isolate. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Symptomatic individuals should isolate at least 5 days after the onset of symptoms and until fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications and experiencing improvement of symptoms. Wearing of a mask for the subsequent 5 days upon return to school/work is required. ○ Asymptomatic individuals (never had symptoms), should isolate 5 days after the date their first positive test was collected. Wearing of a mask for the subsequent 5 days upon return to school/work is required.
Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities.	Y	APS has and continues to partner with multiple entities to provide onsite vaccination clinics for schools and the community through the New Mexico Department of Health and accredited vaccination providers.
Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies.	Y	APS follows procedures as outlined in the New Mexico School Health Manual, Chapter 4: Guidelines for Students with Special Health Needs and Chapter 10: Communicable Disease.
Prevention Strategies (monitoring COVID-19 community levels)	Y	<p>APS has created and put into effect a plan for determining and implementing mitigation strategies. For the purpose of this document, mitigation strategies are COVID safe practices that are implemented to help reduce the risk of COVID-19 spread. There is a core set of COVID safe practices to be implemented at all times along with enhanced mitigation strategies to be implemented upon an increase in a school's positivity rate of cases on site while infectious (see below).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● If a school has 3% or more of its students and staff on campus while infectious in the past 14 days, members of the APS

Continued...		<p>COVID-19 response team will meet with the school administrator to ensure compliance with current COVID safe practices and provide recommendations for enhanced mitigation strategies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a school reaches 5% or more of its students and staff on campus while infectious in the past 14 days, members of the APS COVID-19 response team will conduct a site visit to ensure compliance with current COVID safe practices and identify required enhanced mitigation strategies. Enhanced mitigation strategies are required for a minimum of 14 days and lifted when the onsite positivity rate falls below 3% of the school's population of students and staff.
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<p>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</p>	
<p>How will the LEA Ensure Continuity of Services?</p>	
<p>During COVID-19, APS implemented a number of supports that continue to be in place to support students and staff who may test positive for the virus. As the numbers increase/decrease, APS will continue to be responsive to the needs of students.</p>	
<p>How will the LEA address Students':</p>	
<p>Academic Needs?</p>	<p>All students have 1:1 digital devices (iPads for K-1st and Chromebooks 2nd-12th). The district will continue to utilize Google Classroom as its learning management platform for teaching and learning and for students to complete and submit assignments. Students will also be given hotspots for internet access. In areas where the internet is scarce, internet service is provided (parking lots, schools, etc.).</p>
<p>Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs?</p>	<p>The district's priority is social-emotional learning. Various departments are addressing these needs and can collaborate to provide necessary support. Students and their families will be served by counseling services, nursing services, social workers, etc. Community School</p>

Continued...	Coordinators also provide students and families with wrap-around services to support their social and emotional wellness through service providers and other resources.
Other Needs (which may include student health and food services)?	<p>Student health services include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 10 School Based Health Centers that serve students in those schools both primary care and mental/behavioral health care ● At least .5 school nurse FTE allocation provided to every school ● Regularly assess acuity levels in evaluating nurse staffing needs ● A full time health assistant FTE allocation provided to every school ● Utilize certified hourly and agency nurses to assist with nurse illness (including COVID-19) and vacancies (including those due to the pandemic) while there is a heightened need for assuring nursing services in every school ● Community mental health providers are assigned to schools
How will the LEA address Staff:	
Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs?	<p>COVID leave is available this school year for COVID-related absences, similar to last year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Employees are allowed a total of 10 days for themselves and/or as caregivers. After that, they must use sick, personal, annual, or unpaid leave. ● Employees may apply for FMLA/extended medical leave of absence with the Extended Leave Office for COVID-related absences longer than 10 consecutive work days. ● Employees may be allowed up to 12 total work weeks of paid COVID leave for COVID- related child care. <p>Employees may access Employee Assistance Program (EAP) services.</p>
Other Needs?	Employees may work with their supervisor to address necessary support. In addition, employees may access EAP services.

Public Input	
Describe the process used to seek public input, and how that input was taken into account in the revision of the plan.	In addition to the district’s normal means of communication, including the APS website, social media, local media, newsletters, digital flyers and digital boards, APS requested feedback from the public by hosting virtual town hall meetings via Zoom. Virtual town hall meetings were hosted with the intent to provide an inclusive process where all voices could be heard to help create a shared vision for APS. During the virtual town hall forums, the public had the chance to hear, review, comment and submit questions.
Understandable and Uniform Format	
Describe the process by which the LEA will, to the extent practicable, present the plan 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, describe the process for orally translating the plan for such parents.	Plans are summarized and posted to the APS website: COVID Updates for 2022-2023 — Albuquerque Public Schools (aps.edu) The website provides 2 built-in tools to provide translation of web content: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● BrowseAloud is assistive technology software that adds text-to-speech and translation functionality to websites ● Google Translate is a free online service that can translate text and web pages into different languages using the Google Translation API
Describe the process by which a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA, will be provided a version of the plan in an alternative format accessible to that parent.	Information is posted to the APS.edu website, which uses assistive technology software for text-to-speech and translation functionality.

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

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

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 –

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. During the period of the ARP ESSER award established in section 2001(a) of the ARP Act, an LEA must
 - a. 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.
 - b. In determining whether revisions are necessary, and in making any revisions, the LEA must seek public input and take such input into account.
 - c. 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.
4. 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).
5. 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—
 - a. In an understandable and uniform format;

- b. 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
- c. 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.

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

April 2021 IFR: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2021-04-22/pdf/2021-08359.pdf>

ARP Act text: <https://www.congress.gov/117/bills/hr1319/BILLS-117hr1319enr.pdf>

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/guidanceuseseseinvestment.pdf>

ED FAQs for ESSER and Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER):

https://oese.ed.gov/files/2021/05/ESSER.GEER_FAQs_5.26.21_745AM_FINALb0cd6833f6f46e03ba2d97d30aff953260028045f9ef3b18ea602db4b32b1d99.pdf