

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



Entity ID	CTDS	LEA NAME
AZ-4266	070425-000	Liberty Elementary School District

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	Masks are optional for students, staff and visitors.
Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)	Y	There are no restrictive social distancing and cohorts.
Handwashing and respiratory etiquette	Y	Students continue to be encouraged to use hand sanitizer or wash their hands upon arrival at school, after being outside for physical activity, before and after meals, prior to leaving school for home, and after sneezing, coughing, or blowing their nose.
Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation	Y	All HVAC system filters have been upgraded for the best filtration available for the specific units.
Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments	Y	Isolation/Quarantine - Isolation: It is highly recommended that any staff member or student who tests positive for COVID-19 isolate. It is highly recommended that individuals testing positive stay home for five days from start of symptoms or if asymptomatic beginning on test date. It is highly recommended that individuals, who tested positive, wear a mask for an additional five days upon return to school or work. Quarantine: Staff and students, who are exposed to someone who tested positive, may choose to quarantine at home for five days or continue to attend school or go to work if not exhibiting symptoms. It is highly recommended that those who are exposed wear a mask for 10 days following exposure. It is also highly recommended that exposed individuals test on the fifth day of exposure Staff - Liberty Elementary School District staff members are considered essential workers.
Diagnostic and screening testing	Y	Covid tests are also available in schools to provide testing for parents to conduct at home.
Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities	Y	Links for available county and/or state vaccination sites are provided on the district website, as well as parent and staff newsletters.
Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies	Y	Students with documented disabilities are provided accommodations appropriate for access to the district's offering of FAPE, while maintaining adherence to health and safety policies.

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Coordination with State and local health officials	Y	LESD continues to review all health and safety guidance provided by MCDPH, ADHS, and CDC.
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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?

The Liberty District will continue to address academic needs by accelerating learning and providing differentiated supports for Tier II and Tier III students. Student social emotional needs are supported through preventative direct instruction by counselors. Counselors also provide supports to staff. Counselors provide referrals to both students and staff to third-party mental and behavioral health providers.

Students' Needs:

Academic Needs	LESD continues to utilize ELA and mathematics supplemental web-based software to support differentiation of instruction to meet individual student needs. Additionally, the district offered a Summer Learning Institute to address learning needs for K-1 and 2-3 students. All teachers enhance their planning and preparation to target student learning needs and provide differentiated instruction to accelerate learning.
Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs	LESD utilizes counselors to provide preventive social emotional learning skills lessons to all students in the general education classroom. Counselors also provide small groups and/or one-to-one sessions for students demonstrating a need. LESD partners with Valle Del Sol and Southwest Behavioral Services for students in need of higher levels of services.
Other Needs (which may include student health and food services)	LESD has a LPN, MA, or CNA at each school to assess students' health and to provide daily health services. Food Services provides free breakfasts and lunches to all students.

Staff Needs:

Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs	Counselors and administrators provide staff with social emotional support. LESD also partners with Valle Del Sol and Southwest Behavioral Services for staff in need of a higher level of services. Employees are allotted six counseling sessions through the district's worker assistance program.
Other Needs	Accommodations are made for employee health needs as needed.

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	October 24, 2022
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Public Input

Describe the process used to seek public input, and how that input was taken into account in the revision of the plan:	District administration invited all parents within the district to participate in a meeting to provide input on the District's mitigation plan for SY2022. A virtual Google Meet meeting was held on May 12, 2021. Meeting participants came to a consensus on their recommendations. All recommended changes were included in the revised Mitigation Strategies. The recommended changes were also reviewed in a public Governing Board meeting on June 7, 2021, with an opportunity for a call to the public. Parents and staff participated in a survey seeking input of Covid mitigation strategies the week of July 23, 2021. On July 26, 2021, the Governing Board
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hosted a study session and invited stakeholders for input on mitigation strategies. On January 18, 2022 and on April 25, 2022, the Governing Board, in a public meeting open to public comment, discussed and made changes to the LESD Mitigation plan. On October 24th, 2022 the Governing Board approved the updated plan.

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; an
 - (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

