

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



Entity ID	CTDS	LEA NAME
4269	070433000	Buckeye 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	Yes	<p>Face Coverings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student wearing of face coverings is optional for all individuals during the 2023-24 school year. • CDC continues to recommend masking and physical distancing as key prevention strategies. • The BESD Face Covering Protocol for students can be accessed as a resource on face coverings and is meant as a resource for Buckeye families. • For parents scheduling appointments for registration masks are optional for unvaccinated individuals, but not required.
Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)	Yes	<p>School Campuses and Classrooms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As much as possible, students will remain with the same groupings and the same staff throughout the day and limit mixing between groups as much as possible. • Where possible, student seating will be arranged to maintain social distancing. Extra furniture should be removed from classrooms. • All teaching staff will maintain an accurate/up-to-date seating chart and provide it to site administration. • Desks/tables will be faced in the same direction, rather than facing each other, or students will sit on opposite ends, only one side of tables, spaced apart. Student seating may be grouped together in pods of three-four desks and distanced 3 feet from other pods.



**Teachers of students in younger grades may want to consider maintaining rows until students are comfortable navigating routines and procedures associated with effective mitigation strategies.

- Traffic flow patterns will be established in the classroom, hallways, and between buildings.
- Students will be encouraged to bring their own water bottles to minimize touching of water fountains.
- Water fountains may be used, but students should be taught appropriate strategies to minimize contact (use elbow to depress fountain, do not place mouth directly on the fountain, wash hands after use).
- Each student’s belongings will be separated from others’ and in individually labeled containers, cubbies or other classroom areas.
- Students will use their own writing utensils and supplies and not share them.
- Minimize contact with materials resistant to cleaning and disinfection, including stuffed animals, rugs, and other soft touch items.
- Countertops, hard surfaces, tables, desks, tops of bookshelves, cabinets, etc. should be clutter free and left clear to facilitate cleaning and disinfection.

Departmentalized Classes (Middle School classes)

- Schools will determine the best method of maintaining safety precautions while still ensuring that students regularly attend departmentalized classes using the following parameters:
 - Students may remain in the classroom and content

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		<p>(reading/writing, math, social studies, and science) teachers will move to different classrooms in order to deliver instruction, minimizing student movement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Students may attend class in the content area teacher’s classroom as long as regular disinfecting takes place between class changes ○ Staggered passing periods are established to avoid overcrowding in hallways
Handwashing and respiratory etiquette	Yes	<p>Hand Hygiene</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequent handwashing at regular intervals throughout the day will be encouraged by teachers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Upon arrival at school and after being outside for physical activity ○ Restroom use ○ Before and after breakfast and lunch ○ Prior to leaving school for home ○ After sneezing, coughing, or blowing nose • Instructions will be given to wash with either soap and water for at least 20 seconds, use paper towels to dry hands, turn sink handles, and open doors, and then safely discard paper towels; OR use hand sanitizer. • Hand washing posters will be displayed in each restroom or the entrance to each restroom. • Hand sanitizing stations will be available at various locations throughout the campus. Hand sanitizer will be provided in every classroom.
Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation	Yes	Enhanced Cleaning



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thorough cleaning of classrooms including desk tops, countertops and similar surfaces. • Thorough cleaning of shared building spaces including offices, restrooms, common areas, high touch areas. • Teachers will disinfect student desk tops prior to students at the start of the day. • Additional cleaning routines will be scheduled and assigned at each campus for interval cleaning of restrooms, lunchrooms, hallway trash pickup, and other common areas throughout the school day. • All staff will use EPA approved disinfectant applied to high touch surfaces daily and as needed.
<p>Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Close Contacts Students identified as a close contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 may not be required to quarantine. Parents of the identified student will no longer be notified by the school and asked to monitor their student for any symptoms consistent with COVID 19. Click here to view a list of symptoms. Parents who wish for their child to isolate/quarantine shall call the school to excuse the child's absences. Students identified as close contacts and who are excused from school will not be adversely affected by any associated absences.</p> <p>Response to Reported Cases</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each school site has an assigned COVID point of contact. • Inform and advise those who are identified as a close contact with the individual in classrooms with medically fragile students to self-monitor for symptoms and to refer to their health care professionals for guidance on symptom development. • School health aides will follow established MCDPH screening protocols, and will consult with the



		<p>site COVID point of contact/public health officials to determine how best to handle students and staff who display COVID-19 symptoms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isolation rooms will be used within health offices for students or staff who may be sick. • A student with symptoms will be removed from the group setting and parents/guardians will be contacted for pick-up of the student. <p>Response to Reported Cases (Family Members/Cases in the home)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Health states that all household members of someone confirmed or suspected to have COVID-19 should not physically attend school and quarantine at home for 5 days as long as symptoms have improved and no fever is present for 24 hours without the use of medication. • Should a student become sick, families should notify the schools of any household contact.
<p>Diagnostic and screening testing</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>As the need for COVID testing arises, BESD wants to ensure that families are able to access testing locations. Below is information related to COVID testing locations within the greater Buckeye area.</p> <p>Testing Locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All COVID-19 testing sites in Arizona can be found by clicking here (type in 85326 to identify specific locations in Buckeye). • Saliva-based testing sites, for your reference, can be found by clicking here. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pre-registration is required. Results are typically received in less than 48 hours



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rapid-test sites are offered through NextCare Urgent Care, a list of locations and an explanation of eligibility can be found by clicking here. <p>Buckeye Testing Locations Please visit https://embrywomenshealth.com/testing-blitz/ in order to identify testing locations and schedule appointments at Buckeye Elementary School District Office (Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10am - 7pm - 25555 W. Durango St.), Buckeye Union HS, Youngker HS and Estrella Foothills HS. Contact information for Embry Women’s Health can be accessed on this site. Please do not contact the schools as the testing is coordinated through Embry Women’s Health.</p> <p>Walmart 1060 S Watson Rd, Buckeye AZ Registration Information Pre-Registration Required? Yes 800-635-8611 Website</p> <p>The Little Clinic Buckeye 1300 S. Watson Rd., Buckeye AZ Registration Information Pre-Registration Required? Yes Website</p>
<p>Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The Buckeye Elementary School District, Buckeye Family Resource Center and Southwest Behavioral are working together in order to provide community-based vaccination events during the course of the school year. Vaccination event locations will be determined by positive cases within the schools as well as community transmission in an effort to support families who are in need of vaccinations. Dates, times and locations will be communicated by schools and the district via multiple platforms in order to ensure that those in need are able to access events and details.</p>

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Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies	Yes	Those with a disability that prevents them from comfortably wearing or removing a face covering, those with certain respiratory conditions or trouble breathing, those who are deaf or hard of hearing and use facial and mouth movements as part of communication, those advised by a medical, legal, or behavioral health professional that wearing a face covering may pose a risk to that person, and those who have religious reasons for not wearing face coverings <u>may be exempt from this requirement or may consider alternative methods of protection.</u>
Coordination with State and local health officials	Yes	The Chief Academic Officer attends regular COVID-19 webinars offered through the Maricopa County Department of Public Health in order to ensure that the most recent guidance on COVID-19 response is accessed. Additionally, all student and staff positive cases are reported using the online system to ensure that we are in regular contact with public health regarding contact tracing and school outbreak management.

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?

BESD 33 will continue to maintain healthy and safe schools in order to remain open and accessible to students. In BESD, the safety and well-being of students, staff and families is our number one priority. Meaningful teaching and learning for all students is critical and implementation of mitigation strategies that support healthy school environments will be consistently followed to ensure that students are able to attend school on a regular basis and services remain intact. Community transmission and school transmission of COVID will be regularly monitored in order to make decisions and adjustments to a layered approach to mitigation.

Students' Needs:

Academic Needs	BESD 33 provides a virtual (AOI) learning opportunity in order to meet the needs of students and parents who feel unsafe attending school in person. However, we know that in-person instruction is most effective when addressing the academic needs of students.
Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs	Each school in BESD 33 is staffed with a school counselor who is responsible for supporting student needs. The BESD Support Guidance for Stakeholders (Students, Parents and Staff) is also available to assist in identifying resources for families in need.
Other Needs (which may include student health and food services)	BESD works closely with local food banks to support families who may have food insecurities in order to provide regular support. This involves distribution of weekend food boxes as well as connecting families with the local food bank. BESD maintains a Family Resource Center which supports with referrals to outside sources/supports (including but not limited to medical, dental, immunization referral, mental/health behavioral supports, substance abuse, nutrition classes,

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	domestic violence, employment board, utility/rental/mortgage assistance).
Staff Needs:	
Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs	School counselors also provide support for staff at each school. Additionally, Human Resources provides a variety of supports for staff through Health/Wellness newsletters as well as through a comprehensive benefits package offering such supports as crisis counseling and health screening.
Other Needs	BESD will continue to focus staff input and needs as they arise when identifying a means for support.

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	July 1, 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:	<p>BESD holds regular Health/Safety task force meeting in order to provide updates to the district's mitigation plan as well as to create a space for gathering input on the plan. Task Force membership includes parents, classified staff, certified staff, site administrators, and district administrators.</p> <p>The tentative ESSER III Plan, inclusive of the BESD Mitigation Plan, was presented at both a July and September Governing Board Meeting. During the September meeting we were able to share community survey results. Results were gathered from a survey open from 8/13 until 8/23, which was sent to the community after school started in order to elicit as many responses as possible. The survey focus was on components of the plan and gathering input on the strength of the plan. 89.6% of respondents shared that this was at least an acceptable plan, while 62.7% shared that his was either a strong plan or a very strong plan.</p>

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