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

Entity ID	CTDS	LEA NAME
6362	078772000	Challenge School, Inc. dba Challenge Charter School

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	The School will have a face covering policy for students and employees, as required by Executive Order 2020-51. Face coverings are currently optional. The school will provide frequent instruction in proper mask wearing, hand washing, and sneeze/cough control to students and families who continue to wear masks.
Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)	Y	The School will encourage staff and students to maintain social distancing (at least three feet apart), when feasible. CCS will remain a closed campus to volunteers and non-essential visitors at all times except for evening family events as specified. Class sizes will remain low to enable more distancing in each classroom and keep cohorts small. To the extent appropriate and feasible, the School will attempt to organize student and staff groupings so that they are as static as reasonably possible – i.e., have the same group of students stay with the same staff, and limit mixing between groups, if possible.
Handwashing and respiratory etiquette	Y	The School will encourage and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or as appropriate, use of hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol after bathroom use, before and after recess, and at other appropriate times during the day. The School will support healthy hygiene behaviors by providing adequate supplies, including soap and hand sanitizer as appropriate. The School will instruct and encourage staff and students to cover coughs and sneezes and follow hand-hygiene protocols immediately thereafter.
Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation	Y	The School will clean frequently touched surfaces (e.g., playground equipment, door handles, sink handles, drinking fountains) within the School and on buses (if applicable) at least daily or between uses, when reasonably feasible. The School will follow cleaning and disinfection best practices and procedures, to the extent possible. The School will frequently monitor and service building ventilation systems

		to ensure proper operation and circulation of air on campus and school provided transportation. The school provides a unique double air filtration system including: Filterless Hammacher Schlemmer *Virus and Allergen Eliminating Filterless Air Purifiers* in classrooms, cafeteria, and all other shared indoor spaces with negatively charged ions to eliminate up to 97% of airborne viruses and allergens as small as 10 nanometers partnered with *Austin Air Healthmate Plus Air Purifiers* in each classroom proven to assist with allergies, asthma, and other respiratory issues to include medical grade HEPA, Activated Carbon and antimicrobial filter components. To enable safe operations in support of student health needs, improve overall air quality, and reduce other challenges to student respiratory health to include leaks and mold, roofs require full underlayment replacement and some flooring repaired.
Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments	Y	The School will provide an isolation area in the student health office, should the School suspect a possible case of COVID or any illness.
Diagnostic and screening testing	Y	Temperatures are taken throughout the day as needed.
Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities		Staff are given paid leave time to receive their vaccinations and vaccine availability information is disseminated to staff and families.
Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies		Upon request from any parent an alternative format of this plan will be made available in an accessible format. To the extent possible, 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 will contribute in a meaningful way to planning for campus safety needs. Barriers to a child reaching their full potential will be removed using appropriate accommodations and ADA campus compliance is of the highest priority.
Coordination with State and local health officials	Y	This plan is always secondary to compliance with updated local, state, and national orders, laws, and regulations. If an outbreak* of COVID-19 occurs at the School, the School will notify the local health department

		using any required or suggested notification method. Such actions may include, but are not limited to: 1. Short-term limitations on, or restrictions for, on-site support services or in-person instruction with respect to a particular student, cohort, or the School generally. 2. Enhanced cleaning/disinfection of areas of the School used by the affected individual. 3. Extended school dismissal/closure, either for a portion of the School or the School entirely.[i] * An "outbreak" is currently defined as three or more laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases among students or staff with onsets within a 14 day period, who are epidemiologically linked, do not share a household, and were not identified as close contacts of each other in another setting.[ii]

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 school will ensure continuity of services by implementing prevention and mitigation strategies that are, to the greatest extent practicable, consistent with the most recent CDC guidance on reopening schools, engage in meaningful consultation with all stakeholders, coordinate our preparedness and response, address the unique needs of our local school population and staff, purchase supplies to sanitize and clean effectively, repair and update our facility to improve ventilation and air quality for respiratory health, purchase the hardware and software needed to deliver services remotely should a long or short term closure become necessary again and be most effective at allowing all learners to reach their full potential and addressing student learning loss especially for our most vulnerable populations. Communicate the plan publicly in a uniform format understandable and accessible to all.	
Students' Needs:	
Academic Needs	High quality assessments to include but not limited to: NWEA and Acadience will be used in combination with teacher and parent input to determine remedial and individualized student needs with frequent progress monitoring. Additional staff will be employed to lower class and group sizes for more individual attention and instructional time. Evidence based intervention strategies will be used both during the school day and during the summer as applicable.
Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs	Additional staff will be employed to increase proximity for students to a trusted adult. Individual attention, parent communication, and staff collaboration to refer students for emotional needs and social skills classes. Family referral information posted, available and

	provided. Staff professional development with strategies for their own mental well-being and also for their students to include recognizing signs and suicide prevention. Providing in person learning available for all students to ensure consistent interaction and access to a safe learning environment and daily meals.
Other Needs (which may include student health and food services)	The school will ensure continuity of services by implementing prevention and mitigation strategies that are, to the greatest extent practicable, consistent with the most recent CDC guidance on reopening schools, engage in meaningful consultation with all stakeholders, coordinate our preparedness and response, address the unique needs of our local school population and staff, and purchase supplies to sanitize and clean effectively. Should a long or short-term closure become necessary again, the school will use the Summer Meals grant to continue to offer meals to all families keeping the kitchen open for meal pick up. In addition, the school will serve as an information hub-providing social service and all related health resources to be disseminated ensuring continuity of services most especially for our most vulnerable populations. Please also see the Challenge Charter School Mitigation Plan, and the current school year plan.
Staff Needs:	
Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs	The School offers an expansive benefits package that incorporates resources for mental, social, and emotional health. The School also offers a paid time off plan that staff can use at their discretion. August 2023 Professional Development about their school-home balance and strategies for social, emotional, and mental needs. A supportive Administration to seek out resources as needed and collaborate for student and staff needs.
Other Needs	The school will ensure continuity of services by implementing prevention and mitigation strategies that are, to the greatest extent practicable, consistent with the most recent CDC guidance on reopening schools, engage in meaningful consultation with all stakeholders, coordinate our preparedness and response, address the unique needs of our local school population and staff, and purchase supplies to sanitize and clean effectively. The School offers an expansive benefits package that incorporates resources for mental, social, and emotional health. The School also offers a paid time off plan that staff can use at their discretion and all leave needed for COVID-19 vaccinations will be paid Leave. Professional Development and PLC meeting agendas also incorporate school-home balance and strategies for staff social, emotional, and mental needs. A supportive Administration also seeks out resources as needed and collaborate for student and staff needs and maintains an open door. Please also see the Challenge Charter School Mitigation Plan.

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 31, 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:	The Challenge Charter School Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services plan has been established based on parent/staff/student input to include surveys and collaboration with our faculty, staff, leadership, and stakeholders. The plan and related policies have been on the agenda at multiple public Governing Board meetings. Putting our kids first is always the #1 priority at Challenge Charter School!

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

[i] Per CDC guidelines, "In most instances, a single case of COVID-19 in a school would not warrant closing the entire school." FAQ for School Administrators (What should schools do if a student or school staff member tests positive for COVID-19?).

[ii] Definition is provided by AZDHS, "Safely Returning to In-Person Instruction": https://www.azdhs.gov/documents/preparedness/epidemiology-disease-control/infectious-disease-epidemiology/novel-coronavirus/covid-19-safely-return-to-in-person-instruction.pdf.