

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



Entity ID	CTDS	LEA NAME
4461	120425000	Sonoita Elementary School District #25

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	Masks are now optional for staff, students, and campus visitors. Parents report their preferences for their children and staff reinforce those preferences while students are on campus. All staff and students have been instructed on the correct wearing of masks.
Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)	Yes	We are no longer requiring social distancing during the school day.
Handwashing and respiratory etiquette	Yes	Students are taught proper handwashing techniques and respiratory etiquette. These practices are reinforced through direct instruction, as well as instructions posted throughout campus.
Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation	Yes	Sliding windows were installed in the middle school classrooms, so that we can now have windows open in all classrooms when the classrooms are occupied. This ensures that fresh air is always circulating through the H-VAC system.
Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments	Yes	Whenever a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, staff are interviewed to determine if anyone was in close-contact with that person. Close contact is defined as closer than 6 feet for more than 15 minutes. The positive case, as well as the close contacts are reported to the Santa Cruz County Health Department. The positive case, as well as the close contacts are required to quarantine, as indicated by the Health Department.
Diagnostic and screening testing	Yes	Information re: diagnostic and screening tests are made available to our families, staff and the community as information is received from the Santa Cruz County Health Department. Our school nurse assists parents to determine if COVID testing is warranted. If so, the family is referred to their healthcare provider.
Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities	Yes	Information re: the availability of vaccinations is made available to our families, staff, and the community as information is received from the Santa Cruz County Health Department. The School Nurse is available to provide guidance to staff and families re: obtaining vaccinations.

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Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies	Yes	Appropriate accommodations are made for students with disabilities, including a) the use of face shields, as opposed to masks, for those who are unable to remove their mask independently, b) assistance with proper handwashing and c) respiratory etiquette.
Coordination with State and local health officials	Yes	We have a very positive relationship with the Santa Cruz County Health Department and will continue to attend meetings and distribute information as requested.

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?

During the 2020-21 school year, campus was closed for two weeks at the start of the school year and for two weeks after the scheduled winter break. During those four weeks, instruction was provided through distance learning and onsite support was provided, as requested by parents. The remainder of the school year, parents were given the option of having students attend school on campus or continue with distance learning. Other than the four weeks of distance learning during the 2020-21 school year, our campus has been open for in-person instruction. We have been providing in-person instruction, without interruption since January of 2021.

Students' Needs:

Academic Needs	We have provided in-person instruction for our students continuously since January of 2021. However, if there is another mandated school closure, we are prepared to deliver instruction via distance learning. All Sonoita Elementary School District students have a school issued device and we are participating in the Final Mile Project to ensure that our families have access to the internet for instructional purposes.
Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs	We have the following resources in place to meet the Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs of our students; a) part-time school counselor, b) SEL Coordinator and c) part-time wellness coordinator through the Santa Cruz County Superintendents' Office.
Other Needs (which may include student health and food services)	We were able to hire a full-time school nurse for the 2022-23 school year, through a grant from the Arizona Department of Education. The purpose of the grant is to increase nursing services in rural and remote areas of the State.

Staff Needs:

Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs	The Employee Assistance Program, EAP, is available to all members of our staff. In addition, the HR Director makes referrals to outside resources as needed. Members of our SEL Committee also provide referrals and resources for staff. The district Wellness Coordinator sends a weekly "Wellness Wednesday" email to support the social, emotional, and mental health needs of our staff. Our District Crisis Team has developed a Crisis Handbook, with procedures for responding to the social, emotional, and mental health needs of our staff in the event of a crisis.
Other Needs	Our full-time school nurse is available to respond to the emergency medical needs of our staff and to consult with staff re: non-emergency needs.

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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	09/01/2023
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 initial plan was drafted by the Superintendent and School Nurse, based on guidance from the CDC and the Arizona Department of Health and in consultation with the Santa Cruz County Health Department. This plan was approved by the Sonoita Elementary School District Governing Board. As CDC and ADH guidance changes, the parents are surveyed, and changes are made based on input received.

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).

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- (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