

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



Entity ID	CTDS	LEA NAME
1000166	118720000	A+ Charter 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)

CDC Safety Recommendations	Has the LEA Adopted a Policy? (Y/N)	Describe LEA Policy:
Universal and correct wearing of masks	Y	<p>The use and/or wearing of masks or face-coverings by students, staff, families, visitors, or anyone on campus is at the sole discretion of the individual based on their needs and will not be required. However, the school will follow the protocols and requirements of masks or face-coverings of other schools, businesses, or community organizations for school-related activities.</p> <p>Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) has been purchased should an individual display symptoms and need to be isolated, staff can use the PPE to protect their health. A designated space is available for individuals who display symptoms. Eligible individuals are encouraged to get the COVID-19 vaccine, but are not required. The Campus COVID-19 Liaison and designated staff will work with the State, county, and Arizona Department of Education on staying up-to-date with policies and procedures, as well as contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine protocols, including coordinating with State and local health officials as appropriate.</p>
Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)	Y	<p>A+ Charter Schools will proactively communicate with families, students, staff, and community stakeholders on the importance of physical distancing and adopting behaviors that reduce the spread of viruses.</p> <p>Communication efforts will be done in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Email campaigns (prior to school starting and into the school year as reminders)</li> <li>• Posters and signage in common areas, classrooms, restrooms</li> <li>• Signage and physical markers on the floors and hallways to indicate one-way hallways and where to safely wait in common areas</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signage and floor arrows will be placed in hallways, stairwells, and common areas to create one-way traffic to facilitate social distancing.</li> <li>• An option of outdoor space will be provided for lunch for students, weather permitting.</li> <li>• Modified layouts may be used in classrooms when possible so students are not facing one another.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Sneeze guards will not be provided, but students will be permitted to use one if brought from home</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Handwashing and respiratory etiquette	Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students and staff will be encouraged to properly wash their hands throughout the day. Signage will be posted in bathrooms on proper handwashing. Hand sanitizer will also be available in classrooms and in various common areas of the school building.</li> <li>• Respiratory etiquette will be reviewed with students - cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing, use tissues and throw them away, and washing or sanitizing hands afterwards.</li> </ul>
Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation	Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students will wipe down their individual desks/tables and chairs upon entering class and before leaving - this will occur at each period.</li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students will wipe down shared materials and supplies as used.</li> <li>• Additional cleaning supplies will be purchased to ensure the building is disinfected daily, and high traffic areas are cleaned throughout the day.</li> <li>• Air conditioning filters will be changed regularly.</li> <li>• Sneezeguards will be used at the front desk to provide additional health and safety measures, as well as available to be used during other meetings.</li> <li>• The building will be cleaned daily by a cleaning company to disinfect the school.</li> <li>• Staff will wipe down high-traffic areas (doorknobs, railing in stairs, front desk counters, water fountain buttons, bathroom stall doors, lobby chairs, etc) throughout the school day - approximately 10 am, after lunch, and 1:30 pm.</li> <li>• Teachers will wipe down high traffic areas in their own classrooms between classes, as well as supplies and equipment that may be shared or used by the entire classroom community, such as pencil sharpeners, manipulatives, etc.).</li> </ul>
<p>Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>Staff and families will be encouraged to report confirmed cases of COVID-19 for individuals attending or working at A+ Charter Schools, as well as within their homes.</p> <p>The school will follow the most up-to-date recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control, as well as State and local health departments when contact-tracing, communicating with individuals and families about COVID-19 exposure, as well as quarantining and isolation protocols.</p>
<p>Diagnostic and screening testing</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>Individuals who exhibit symptoms of COVID-19, will be encouraged to take a COVID-19 diagnostic test and provide the results to the school before returning to campus. For individuals who have received the COVID-19 vaccination, the school will follow the most up-to-date recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control, as well as State and local health departments.</p> <p><b>Screenings.</b> The purpose of this plan is to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and other flu like illnesses. <b>Parents will be responsible for screening their students each day before school.</b> You are responsible for ensuring that your child is not exhibiting any of the following symptoms PRIOR to coming to school and keeping them home if they do.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fever above 100.4 or higher</li> <li>• Chills</li> <li>• Cough</li> <li>• Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing</li> <li>• Muscle aches</li> <li>• Sore throat</li> <li>• Headache</li> <li>• Fatigue</li> <li>• Congestion or runny nose</li> <li>• New loss of taste or smell</li> <li>• Vomiting or diarrhea</li> <li>• Any other symptom of illness, whether or not you believe it is related to COVID-19</li> <li>• Has your child recently been in close contact with anyone who has exhibited any of the above symptoms?</li> <li>• Has your child recently been in close contact with anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19?</li> </ul> <p>Staff and families will be encouraged to report confirmed cases of COVID-19 for individuals attending or working at A+ Charter Schools, as well as within their homes.</p> <p>Any student who displays one or more of the above symptoms throughout the school day, will immediately be</p>

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		<p>taken to the campus health aide for re-evaluation and upon verification of the above symptoms; parents will be contacted for pick up with the following exceptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the student has a runny nose and no other symptoms, the campus health aide may contact parents to inquire about other symptoms or COVID-19 exposure at home. If no other symptoms have been present and the student has had no exposure to COVID-19, the student may be allowed to return to class.</li> <li>• If the student has health information on file that confirms a diagnosis of asthma or other respiratory condition and is displaying no other symptoms, the campus health aide may contact parents to inquire about other symptoms and COVID-19 exposure at home. If no other symptoms have been present and the student has had no exposure to COVID-19, the student may return to class.</li> </ul> <p>Each campus will have a designated location where anyone displaying symptoms may be separated from others while waiting to be screened or picked up. One staff member should supervise the student at all times and this staff member should wear appropriate PPE and maintain a distance of at least 6 feet unless there is an emergency. In the event of a medical emergency, staff should notify the school office and call 911. Employees displaying symptoms should be separated from others and may self-transport home if able. If an employee is unable to safely self-transport, a family member or emergency contact should be contacted.</p> <p><u>If your child is sick, or needs to leave school:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If your child is sick with any illness, keep them home from school and notify the school of your child's absence.</li> <li>• If you are contacted by the school regarding your sick child, they must be picked up within 1 hour of being notified.</li> <li>• Medications will not be given at school that mask COVID-19 like symptoms (i.e. headache).</li> <li>• Contact your child's school COVID-19 Communication liaison with any concerns specifically related to COVID-19 and your child's health.</li> <li>• Consider planning for alternate childcare arrangements. Have a backup plan in the event your child needs to stay home from school or is sent home from school.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please make sure all contact information is always up to date in Student360.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Staff members will be responsible for screening their own symptoms before arrival each day. The same policies and procedures listed above for students will be applicable to all staff members.</b></p> <p>Students/Employees may return to school/work after 24 hours have passed since recovery which is defined as: (a) resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; and (b) resolution of other symptoms (i.e. cough, shortness of breath).</p>
Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities	Y	Students and staff are encouraged to provide documentation of COVID-19 vaccinations to the school for their files. The school will communicate and share information regarding local opportunities for vaccinations as provided by State and/or local health departments.
Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies	Y	A+ Charter Schools will ensure the continuity of services through an in-person instructional model. In the case that a student needs to quarantine or follow isolation precautions, the school will make efforts and arrangements to provide services virtually or make other arrangements.

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		<i>Accommodations will be made to any policies or protocols as appropriate based on an individual's disability with respect to health and safety.</i>
Coordination with State and local health officials	Y	<p>The school will follow the most up-to-date recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control, as well as State and local health departments when contact-tracing, communicating with individuals and families about COVID-19 exposure, as well as quarantining and isolation protocols.</p> <p>The school will communicate and share information regarding local opportunities for vaccinations as provided by State and/or local health departments.</p> <p>The Campus COVID-19 Liason and designated staff will work with the State, county, and Arizona Department of Education on staying up-to-date with policies and procedures, as well as contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine protocols, including coordinating with State and local health officials as appropriate.</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

### How the LEA will Ensure Continuity of Services?

A+ Charter Schools will ensure the continuity of services through an in-person instructional model. In the case that a student needs to quarantine or follow isolation precautions, the school will make efforts and arrangements to provide services virtually or make other arrangements.

### Students' Needs:

Academic Needs	Based on student benchmark and state assessment data, the school will implement best practices to address the individual academic needs of students to continue to promote academic growth and success. This will be done through project-based learning aligned to standards, as well as intervention and enrichment to address learning gaps and continued growth.
Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs	During the school's Advisory Program, the CASEL-aligned curriculum will be used to address the social-emotional needs of students.
Other Needs (which may include student health and food services)	The school will partner with local agencies to support additional mental health needs of students. The school will continue to participate in the National School Lunch Program to offer school lunches and provide sign-ups for lunches should the school or sections need to close for COVID-19 related reasons.

### Staff Needs:

Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs	To support the social-emotional and mental health needs of staff, administration will incorporate the same CASEL-aligned curriculum into staff meetings, as well as other best practices to support the social, emotional, and mental health needs of staff.
Other Needs	Individual support is provided on an as needed basis depending on the need.

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** Approved April 20, 2023 with no revisions

### 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 Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Plan was placed on the Board Agendas for June, July, and November 2021 with the opportunity for input. Agendas were posted to the school website and entrance of the school in compliance with open meeting law. Additionally, public input was provided at another Board Meeting during a call to the public. The Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Plan was reviewed again at the October 2022 Board Meeting, as well as the April 2023 Board Meeting.
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## 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