

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



Entity ID	CTDS	LEA NAME
91958	078226000	Arizona Autism Charter Schools, Inc.

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 available at the front desk and health office at each campus. Staff are encouraged to stay protected and wear masks daily as they see fit. Regardless of vaccination status, staff with potential or identifiable exposure to Covid-19 are strongly encouraged to wear a mask 10 days after exposure date. For students, families are encouraged to make family decisions about masks that are best for their child.
Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)	Y	The LEA has modified facilities and maintains cohorts of students to easily contact trace in the event of positive cases on campus.
Handwashing and respiratory etiquette	Y	The LEA has placed signs throughout campus to encourage students and staff to complete appropriate hand hygiene throughout their daily routines.
Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation	Y	The LEA has placed disinfectant wipes for daily use in each classroom and instructed staff to wipe down tables and student areas on an hourly basis. Cleaning crews are hired to do a deep cleaning in affected areas when a positive case is identified on campus. In addition, the HVAC systems have been improved and replaced in some cases to improve ventilation.
Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments	Y	All state and local isolation and quarantine protocols are followed by the LEA and monitored closely for changes as they occur at the state level (MCDPH and AZDHS).
Diagnostic and screening testing	Y	The LEA has screening available to staff onsite for those developing symptoms after they arrive to work.

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Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities	N	The LEA is not providing vaccinations to staff or students.
Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies	Y	The LEA maintains a voluntary mask wearing policy, as our entire population of students has developmental disabilities. Social distancing policies are modified to benefit the greater safety of students with severe developmental disabilities and health concerns.
Coordination with State and local health officials	Y	The LEA coordinates with Maricopa County Health Department and reports all positive cases for students and staff.

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 LEA has committed resources and efforts to maintaining the safety of all students and staff by adhering to the state guidelines in a strong mitigation plan. AZACS has been open for in-person learning since October 2020 and continues to diligently track all positive cases and follow the most current isolation and quarantine guidelines as established by MCDPH and AZDHS.

Students' Needs:

Academic Needs	The LEA uses digital portfolios to store and collect student work. This enables students following isolation/quarantine protocols to access work digitally, if needed.
Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs	The LEA has implemented evidence based SEL curriculum including ABA strategies and ACT/AIM curriculum. In addition, we have a counselor for both our onsite schools and our online school.
Other Needs (which may include student health and food services)	The LEA participates in NSLP and is able to provide access to free meals for all enrolled students. The LEA employs an onsite registered nurse and certified nursing assistants to aid in the promotion of student health needs on campus.

Staff Needs:

Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs	The LEA offers emotional support through our Talent Management Department and onsite registered nurse, allowing employees to talk through COVID symptoms and situations with the team. LEA also offers EAP assistance to staff in need.
Other Needs	

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 22, 2023
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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:

The school nurse frequently checks the CDC website for action items. All decisions and revisions are based on safety protocols and recommendations established by the CDC and Maricopa Department of Public Health.

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