

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



Entity ID	CTDS	LEA NAME
4500	140411000	Somerton Elementary District #11

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	LEA policy is in alignment with state and local mask guidelines for Arizona in classrooms and on school grounds.
Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)	Y	LEA will continue to follow state and local guidance. SSD will promote healthy social distancing as appropriate.
Handwashing and respiratory etiquette	Y	LEP policy requires all students and staff to wash their hands with soap for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol upon arrival at school, after being outside for physical activity, before and after lunch, prior to leaving school for home, and after sneezing, coughing, or blowing nose.
Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation	Y	LEA has arranged for daily cleaning and disinfecting of all frequently touched surfaces in work areas, such as door handles, sink handles, drinking fountains, desks, and learning tools. Any shared items (if any) must be cleaned between uses. A/C and heating systems will be cleaned and maintained more frequently. Air Filtration systems will be cleaned and maintained to ensure quality air circulation is clear at all times.
Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments	Y	LEA has established positive covid test scenarios following Health Dept. guidance. Guidance by the district's Health Services Manager is available for staff in determining when to return to campus. Staff follow normal sick leave policies.
Diagnostic and screening testing	Y	LEA has all the necessary tools for temperature checks and covid testing
Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities	Y	LEA will send notifications to parents and staff regarding specific dates, times and locations vaccine clinics will be held frequently and in multiple notification platforms utilized by the School District.

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Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies	Y	LEA's Special Education Director and 504 coordinator will continue to coordinate with site-based case managers to ensure the needs of special education students and students with special needs are being met with respect to safety protocols outlined in policy.
Coordination with State and local health officials	Y	LEA will continue to follow State and local health official's recommendations and guidelines set forth to ensure the health and safety of our students, staff and community.

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?

SSD ensure continuity of services by focusing resources on the Academic and Social Emotional Learning needs of our students. All Departments are involved in the District wide plan of protocols that ensure implementation is streamlined and consistent. The District leadership meets with department heads to ensure understanding of the programs, resources, and protocols that are to be utilized. District leadership also visits locations to ensure protocols are being followed.

Students' Needs:

Academic Needs	Updated technology and staffing has made it possible to provide students and parents with additional resources, such as teachers, instructional aides, updated devices and programs. These resources provide students the opportunity to get help due to learning loss and to continue their education at home if needed due to covid phase I implementation.
Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs	The District provides the students and staff with Capturing Kids Hearts program to support the Social Emotional Needs of our students.
Other Needs (which may include student health and food services)	Food Service Department will continue to ensure health and safety protocols are in place to food service is served and prepared in the most clean and hygienic method possible.

Staff Needs:

Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs	HR Department and the SSD Health Staff will continue to promote Wellness tips and Emotional Support Resources. SSD will continue to promote health and safety protocols that help staff feel safe and secure in their work environment.
Other 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

08/31/23

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 Somerton Community was surveyed to gather input. The following topics were surveyed: 1. Academic Acceleration needs. 2. Instructional Technology needs. 3. Support Services (SEL & Needs) 4. Staffing support to help close the learning gap created during the COVID Pandemic 5. Safety for all school environment (COVID, Air Quality, Equipment) 5. Additional Program needs to improve the educational quality of our programs. 6. Facility/ Transportation Repairs & Improvements to ensure a safe environment.

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