

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



Entity ID	CTDS	LEA NAME
4240	070248000	Scottsdale Unified School District

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>Beginning on May 14, SUSD communicated that masks will be optional for the upcoming school year. State law prohibits any school district from implementing a mask mandate as a condition of participating in in-person instruction. Consistent with guidance from the CDC and MCDPH, it is strongly recommended that all students and staff wear a mask regardless of vaccination status.</p> <p>There is an order by the CDC that requires masks to be worn on public transportation. This order supersedes state law and must be followed by the school district. Students who choose to ride the bus, along with SUSD bus drivers, will be required to wear a mask while on the bus.</p> <p>We will continue to monitor communication from the CDC and MCDPH, as well as developments in state and federal statute to ensure mask protocols are in alignment.</p>
Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)	Y	<p>School sites will continue mitigation strategies to allow for physical distancing as recommended, including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintaining three feet of physical distancing where possible ▪ Small groups allowed when instructionally appropriate ▪ Forward-facing seating in the cafeteria for elementary schools ▪ Sharing of supplies and instructional materials is allowed ▪ Use of cohorts/podding at elementary level when possible ▪ Directional traffic signage posted in school hallways and on sidewalks

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Handwashing and respiratory etiquette	Y	<p>School sites will continue to encourage hand washing and respiratory etiquette as recommended, included but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strongly recommending use of masks ▪ Water bottle fill stations available and drinking fountains are turned off ▪ Frequent hand washing will continue to be encouraged ▪ Hand sanitizing stations will be provided throughout the school
Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation	Y	<p>The SUSD Facilities Department cleans and maintains healthy facilities by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MERV-13 air filters have been installed in district cooling and heating systems to reduce the transmission of the COVID virus ▪ Providing PPE, including cleaning supplies, to all school sites and district departments ▪ Frequently touched surfaces will be disinfected twice per day by professional cleaning staff ▪ Schools will be cleaned and disinfected thoroughly each night
Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments	Y	<p>The district provides contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ District COVID Specialist provides support to school sites for contact tracing and communication with families and state/local officials ▪ A district-wide quarantine policy that meets MCDPH quarantine requirements (see below) <p>Students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Any unvaccinated student determined to be a close contact of a confirmed COVID positive person is required by the Maricopa County Department of Public Health to quarantine for 10 days or until a negative COVID case result is presented to the school nurse, per MCDPH guidelines ▪ Provided they are not symptomatic, any vaccinated student determined to be a close contact of a confirmed COVID-

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		<p>positive person may continue to attend school</p> <p>Staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff members who are deemed a close contact and who are vaccinated are not required to quarantine provided they are asymptomatic
Diagnostic and screening testing	N	While the district does not provide diagnostic and screening testing at this time, testing is available at multiple locations including Oak Street. A limited number of test kits are available for surveillance on a voluntary basis for teachers and staff.
Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities	Y	The Scottsdale Unified School District has partnered with local health organizations to provide free vaccination clinics for SUSD staff members and families. We maintain a list of links for vaccine resources on our website.
Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies	Y	The SUSD Special Education Department works with our Incident Command Team to ensure appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities are provided in accordance with state and local recommendations.
Coordination with State and local health officials	Y	Our Superintendent and COVID Specialist are in regular communication with state and local health officials to monitor data and recommendations, in addition to consistent monitoring of federal and state statutes and guidance.

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 Scottsdale Unified School District will ensure continuity of services by prioritizing student learning and social-emotional support for all staff, students, and families.

Students' Needs:

Academic Needs	<p>The Scottsdale Unified School District has planned to address student academic needs in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of state and district assessment data to inform academic programming Summer Boost programs to address reading, math, and social-emotional learning Summer tutoring programs for individualized instruction An ESSER Coordinator who will help develop and monitor academic programs funded through federal grants
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Opportunities for schools and departments to submit site-specific proposals for funds to address student loss of learning ▪ Ongoing professional development in best practices for teaching and learning
Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs	<p>The Scottsdale Unified School District has planned to address student social, emotional, and mental health needs in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All SUSD campuses were funded for a full time Social Worker through the Arizona Department of Education and federal grant funds ▪ Site Social Workers will focus on supporting the school campus with evidence-based strategies to address social and emotional learning ▪ Students will be provided with the opportunity to take a social-emotional screener (SAEBRS Screener) to provide insight into ways to support students
Other Needs (which may include student health and food services)	The Child Nutrition Department has provided free breakfast and lunch to all SUSD students. This information is communicated regularly to families and is on our district website and social media.
Staff Needs:	
Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs	The Student Services department has provided ongoing resources for staff, including virtual support groups and yoga/mindfulness. In addition, opportunities to engage are regularly communicated through the Superintendent's weekly address to employees.
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	
Public Input	
Describe the process used to seek public input, and how that input was taken into account in the revision of the plan:	<p>Scottsdale Unified School District will include parent input in the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services, including but not limited to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use of the Let's Talk app on the district website where parents and families can share questions, comments, concerns, and ideas directly with district administration ▪ Use of Thought Exchange to pose specific questions to parents, giving parents an opportunity to share input ▪ Parent surveys to share input on return to learn topics ▪ Use of feedback from the Scottsdale Parent Council

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