

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



Entity ID	CTDS	LEA NAME
92981	078237000	Synergy Public School

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	Facemasks are optional at this time.
Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)	Y	Currently, there are no modifications to the facility.
Handwashing and respiratory etiquette	Y	All classrooms began the year teaching uniform, school-wide, standard healthy practices. Teachers use a wide variety of techniques including videos, lessons, and demonstrations. Students have been taught proper handwashing techniques and respiratory etiquette and steps are taken to ensure routine handwashing and hand sanitizing throughout the day.
Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation	Y	The facility is cleaned throughout the day, including cleaning and sanitizing of high touch points such as restroom stalls, dispensers, doors, counters, handles and knobs. Teachers sanitize classroom surfaces throughout day and at the end of the school day. Teachers are provided effective disinfecting wipes and supplies for cleaning. The school is deep cleaned every evening. Air filters are changed regularly to ensure proper ventilation.
Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments	Y	Reported positive cases are recorded. Student or Staff members who exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 (such as fever, cough or shortness of breath) will notify administration. Synergy will follow the CDC's criteria for home isolation when a student or staff member tests positive. Staff cooperates with all state, local, and tribal authorities.
Diagnostic and screening testing	Y	No testing is done at the school site. When students are sent home with COVID like symptoms parents are asked to have their student seen by medical personnel.
Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities	Y	Staff will distribute vaccination information to families as requested.
Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies	Y	All students with disabilities requiring assistance to adhere to health and safety policies are provided with all assistance needed.
Coordination with State and local health officials	Y	All school staff are expected to cooperate with all health officials in following all school policies and procedures as well as governmental requirements.

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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?

LEA policy requires the school to be open and provide all school services on all days regularly scheduled according to the school's approved calendar unless specifically required to close due to state or local government requirements.

Students' Needs:

Academic Needs	All regular school activities, including instruction and assessment, will be provided on all school days. The school provides every student daily with a 30 minute intervention to address academic gaps. Teachers use formative assessment data to plan interventions to meet the needs of individual students and modifications or accommodations as needed. The school will continue, taking into consideration the additional academic struggles brought on by the pandemic and responses to it.
Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs	The school already has a strong focus on trauma informed practices, as well as social, emotional and mental health needs. Synergy has a daily dedicated learning block to ensure that there is time during the day to address social and emotional topics with students and uses curriculum that provides instruction through targeted lessons, real life scenarios and school wide skills-Leader In Me. Staff members receive professional development on trauma strategies and indicators of someone who is suffering from anxiety, depression, or lack of coping strategies. Synergy provides families with education, resources and partners with Terro's Behavioral Health. Students in need are able to receive support through the school based counseling program. Information to parents will be provided through parent leadership meetings, written information flyers, and school app.
Other Needs (which may include student health and food services)	All staff have been trained in basic health and safety practices and model these throughout the school day. The school has educated students on healthy behaviors that reduce the spread of illness. The school participates in the National School Lunch program and the Community Eligibility Provision which provides free breakfast and lunch to all students. Any other needs identified are addressed in cooperation with families and local business leaders on a case-by-case basis.

Staff Needs:

Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs	The school has provide professional development to all staff on the indicators that they or other staff members may be suffering from anxiety, depression, or lack of coping strategies. The school promotes healthy eating, exercising, self-care, sleep habits and work/life balance with all staff members. Staff cooperation and collaboration results in relationships among teammates that can rely on one another and who help one another meet life's challenges. Counseling resources are made available to anyone who asks.
Other Needs	The school administration has an open door policy which allows administration to talk with staff members and do check-ins frequently. The school ensures all staff members are familiar with resources including national Crisis Response Network and Arizona's

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Crisis Response Network (CRN). National Distress Hotline: 1-800-985-5990

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 08-21-2023

Public Input

Describe the process used to seek public input, and how that input was taken into account in the revision of the plan:

Families enrolled in Synergy are asked to provide feedback through surveys. A committee of staff members reviewed sought input and feedback from the entire staff and revised. All input was considered and final recommendation was made to the board. Information was provided to the board in regards to this plan. Board members discussed and voted on revisions to the plan.

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; and
 - (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