**LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services**

Section 2001(i)(1) of the ARP Act requires each local educational agency (LEA) that receives ARP ESSER funds to develop and make publicly available on the LEA’s website, no later than 30 days after receiving ARP ESSER funds, a plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services. In New Mexico, districts and state-chartered charter schools are LEAs.

This is a federal requirement and is not the same as the past state requirement for LEAs to submit Reentry Plans.

Pursuant to ARP requirements, LEAs must post on their website a fully compliant Plan for Safe Return to In-person Instruction and Continuity of Services by **December 24, 2021.**

This is the template we are providing for you to complete the ARP ESSER Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services. The template incorporates the federally-required components of this plan.

This template incorporates the federally-required components of the LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services.

PED hopes this template will allow LEAs to efficiently and effectively plan and to easily post their LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services on their websites as required by the ARP Act.

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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 Safe Return to In-person Instruction and Continuity of Services** **through September 30, 2023** | |
| **Date of Revision** | **December 21, 2021** |

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| **District ID** | **County** | **LEA NAME** |
| 578001 | McKinley | Middle College High School |

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| 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)**  <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html> | | |
| **CDC Safety Recommendations** | **Has the LEA Adopted a Policy?**  **(Y/N)** | **Describe LEA Policy:** |
| Universal and correct wearing of masks | Y | As per the school’s policy, properly fitted masks are required to be worn at all times (except when eating), and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is available in all rooms, free of charge to all students, including disposable and reusable masks. |
| Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding) | Y | Classrooms are set up to maximally promote spatial separation, which includes physical distancing and demarcated foot traffic flow. Courses will continue to be offered in alternating sections to promote the separation of cohorts. Common areas are restricted. Congregating in public spaces outside of the classroom is prohibited on campus, and meetings to conduct public business (such as board meetings) retain the option to be held virtually. Transition times between classes remain extended to ensure that students are able to arrive and depart in a more physically separated manner. |
| Handwashing and respiratory etiquette | Y | The school is providing proper hygiene education, redundant signage, and adherence to all safety and sanitation protocols. Sanitation stations are located at the entry to each classroom. Stations include hand sanitizer, sanitizing spray, and sanitizing wipes. |
| Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation | Y | A consistent cleaning and disinfecting schedule is followed daily, including during transition periods between classes. Medify Air filtration systems are present in all MCHS classrooms to ensure purified air quality. |
| Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments | Y | MCHS is following all state requirements as put forth by the Department of Health (DOH) and Public Education Department (PED). These include participation in the state’s mandated COVID-19 surveillance testing program, weekly staff assignment reporting through the DOH portal, rapid response reporting of all individuals who test positive for COVID-19, and assistance with contact tracing. |
| Diagnostic and screening testing | Y | MCHS participates in the state’s mandated COVID-19 surveillance testing program. Visitors to campus are screened at the school’s administrative office. Non-contact thermometers and log sheets are kept on location. |
| Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities | Y | MCHS is adhering to the University of New Mexico’s vaccination mandate as applies to all staff and students. Further, on-site vaccination events are directly communicated to all students and parent consent forms are distributed for students who are under the age of eighteen. |
| Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies | Y | Limited exemptions are reviewed by the host institution (the University of New Mexico) and granted on the basis of approved medical conditions. |
| Coordination with State and local health officials | Y | MCHS is following all state requirements as put forth by the Department of Health (DOH) and Public Education Department (PED). These include participation in the state’s mandated COVID-19 surveillance testing program, rapid response reporting of all individuals who test positive for COVID-19, assistance with contact tracing, notification of local vaccination events, proper hygiene education, redundant signage, and adherence to all safety and sanitation protocols as indicated in this notice. |

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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?** | |
| MCHS is committed to providing support to students and families. Instructional support will include the continuation of Google Classroom as a supplemental platform. Should the school be required to return to remote learning, this will ensure a seamless continuity of MCHS classes. All students will receive use of a school-issued laptop, and when needed, a mobile hotspot connectivity device. The PED has approved the school for a full in-person return to learning, which strictly adheres to the above-identified safety protocols. In response to specific requests from families to remain remote, the school will provide selected online, independent study-based courses for individualized and small group instruction. | |
| **How will the LEA address Students’:** | |
| Academic Needs? | Students returning in person receive structured tutoring as specified in the school’s charter contract and policies. The school’s master tutoring schedule is built to maximally accommodate students at any time throughout the regular school week. In addition, MCHS has added a position entitled Student Success Advisor (funded through the Indian Education Act). The Advisor assists students both formally (in a class designed for newly enrolled students) and informally (as a referral resource for returning students) in the acquisition and practice of effective habits of study. |
| Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs? | Counseling support and scheduled mentoring are provided to all students. These supports are spearheaded through the school’s counselor and newly added student success advisor. Moreover, the school hosts a weekly staff meeting, in which students in need of support are identified and contacted for receipt of additional services. Parents are informed and involved in the progress of students identified for additional services. |
| Other Needs (which may include student health and food services)? | MCHS will continue to offer a nutritional meal service in accordance with the requirements of the National School Lunch Program. Meals are completely free of charge to all students. Hot lunches will be distributed in the usual grab-and-go format, in which multiple locations have been designated for eating, including specified outdoor spaces. |
| **How will the LEA address Staff:** | |
| Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs? | MCHS staff participate in weekly Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) in which, in addition to instructional topics, social and emotional resilience and well-being are intentionally included. The school’s PLC calendar allows for each staff member to lead salient topics at appointed times throughout the school year  . |
| Other Needs? | The school has increased the size of its substitute teacher pool in order to allow staff to take leave as needed. |

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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’s primary and contingent instructional plans and needs have been reviewed and revised through consultation with various stakeholders, as referenced in the following timeline:  1/29/21—3/12/21: Parent Input Survey  2/22/21: Meeting with Navajo Nation Tribal Council Delegates  4/12/21: Tribal Consultation Meeting with the Department of Diné Education  8/18/21—8/19/21: Input from Student/Family Orientation |
| **Understandable and Uniform Format** | |
| Describe the process by which the LEA will, to the extent practicable, present the plan 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, describe the process for orally translating the plan for such parents. | A copy of this plan, and the previous plan from which it is derived, are both posted to the school’s website. The previous plan utilizes a more simplified template. Moreover, the plan was shared via PowerPoint presentation and thoroughly explained to families during student orientation on August 18 and 19, 2021, at which time parent input regarding this plan was additionally solicited and included. |
| Describe the process by which a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA, will be provided a version of the plan in an alternative format accessible to that parent. | In addition to oral presentations during family orientation sessions, a condensed version of this plan has been developed via PowerPoint for distribution to parents who are in need of this format. In addition, school administration will schedule individual appointments with parents upon request. |

[**U.S. Department of Education Interim Final Rule (IFR)**](https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2021-04-22/pdf/2021-08359.pdf)

**LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services**

**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 –**

1. 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:
2. Universal and correct wearing of masks.
3. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding).
4. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette.
5. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation.
6. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments.
7. Diagnostic and screening testing.
8. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities.
9. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies.
10. Coordination with State and local health officials.
11. 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.
12. During the period of the ARP ESSER award established in section 2001(a) of the ARP Act, an LEA must
    1. 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.
    2. In determining whether revisions are necessary, and in making any revisions, the LEA must seek public input and take such input into account.
    3. 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.
13. 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).
14. 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—
    1. In an understandable and uniform format;
    2. 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
    3. 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.

**The IFR and ARP statute, along with other helpful resources, are located here:**

April 2021 IFR: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2021-04-22/pdf/2021-08359.pdf>

ARP Act text: <https://www.congress.gov/117/bills/hr1319/BILLS-117hr1319enr.pdf>

ED COVID-19 Handbook Volume I: <https://www2.ed.gov/documents/coronavirus/reopening.pdf>

ED COVID-19 Handbook Volume II: <https://www2.ed.gov/documents/coronavirus/reopening-2.pdf>

ESEA Evidence-Based Guidance: <https://oese.ed.gov/files/2020/07/guidanceuseseinvestment.pdf>

ED FAQs for ESSER and Governor’s Emergency Education Relief (GEER): <https://oese.ed.gov/files/2021/05/ESSER.GEER_.FAQs_5.26.21_745AM_FINALb0cd6833f6f46e03ba2d97d30aff953260028045f9ef3b18ea602db4b32b1d99.pdf>