

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.

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

District ID	County	LEA NAME
048	Otero	Cloudcroft Municipal Schools

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	Face coverings are required for all students and staff except while eating and drinking with limited exceptions for students or staff who have

		medical reasons for not being able to wear a mask. All medical reasons must have medical documentation.
Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)	Y	All classrooms have been arranged to follow CDC and PED reentry guidelines. The classroom furniture has been spaced safely at 3 feet apart or more in some instances. In commons areas, it is 6 ft apart and all facing the same direction.
Handwashing and respiratory etiquette	Y	HEPA air filtration devices have been installed in all classrooms. Teachers open windows when able along with doors for proper ventilation. Hand sanitizer stations are set up at all entrances. Classrooms have sinks with soap dispensers for handwashing.
Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation	Y	All school buildings are deep cleaned regularly. HVAC systems are equipped with the highest grade filter possible. Air purification devices have been placed in each classroom as well as box fans for air circulation.
Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments	Y	Reporting is completed for contact tracing upon notification of a positive case to the DOH. Students are placed in an isolation room until parent pick up. We follow the quarantine guidelines set forth in the PED Toolkit.
Diagnostic and screening testing	Y	Weekly surveillance testing is conducted for all staff. Test To Stay program is also in place.
Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities	Y	District works with the local resources to provide vaccinations for both students and staff.
Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies	Y	504 Plans have been completed for students needing accommodations.
Coordination with State and local health officials	Y	District coordinates with local officials for the purposes of guidance, vaccination, testing, and other COVID related issues.

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?

Should school closure be necessary, students will participate in on line learning through CANVAS LMS. Ancillary services are available for students and staff to address SEL needs.	
How will the LEA address Students’:	
Academic Needs?	Online distance learning through CANVAS LMS.
Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs?	Counseling and therapy by ancillary providers is done virtually as needed.
Other Needs (which may include student health and food services)?	Student health needs are addressed through the regional School Based Heath Center. Grab and go meals are available to all students.
How will the LEA address Staff:	
Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs?	Health and Wellness Resources are provided to all staff on a regular basis.
Other Needs?	Needs are provided on a case by case basis.

Public Input	
Describe the process used to seek public input, and how that input was taken into account in the revision of the plan.	Input was welcomed at all public Board of Education meetings. We also conducted community stakeholder meetings for public input. Surveys of Staff were conducted. Information and ideas gathered were used to create and revise our Safe Reentry Plan.
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.	The plan was posted in English on the district website and translators are available when needed.
Describe the process by which a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA, will be provided a	Depending on the parents disability, an alternate version of the plan will be addressed.

version of the plan in an alternative format accessible to that parent.	
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U.S. Department of Education Interim Final Rule (IFR)

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:
 - (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.
2. 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.
3. During the period of the ARP ESSER award established in section 2001(a) of the ARP Act, an LEA must
 - a. 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.
 - b. In determining whether revisions are necessary, and in making any revisions, the LEA must seek public input and take such input into account.
 - c. 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.
4. 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).
5. 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—
 - a. In an understandable and uniform format;

- b. 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
- c. 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/guidanceeusesinvestment.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