

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	September 17, 2021
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District ID	County	LEA NAME
0539	Taos	Red River Valley Charter 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)**

<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	Masks are to be always worn indoors, except when eating or drinking in designate areas. Masks are to be two play and worn appropriately

		over the nose and the mouth. Buffs, bandanas, neck gaiters, and face shields without a mask are not acceptable forms of masking at school. Additionally, masks with exhalation valves are not acceptable forms of protection.
Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)	Y	Cohorting remains in place due to the nature of the self-contained classroom arrangement. There are two classes that share a large space and move from one section of the classroom to the other daily. These two classes share two teachers and eat lunch together.
Handwashing and respiratory etiquette	Y	Students are taught and reminded to wash hands using soap and warm water. Students are also taught and reminded to request a mask break how to handle the break accordingly. Mask breaks are encouraged when outdoors or working independently.
Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation	Y	Cleaning and Disinfecting occur throughout the school day. Teachers, educational assistants, the administrative team, and a cleaning crew work to maintain a clean and healthy environment.
Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments	Y	The school maintains records of visitors on campus and limits visitation to the main offices and classroom drop off at the door.
Diagnostic and screening testing	Y	Universal Screenings and Diagnostics are available at RRVCS
Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities	Y	Posted on Facebook and website as appropriate.
Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies	Y	MLSS, SAT, IEP, and 504 plans are utilized as appropriate.
Coordination with State and local health officials	Y	The school reaches out to state and local health officials for clarification to questions and concerns presented to the school in which they are unable to answer.

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?	
RRVCS strives to remain open by following the guidance of the Policies in place, the New Mexico Public Education Department, and the New Mexico Department of Health. We work with families to provide supports for students to attend school in a safe and healthy manner.	
How will the LEA address Students':	
Academic Needs?	The school is purchasing curriculum that will support our mission statement while supporting students in their learning journey. We are a Core Knowledge School (E.D. Hirsch) which is a comprehensive, sequence and knowledge based, content-rich curriculum. Recently added to grades K-3 is Core Knowledge Language Arts used to will support learners both traditionally (books and skills review) and digitally. There are plans to purchase grades 4-6 soon. Additionally, MidSchMath and iReady math are used in grades K-8 to assess, progress monitor, and teach. These programs have supported students to make quicker gains while remaining engaged and accelerating learning.
Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs?	RRVCS utilizes the services offered through Taos Behavioral Health. Counselors and support staff are available 2-3 times weekly. Students receive supports in the classroom, at recess, lunch, and during small group/individual settings.
Other Needs (which may include student health and food services)?	RRVCS is a Community Eligibility School. All students receive free breakfast, lunch, and snack.
How will the LEA address Staff:	
Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs?	RRVCS has a supportive governance council, administrative team, and colleagues. The staff can access supports through Taos Behavioral Health, the school administrator, and the governance council.
Other Needs?	None at this time

Public Input	
Describe the process used to seek public input, and how that input was taken into account in the revision of the plan.	Stakeholder outreach for input included, but are not limited to, Governance Council Meeting invites posted on Facebook and emailed, Governance Council Meeting designated work sessions and regular session designated agenda items, Google Form Surveys emailed and posted on Facebook and

	website, administrator newsletters, check ins from the administrator to local business owners and community members,
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.	At this time, RRVCS is unaware of parents requiring language translation. However, once brought to our attention a translation will be provided either orally or in writing, dependent upon the request.
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.	At this time, RRVCS is unaware of parents requiring an alternative format. However, once brought to our attention an alternative format that meets the needs of the request will be provided within a reasonable amount of time (dependent upon what the format change is)

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