

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



Entity ID	CTDS	LEA NAME
4374	080209-000	Littlefield Unified School District No. 9

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	Masks are not required but remain optional.
Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)	Y	There is no current recommendation for distancing. Seating in classrooms and lunchrooms allow for appropriate spacing and safety.
Handwashing and respiratory etiquette	Y	Frequent hand washing is recommended. Use of at least 60% alcohol-based hand sanitizer is allowed. Cough or sneeze into a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.
Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation	Y	Ventilation protocol includes supervised fresh air breaks if needed and daily rotation of air sanitizing machinery. Daily disinfecting and wiping down of high point of contact surfaces in classrooms, common areas, and door handles with a CDC compliant sanitizing solution. Deep cleaning of classrooms and buses will continue until we lose our extra facility workers through ESSR and then we will more than likely discontinue.
Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments	Y	A point of contact person within the district to work with our local and county health agencies in collaboration and contact tracing, in cooperation with the latest recommendations of the county and state health agencies.
Diagnostic and screening testing	Y	A point of contact person within the district is available to work with our local and county health agencies in keeping up with recommendations.
Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities	Y	Encourage parents and individuals to work through our local and county health departments to get information about vaccination.
Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies	Y	Working with families regarding individualized plans for children with disabilities in accordance with our existing protocols for health and safety.
Coordination with State and local health officials	Y	Mitigation plans include keeping up to date with state, county and local health officials regarding recommendations and risk level.

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

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and food services

How the LEA will Ensure Continuity of Services?

LUSD 9 is currently utilizing an in-person instruction model and will maintain that model throughout the school year. LUSD9 will emphasize the use of adopted and recommended sanitizing procedures and social distancing guidelines in accordance with CDC recommended health and safety guidelines. The governing board of LUSD9 adopted an optional mask policy and those who choose to wear masks will wear properly, as recommended by the CDC. PPE may be used, but according to Arizona State Legislative mandates, they may not be required.

In-person instruction will be available for the same number of days per week and open the same hours offered during the prior school year before the COVID-19 closures or mitigation strategies took effect. ESSER funds are being used to maintain the same number of teachers and staff or increase the number to help ensure the return of school employees to assist in the continuity of services for returning to in-person instruction.

LUSD9 has Safety grant for a full-time Social Worker and is in the process of filling that position in order to support students with SEL needs. This position has been approved for another three years and this individual will also be developing a drug diversion program, Vape/Tabaco succession program also doing group and individual therapy for the students that need it. Teachers have received professional development and classroom support materials to help provide awareness and support for Social Emotional Learning. LUSD9 partnered with a local community resource to provide Project Diamondback, a personal items and food pantry available to students to help support at risk students and families. Additionally, LUSD9 has participated in the extension of the Summer Feed Nutrition Program from the Federal Government, designed to keep our students fed at no cost to them up until the beginning of this school year. In the event of a school shut down meals would continue to be delivered to our designated bus stops in the community. LUSD9 will follow all requirements of the USDA Nutrition Program, including any changes or modifications.

Students' Needs:

Academic Needs	The plan includes a model for in-person instruction, tiered academic interventions and support for students in their learning gaps as well as ensuring our curriculum addresses all students in their various learning targets.
Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs	The district has provided training and support to all staff in the area of social and emotional learning and trauma informed practices. Our district social worker will provides direct services to the students and collaborates with local providers in meeting the overall wellbeing of our students. Applications have been completed to include mental health counselors at each school in the 2023-2024 school year. Schools have formed Professional Learning Communities to specifically address students' behavioral needs.
Other Needs (which may include student health and food services)	Through past participation in the summer food program, our district provided meals to students throughout the summer and many of the non-school days we have had. We provided delivery of meals to our bus stop locations to make it easier for students to access meals. Beginning this school year parents were required to complete the USDA application, however we will continue to seek resources in the area of food service to assist families with the cost of meals. Working together with our county health department regarding health, nutrition and drug abuse education programs is an additional support we offer to our students.

Staff Needs:

Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs	The district has provided training and support to all staff in their own needs. Support has been provided through a social worker and through information about services available through our health insurance. Staff surveys have been used to collect information on
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	staff needs and the administrative team will use this data to plan.
Other Needs	Instructional support has been provided through the district's contracting with a consultant who is in the schools twice a month. Support for new teachers is offered through participation in a new teacher mentoring program grant.

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	<p>Our return safety to in person instructional plan was adopted by the board on August 12, 2021</p> <p>Revision, February 10, 2022</p> <p>Revision, August 11, 2022</p> <p>Revision, February 9, 2023</p> <p>Revision, May 11, 2023</p> <p>Revision, August 10, 2023</p>
Public Input	
Describe the process used to seek public input, and how that input was taken into account in the revision of the plan:	Public input is sought through survey, discussion at parent meetings, staff meetings and communication with public health agencies, ADE guidance and by placing the plan on an agenda at a public meeting of the school district's governing board. Public comments were considered in the making of the plan then and in the future.

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

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- (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