



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

### LEA Information

**1. LEA Name (one LEA per form)\***

Academy of Mathematics and Science South, Inc.

**2. Entity ID Number\***

90878

**3. CTDS Number\***

078242000

**4. Plan's Primary Contact Name\***

Nicole Dasilva

**5. Plan's Primary Contact Email Address\***

ndasilva@amsschools.org

**6. Plan's Primary Contact Phone Number\***

(520) 887-5392 x11042

**Please submit your Safe Return to In-Person Learning Plan every six months from your prior submission date.**

Revision Timeline: May 2023-September 2023

**7. Since your last submission date, when did your LEA last review and/or revise your plan? Please provide the updated mm/dd/yyyy of your review/revision. This date should be updated from your last submission. \***

08/20/2023

**All LEAs receiving ESSER III funds must make publicly available on their website, a plan for the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services. Please list the link where the plan/template is posted on the LEA's website.**

**8. Insert the link below with directions on how to find your LEA's Safe Return to In-Person plan located on your LEA website (do not link directly to the PDF). The plan must be on the ADE template that will be downloaded from EMAC after completing your responses.\***

[https://www.amsschools.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC\\_ID=3612125&type=d&pREC\\_ID=2032809](https://www.amsschools.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=3612125&type=d&pREC_ID=2032809)

**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)**

**9. Has the LEA adopted a Governing Board policy on universal and correct wearing of masks?\***

Yes

**10. Please describe the LEA's Governing Board policy on universal and correct wearing of masks.\***

Face masks or coverings are optional for all scholars, staff, parents, and visitors. AMS encourages anyone prefers to wear a mask to continue to do so at their comfort level.

**11. Has the LEA adopted a Governing Board policy on modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)?\***

Yes

**12. Please describe the LEA's Governing Board policy on modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding).\***

The LEA has made and sustains the following facilities and movement driven changes to allow for physical distancing to mitigate COVID-19.

- Staff, students, and visitors are required to maintain physical distancing as much as possible.
- Signage around the school is posted to promote physical distancing.
- Where applicable, one-way directional routes in hallways are developed. Limited interaction between classes during transitions is encouraged.
- Students are grouped according to class seating charts during lunch and recess periods to minimize the spread of COVID-19 outside of a single class.
- Classroom seating charts will remain the same in all classrooms that a single class group attends.
- Teachers may use small group learning during class but strive to maintain physical distancing as much as possible.
- At the discretion of the campus Principal, departmentalized classes will have teachers moving between classrooms in lieu of scholars.
- A staff member will monitor scholars as teachers switch classrooms for subjects. Scholars will only transition to Specials Classes, Science Lab, lunch, and recess.
- Assemblies and other meetings can be held as normal while providing as much physical distance between participants as possible. Classes are to remain together.
- For dismissal, students will remain in their classrooms in their seating arrangements. Students will be directed to the pickup area when parents arrive. The school will not allow students to congregate in the pickup area at large and wait for their parents to arrive. Parents are not allowed to pick up students from the front office area or inside the school.
- The use of water fountains is discouraged. Instead, parents will be required to provide students with reusable water bottles to be refilled throughout the day instead. The school has added discrete refilling stations to disperse traffic to water fountains alone and to promote accessible water bottle usage.

**13. Has the LEA adopted a Governing Board policy on handwashing and respiratory etiquette?\***

Yes

**14. Please describe the LEA's Governing Board policy on handwashing and respiratory etiquette.\***

The LEA has taken several steps in its return to school plan to ensure adequate handwashing and respiratory etiquette:

- Signage is posted in highly visible locations as reminders for proper handwashing, physical distancing, and other essential hygiene practices (ex: covering a cough or sneeze).
- Students are required to sanitize or wash their hands before and after all transitions.
- Hand sanitizer is available throughout the entire campus to ensure the previous mark is met.

**15. Has the LEA adopted a Governing Board policy on cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation?\***

Yes

**16. Please describe the LEA's Governing Board policy on cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation.\***

The maintenance of a safe and healthy campuses and work facilities is a top priority for AMS. Each campus currently has full-time maintenance techs, day, and night porters to ensure the cleanliness of our schools and buildings. In addition, we employ a janitorial cleaning service to supplement AMS employees to maintain our standards of cleanliness. A standard cleaning schedule for our building is completed each week by our staff and our cleaning service. Our cleaning teams use electrostatic cleaning techniques to protect against potent viruses, including COVID-19.

#### Routine Daily/Nightly Cleaning

AMS has increased staffing to allow for more frequent cleaning of high touch points – restroom stalls, dispensers, doors, counters, handles and knobs. Facilities day porters will patrol these areas throughout the day to ensure cleanliness and disinfecting in accordance with the CDC and OSHA latest cleaning guidelines for schools.

The night cleaners use electrostatic equipment for the safest and most effective and efficient disinfecting of classrooms, bathrooms and other areas. They will be using an EPA approved disinfectant known to kill the COVID-19 virus. All nightly cleaning will be inspected at the start of each school day by the facilities team to ensure thorough, effective cleaning and disinfecting.

#### Front Office Disinfecting

The front office staff will use provided cleaning and disinfectant product to frequently disinfect items such as copiers, printers, front desk counters and other lobby surfaces as needed.

#### Personal Area Cleaning

Employees and staff who work in individual offices and cubicles will be provided with disinfectant supplies to disinfect as needed. Be respectful of other's requests for safety practices, including a request to wear a face mask or conduct a meeting in a different location.

#### Classroom Area Cleaning

Teachers will be provided with the safest and most effective disinfecting wipes and supplies known to be effective against the COVID-19 virus. Teachers may use the last 5 minutes of class periods to lead their students in disinfecting desks and other touch points. Teachers will not include any students known to have any respiratory or health issues in this disinfecting process. This also applies to any students participating in the AMS SPED Program. These areas will be checked and disinfected throughout the day and night by the facilities team and contractors as needed or requested.

#### Playground Equipment Cleaning

The facilities team will closely monitor, clean, and disinfect all high touch points throughout the school day. They will use the electrostatic equipment between groups of student use and as needed.

#### Lunchroom Cleaning

The facilities team will provide support to the campus lunch aides in cleaning and sanitizing the lunchroom.

**17. Has the LEA adopted a Governing Board policy on contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments?\***

Yes

**18. Please describe the LEA's Governing Board policy on contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments.\***



The LEA will work with local health agencies for any required tracing and notification requirements. In addition to those reporting mechanisms, the school has developed isolation and quarantine procedures:

AMS will follow these isolation procedures as listed in our most recent COVID Safety Plan posted on the AMS website. These procedures are aligned to CDC guidance.

#### Isolation Procedures

In the event a scholar or teacher tests positive for COVID-19, AMS will follow the below guidelines.

We will follow all federal, state, and local requirements for notification and tracing. If needed, AMS will isolate scholars or staff members immediately upon confirmation of a positive test or possible exposure.

All notifications to staff and parents, including decisions to close classrooms, are made collaboratively between the campus Principal and Human Resources.

#### Classroom Procedures

If a scholar or staff member tests positive for COVID-19:

- Any scholar who was in close contact with the positive case will have their parent/guardian notified.

- It is recommended parents and/or guardians follow proper quarantine practices for their scholars, per CDC.

#### Scholar Pick-Up

If a scholar develops COVID-19 symptoms, or it is discovered to be positive during school hours:

- Scholars will go to a designated isolation area until they are able to pick up by a parent or guardian.

- Parents/guardians will use designated pick-up areas when picking up an ill scholar.

- AMS will work with local health agencies for all required tracing and notification requirements.

- Parents should be prepared to pick up a scholar immediately in the instance of COVID-19 related symptoms. Ensure proper emergency contacts are updated.

#### Required Isolation Periods

Positive COVID-19 Test Requirements for Return (regardless of vaccination status)

1. 5-day isolation period from the onset of the symptoms, or from test date if asymptomatic.

2. Must be asymptomatic or symptoms are resolving after 5 days. If symptoms have not resolved after 5 days, isolation is required until symptoms are resolving.

3. Mask/face covering is required for the following 5 days.

4. If a fever is a symptom, isolation must continue till the fever resolves.

#### Exposed to a Positive Case of COVID-19

If a scholar or staff member have been exposed to a positive case of COVID-19, they are required to wear a mask for 10 days following the exposure. It is recommended they test for COVID-19 after the 5th day.

Exposure to Exposed Person: No isolation necessary, follow safety protocols.

Close contact is defined as contact of 15 minutes or more within 6 feet over 24 hours, direct

**19. Has the LEA adopted a Governing Board policy on diagnostic and screening testing?\*** Yes**20. Please describe the LEA's Governing Board policy on diagnostic and screening testing.\***

First, the LEA works with parents/guardians to ensure routine student screening for wellness prior to arriving on campus. Parents and guardians are encouraged to check for: fever, coughing, shortness of breath, new loss of taste or smell, muscle or body aches, congestion or runny nose, headache, sore throat, fatigue, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, or a temperature of 100.4 or higher.

AMS employees also take a similarly active role in proactively monitoring their symptoms. All employees are asked to conduct a self-screening of the above COVID symptoms prior to leaving their residence. If an employee experiences any of the above symptoms, they are asked not to report to work and notify their supervisor.

**21. Has the LEA adopted a Governing Board policy on efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities?\*** Yes**22. Please describe the LEA's Governing Board policy on efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities.\***

AMS explored partnerships to distribute vaccines to the school community but did not secure one. Regardless, we have continuously encouraged AMS families to seek vaccination and provided communication on where they can receive a free vaccine.

**23. Has the LEA adopted a Governing Board policy on appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies?\*** Yes**24. Please describe the LEA's Governing Board policy on appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies.\***

If an AMS student receives special education (SPED) services, school leadership and teachers will partner with the school's SPED staff and AMS Director of Exceptional Student Services to ensure that appropriate accommodations are made with respect to health, safety, and educational access policies/practices for students with disabilities. Adaptations of the school's broader health and safety policies for students with disabilities will be made on a case needs by SPED staff.

**25. Has the LEA adopted a Governing Board policy on coordination with State and local health officials?\*** Yes

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**26. Please describe the LEA's Governing Board policy on coordination with State and local health officials.\***

To the greatest extent practicable, the LEA's Safe Return to In-Person plan will be routinely informed by guidance released by state and local health officials. The LEA will follow and consider updates to guidance from the CDC, State, and local health officials in the areas of masks or face coverings, physical distancing, vaccinations, isolation and contact tracing policies, cleaning, and any other area for the safe return to in-person instruction. The LEA will contact county health organization officials for any cases that arise in the school during this year.

## 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.

### 27. How will the LEA ensure Continuity of Services?\*

Briefly describe an overview of the continuity of services and in the following questions you will provide more detailed information.

For each school year in which this plan is applicable, AMS is prepared to fully meet and exceed the needs of students and staff. The strategies and methods outlined below will be continuously provided to ensure that staff and students feel safe and make progress addressing learning gaps resulting from the previous year. In the event of any closure or need for distance learning, AMS is equipped to provide flexible services as appropriate to ensure continuity of learning, including enrolling students in AMS's Arizona Online Instruction school, the Academy of Math and Science Advanced Virtual Academy. The sections below detail how AMS will ensure quality and continuity of services in academics, social, emotional, mental health, and other various needs including food services and before/aftercare.

### 28. How will the LEA ensure continuity of services for students' academic needs?\*

To bolster the rigor of our existing programs and efforts to meet student academic needs for the upcoming school year, AMS has established several new strategies:

- AMS has hired counselors as described further in this section to ensure that student mental and emotional health needs are met in support of their personal and academic success.
- AMS has hired additional reading and mathematics interventionists to provide more targeted support and specifically address COVID learning loss gaps. Intervention is scheduled during the school day.
- Depending on campus, AMS offers afterschool tutoring to students who are at-risk of falling behind or are behind. The focus of tutoring will be English language arts, reading, and mathematics. Some campuses also offer a homework help club.
- AMS has contracted with iReady, a testing software program that creates a customized learning path for students. Throughout the year, students will work on lessons customized to fit their needs based on their own diagnostic academic score.
- AMS teachers have received and will continue to receive targeted professional development designed to address COVID learning loss, particularly in the areas of reading and literacy strategies, a fundamental part of being a student in all subjects.

### 29. How will the LEA ensure continuity of services for students' social, emotional, and mental health needs?\*

In addition to classroom guidance lessons, teachers will be trained on best practices for implementing SEL and effective strategies to use in the classroom. School counselors will also support student SEL / mental health needs by providing individual and small group counseling.

**30. How will the LEA ensure continuity of services for students' other needs?\***

This may include student health and food services.

For the supervision of students outside of normal school hours, AMS provides before and aftercare for all students who wish to participate. While the COVID processes described in this document and in our safety plan remain in place during before/aftercare, students and families will be able to use this resource to meet their personal schedule needs and make sure that their student is in a before/after school space that is conducive to their continued growth. Students in before/aftercare will maintain distancing, sanitization, and not make physical contact with other students. As an exception, students subject to any isolation procedures may have their before/aftercare participation altered.

**31. How will the LEA ensure continuity of services for staff's social, emotional, and mental health needs?\***

AMS has added Health Advocate as part of the employment package for all employees. Free to all staff and their immediate family, whether they carry AMS insurance/benefits or not, the program is a core part of our employee assistance. Through Health Advocate, employees have 24/7 access to licensed professional counselors and work/life specialists. These professionals assist AMS employees with any personal/family challenges, work stressors, and help employees achieve a healthier work/life balance. Each AMS employee also now has access to a personal health advocate, typically a registered nurse, supported by medical directors and benefits/claims specialists. In addition to these support systems, AMS employees can access specialists and resources in the following areas:

- Help with stress, depression, substance abuse, legal, financial, and childcare needs
- Help finding the right doctors and hospitals to meet individual medical needs of both immediate and extended family
- Help obtaining services for elderly parents / parents in-law
- Help when faced with serious injury or illness
- Help with insurance claims and billing issues
- Help scheduling appointments, especially with hard-to-reach specialists.

**32. How will the LEA ensure continuity of services for staff's other needs?\***

All AMS employees are eligible for health insurance, including a plan with zero cost to the employee per check. All employees also receive 40 hours of sick time and some receive vacation time. For the current school year, AMS also provides teaching staff with 3 additional days of paid time off. For prior years, AMS opted to participate in the voluntary extension of the FFCRA under the CARES Act to provide additional paid time off for any COVID related issues. All of these staff measures will be provided continuously throughout the year.

**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**

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

The LEA will regularly review the AMS Safety / Return to In-Person Instruction plan every 5-6 months during the following months.

- August 2023
- December 2023
- March 2024
- May 2024
- August 2024

The LEA will also review the safety plan as often as necessary to ensure compliance with the CDC, federal, state, or local health agencies.

The AMS 22-23 COVID Safety Plan as posted online was updated to reflect CDC guidance on August 11, 2022 to follow the CDC's update to guidance on isolation and quarantine periods.

The AMS Safety Plan is currently posted on the AMS website and public input is welcome at all times including between formal review periods.

Parents and members of the AMS community are encouraged to submit their feedback via email to [feedback@amsschools.org](mailto:feedback@amsschools.org).

For the initial establishment of this plan in July 2021, an AMS Safety Plan was presented to the AMS School Governing Boards, discussed between all school principals, sent to teachers for input, and posted online. Parents were directly referred to the website location of the safety plan to ensure that they are aware of their opportunity to provide feedback and effect change in the safety of their student's school.

**After completing all responses in EMAC, save your information. Then, use the red download button to create a copy of your completed form to be uploaded to your LEA website. Once your form is uploaded to your LEA website, log back into EMAC to click the blue submit button and submit your form to be reviewed by your specialist. Your EMAC submission will not be approved unless this updated form is on your LEA website.**

**34. Did you upload the completed EMAC form to your LEA website?\***

Yes