



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

LEA Information

1. LEA Name (one LEA per form)*

Acorn Montessori Charter School

2. Entity ID Number*

79437

3. CTDS Number*

138760000

4. Plan's Primary Contact Name*

Kendal Healey

5. Plan's Primary Contact Email Address*

khealey@acornmontessori.com

6. Plan's Primary Contact Phone Number*

9287725778

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. *

06/27/2023

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://acornmontessori.com/return-to-in-person-learning/>

Navigate to acornmontessori.com, hover over "For Parents," select "return to in person learning," select "Safe Return."

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.*

All students, staff, and visitors have masks available to them on campus. Depending on symptoms and illness, students and staff that become ill on campus will be given a mask to wear until off campus.

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).*

Classrooms are set up with desks, tables, and floor space to allow for physical distance to the greatest extent possible, as needed. Teachers and additional paraprofessionals are in each class to allow for smaller student to teacher ratios in small groups. Recesses are spread out with additional playgrounds and parks being used to spread students out as much as possible.

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.*

Frequent and efficient handwashing is scheduled regularly throughout the day and as needed such as upon entry, before and after meals, before and after shared materials, and whenever a student sneezes, coughs, touches face etc.

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.*

Additional janitorial staff are on staff to frequently clean and disinfect high touch surfaces in the school and on playgrounds. All staff clean and disinfect between transitions, any time students switch work areas. Air purifiers were purchased and are used in all classrooms, offices, workspaces, and hallways.

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.*

All contact tracing and quarantine is done as recommended by the Yavapai County Health Department. Families are notified of direct contact with COVID-19 and of the associated symptoms to watch for.

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.*

In collaboration with Yavapai County Health Department, families are referred to testing outside of the school when requested. Home testing kits are also available for families as needed.

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.*

Community vaccine clinic flyers are shared with the families. An annual vaccine clinic is also scheduled and provided to the students, staff, and families.

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.*

Students with disabilities are provided accommodations as needed to access education through in person instruction.

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

☒ Yes

*

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

Yavapai County Health Department, AZ Dept of Health

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 the 23-24 school year, Acorn Montessori Charter School will be providing in person instruction for all K-8 classrooms including all related services in the areas of special education, gifted education, Title I services, in class interventions, tutoring, family events, parent education trainings, and regularly scheduled professional development for staff to address the gaps in learning for students. All in person instruction will include the above health and wellness policy outlined for parents, students, and staff.

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

Students receive in person instruction in the appropriate grade level with highly qualified teachers. In person instruction will be provided unless otherwise directed by local or state officials. Students needing to quarantine, or isolate, will be given a missing work packet during their isolation/quarantine period. Curriculum used for in person instruction is aligned to Arizona state standards and lessons/activities are differentiated to meet the needs and levels of every student. All students are assessed and monitored frequently to determine understanding and mastery of grade level material. Students falling below grade level are given additional support through tier 2 and tier 3 instruction both in and out of the classroom in addition to tutoring and small group/1:1 support. Students above grade level are challenged through in class or pull-out extension materials. When learning gaps are evident, additional training and support has been given to all teachers to meet the unique and varied needs of the students. Teachers are also receiving training for science of reading to design specific interventions for students needing additional support.

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

A wellness program is provided to all students where support and training is given to staff and students on monitoring well-being, self regulation, building connections, socialization, and de-escalation. Students in need of additional support attend social groups or 1:1 sessions with school counselors and wellness staff. Trainings and materials are also provided to teachers and parents/guardians to address the mental health needs and signs for students in all age groups. SEL lessons are scheduled and occur in all K-8 classrooms.

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

This may include student health and food services.

Free breakfast is provided to all students. Lunch is provided at reduced rates. Students also have access to clothing, coats, jackets, and hygiene products as needed, free of charge.

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

Frequent check ins with staff occur daily. Staff are given additional days off or opportunities to leave early to help with stress and burn out. Staff are provided opportunities for team building, rewards, reinforcement, and time to observe other teachers.

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

Professional development is provided to help with teachers wanting additional support. Additionally, teachers are provided with an instructional coach, mentor, time for collaboration, and continuing education credits and courses as needed.

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.*

Board meetings are held regularly and open to the public. Board meeting days and times are posted on our school website and are also posted in view 24 hours prior to meeting being held. Request for public comment is recommended to be received prior to board meeting. Letters from parents, staff, and community members are also shared and discussed with the leadership team to take into consideration when policies change, are revised, or are adopted. In addition to board meetings and leadership reviews, parent and staff surveys are sent out periodically and used to help guide policy and operation of in person instruction and school support to students.

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