



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

### LEA Information

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

Arizona Autism Charter Schools, Inc.

**2. Entity ID Number\***

91958

**3. CTDS Number\***

078226000

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

Annie Loftis

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

aloftis@autismcharter.org

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

6023179007

**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. \***

08/22/2023

**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://autismcharter.org/health-office/>

Go to [autismcharter.org](https://autismcharter.org), hover over "parents", select "health office" and scroll down to "Safe Return to Learning Policy - PDF". Click "view" to pull up the document.

**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.\***

Masks are available at the front desk and health office at each campus. Staff are encouraged to stay protected and wear masks daily as they see fit. Regardless of vaccination status, staff with potential or identifiable exposure to Covid-19 are strongly encouraged to wear a mask 10 days after exposure date. For students, families are encouraged to make family decisions about masks that are best for their child.

**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 modified facilities and maintains cohorts of students to easily contact trace in the event of positive cases on campus.

**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 placed signs throughout campus to encourage students and staff to complete appropriate hand hygiene throughout their daily routines.

**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 LEA has placed disinfectant wipes for daily use in each classroom and instructed staff to wipe down tables and student areas on an hourly basis. Cleaning crews are hired to do a deep cleaning in affected areas when a positive case is identified on campus. In addition, the HVAC systems have been improved and replaced in some cases to improve ventilation.

**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 state and local isolation and quarantine protocols are followed by the LEA and monitored closely for changes as they occur at the state level (MCDPH and AZDHS).

**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.\***

The LEA has screening available to staff onsite for those developing symptoms after they arrive to work.

**21. Has the LEA adopted a Governing Board policy on efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities?\***

No

**22. Has the LEA adopted a Governing Board policy on appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies?\***

Yes

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

The LEA maintains a voluntary mask wearing policy, as our entire population of students has developmental disabilities. Social distancing policies are modified to benefit the greater safety of students with severe developmental disabilities and health concerns.

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

\*

Yes

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

The LEA coordinates with Maricopa County Health Department and reports all positive cases for students and staff.

## 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.

### 26. 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.

The LEA has committed resources and efforts to maintaining the safety of all students and staff by adhering to the state guidelines in a strong mitigation plan. AZACS has been open for in-person learning since October 2020 and continues to diligently track all positive cases and follow the most current isolation and quarantine guidelines as established by MCDPH and AZDHS.

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

The LEA uses digital portfolios to store and collect student work. This enables students following isolation/quarantine protocols to access work digitally, if needed.

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

The LEA has implemented evidence based SEL curriculum including ABA strategies and ACT/AIM curriculum. In addition, we have a counselor for both our onsite schools and our online school.

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

This may include student health and food services.

The LEA participates in NSLP and is able to provide access to free meals for all enrolled students. The LEA employs an onsite registered nurse and certified nursing assistants to aid in the promotion of student health needs on campus.

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

The LEA offers emotional support through our Talent Management Department and onsite registered nurse, allowing employees to talk through COVID symptoms and situations with the team. LEA also offers EAP assistance to staff in need.

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

N/A

**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**

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

The school nurse frequently checks the CDC website for action items. All decisions and revisions are based on safety protocols and recommendations established by the CDC and Maricopa Department of Public Health.



**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.**

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

Yes