



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

LEA Information

1. LEA Name (one LEA per form)*

Arizona Connections Academy Charter School, Inc

2. Entity ID Number*

87407

3. CTDS Number*

07-85-11-000

4. Plan's Primary Contact Name*

Heather Noto

5. Plan's Primary Contact Email Address*

hnoto@aca.connectionsacademy.org

6. Plan's Primary Contact Phone Number*

623-252-9013

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. *

08/24/2023

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.connectionsacademy.com/arizona-online-school/overview/governance/notices/>

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.*

The school will take into consideration the guidance provided by the county and state and will follow any executive orders for use of masks at in-person events and/or the office building

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).*

As a virtual school, students are not required to attend in-person classes. When there are events with students and families, the school will take into consideration social distancing guidelines provided by the county and state and will follow an executive orders, including spacing and/or attendance caps.

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.*

Employees should still practice proper hand hygiene and maintain and clean their workspace regularly. The school will ensure adequate supplies are available to support healthy hygiene behaviors, including soap, a way to dry hands, tissues, hand sanitizer, face masks (as feasible) and no-touch/foot-pedal trash cans.

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 school will maintain a regular schedule for cleaning and sanitizing the school office building and will ensure proper ventilation per appropriate guidelines.

The school will regularly clean high touch surfaces and objects (e.g., door handles, sink handles, toilets, drinking fountains) within the school at least daily or between use as much as possible.

The school will improve ventilation to the extent possible to increase circulation of outdoor air, increase delivery of clean air, and dilute potential contaminants, including ensuring HVAC settings are maximizing ventilation and improving the level of filtration in the office building

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.*

Since students enrolled at the school are not attending in a school building, students do NOT need to report that they are positive or have been exposed to COVID-19. In the case of Student/Family events:

If a student or family member is sick and/or has COVID like symptoms, please stay home/do not attend events and contact the school for further guidance.

Students participating in in-person events will report a positive COVID-19 case OR exposure to a positive person by contacting the school principal.

Employees who work at the school office should report a positive COVID-19 test or exposure to your principal and/or your school's contact tracer.

If someone in your household has COVID like symptoms and/or has received a positive COVID19 test, employees may still work virtually, but please DO NOT report to in-person activities.

Likewise, do not report to in-person activities if you or someone in your household is waiting for COVID test results.

If an attendee at a school event or a staff person working in the office tests positive for COVID-19, that person should alert the principal who will obtain a list of close contacts and inform all staff, parents/guardians/caregivers of close contacts of possible exposure. The principal will work with local health officials to assess spread and support follow up with students, staff, parents and guardians of those who had contact. Those close contacts are advised to remain at home (quarantine for 14 days or current CDC recommendation) and to consult with a healthcare provider for evaluation and possible COVID-19 test.

Staff may return to the office or in-person events once the following are met: 1. 10 days out from start of the symptoms, AND 2. Fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication, AND 3. Symptoms are improved.

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 school will offer referrals to diagnostic testing to any student, teacher, or staff member who is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19. If any employee or student is sick or exhibiting COVID like symptoms, they should stay home and talk to a healthcare provider about getting a COVID19 test. If an attendee at a school event or a staff person in the office receives a positive test result, that person should alert the principal who will obtain a list of close contacts and inform all staff, parents/guardians/caregivers of close contacts of possible exposure. The principal will work with local health officials to assess spread and support follow up with students, staff, parents and guardians of those who had contact.

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.*

The school will work with local health departments to support messaging and outreach about vaccinations for members of the school community. Outreach will be made available in a language that all family members of students can understand and in alternate formats as needed to facilitate effective communication for individuals with disabilities.

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.*

The school will work closely with related services providers to ensure any in-person services for students with disabilities include safety precautions. Students with disabilities will be provided accommodations for mandatory inperson events on an individual basis depending upon their specific needs.

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.*

When feasible, the school will coordinate with state and local health officials to ensure staff, student, and family access to testing, vaccines, and other resources to prevent and mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

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.

As a full time virtual school, Arizona Connections Academy has offered a sustainable solution to virtual education through the pandemic and will continue to do so.

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

The school utilizes response to intervention and personalized learning plans to determine unique academic needs of each student and develop and implement a plan to meet those needs

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

The school will prioritize social emotional learning for all students in addition to academic recovery and acceleration. Strategies include high quality professional development for staff, increased use of assessment data to guide instruction, research-based core instruction, and tiered systems of support for interventions

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

This may include student health and food services.

As a virtual charter school, the school does not serve meals. When/if student health is limiting a student's ability to academic success, the school will assist in coordinating services and assistance to meet that student's needs.

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

The school prioritizes staff health – social, emotional, and mental – by ensuring that staff have access to supports through Pearson or others to meet staff needs.

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

The school ensures that staff has access to supports to meet their needs. School Administrators work closely with staff to ensure that needs are met and that staff aren't overwhelmed by their workloads, etc.

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.*

Arizona Connections Academy posted this document on its school website and will ensure that the plan is discussed at planning and parent meetings and events. The plan was reviewed at the October 2021 Board meeting and will be reviewed regularly, no less than every six months.

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