



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

LEA Information

1. LEA Name (one LEA per form)*

Challenge School Inc.

2. Entity ID Number*

6362

3. CTDS Number*

07-87-72-000

4. Plan's Primary Contact Name*

Wendy Miller

5. Plan's Primary Contact Email Address*

wmiller@challengecharterschool.net

6. Plan's Primary Contact Phone Number*

6029385411

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. *

08/31/2023

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.challengecharterschool.net/families/school-safety>

The Safe Return to In-Person plan can be located using this link. Also, from our homepage menu, select "Families", then "School Safety", then the "COVID-19 tab to find this resource and other related resources for our community.

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 have a face covering policy for students and employees, as required by Executive Order 2020-51. Face coverings are currently optional. The school will provide frequent instruction in proper mask wearing, hand washing, and sneeze/cough control to students and families who continue to wear masks.

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 School will encourage staff and students to maintain social distancing (at least three feet apart), when feasible. CCS will remain a closed campus to volunteers and non-essential visitors at all times except for evening family events as specified. Class sizes will remain low to enable more distancing in each classroom and keep cohorts small. To the extent appropriate and feasible, the School will attempt to organize student and staff groupings so that they are as static as reasonably possible – i.e., have the same group of students stay with the same staff, and limit mixing between groups, if 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.*

The School will encourage and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or as appropriate, use of hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol after bathroom use, before and after recess, and at other appropriate times during the day. The School will support healthy hygiene behaviors by providing adequate supplies, including soap and hand sanitizer as appropriate. The School will instruct and encourage staff and students to cover coughs and sneezes and follow hand-hygiene protocols immediately thereafter.

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 clean frequently touched surfaces (e.g., playground equipment, door handles, sink handles, drinking fountains) within the School and on buses (if applicable) at least daily or between uses, when reasonably feasible. The School will follow cleaning and disinfection best practices and procedures, to the extent possible. The School will frequently monitor and service building ventilation systems to ensure proper operation and circulation of air on campus and school provided transportation. The school provides a unique double air filtration system including: Filterless Hammacher Schlemmer Virus and Allergen Eliminating Filterless Air Purifiers in classrooms, cafeteria, and all other shared indoor spaces with negatively charged ions to eliminate up to 97% of airborne viruses and allergens as small as 10 nanometers partnered with Austin Healthmate Plus Air Purifiers in each classroom proven to assist with allergies, asthma, and other respiratory issues to include medical grade HEPA, Activated Carbon and antimicrobial filter components.

To enable safe operations in support of student health needs, improve overall air quality, and reduce other challenges to student respiratory health to include leaks and mold, roofs require full underlayment replacement and some flooring repaired.

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 School will provide an isolation area in the student health office, should the School suspect a possible case of COVID or any illness.

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.*

Temperatures are taken throughout the day 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.*

Staff are given paid leave time to receive their vaccinations and vaccine availability information is disseminated to 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.*

Upon request from any parent an alternative format of this plan will be made available in an accessible format. To the extent possible, stakeholders representing the interests of children with disabilities, English learners, children experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, migratory students, children who are incarcerated, and other underserved students will contribute in a meaningful way to planning for campus safety needs. Barriers to a child reaching their full potential will be removed using appropriate accommodations and ADA campus compliance is of the highest priority.

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.*

This plan is always secondary to compliance with updated local, state, and national orders, laws, and regulations. If an outbreak* of COVID-19 occurs at the School, the School will notify the local health department using any required or suggested notification method.

Such actions may include, but are not limited to:

1. Short-term limitations on, or restrictions for, on-site support services or in-person instruction with respect to a particular student, cohort, or the School generally.
2. Enhanced cleaning/disinfection of areas of the School used by the affected individual.
3. Extended school dismissal/closure, either for a portion of the School or the School entirely.

* An "outbreak" is currently defined as three or more laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases among students or staff with onsets within a 14 day period, who are epidemiologically linked, do not share a household, and were not identified as close contacts of each other in another setting.

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.

The school will ensure continuity of services by implementing prevention and mitigation strategies that are, to the greatest extent practicable, consistent with the most recent CDC guidance on reopening schools, engage in meaningful consultation with all stakeholders, coordinate our preparedness and response, address the unique needs of our local school population and staff, purchase supplies to sanitize and clean effectively, repair and update our facility to improve ventilation and air quality for respiratory health, purchase the hardware and software needed to deliver services remotely should a long or short term closure become necessary again and be most effective at allowing all learners to reach their full potential and addressing student learning loss especially for our most vulnerable populations. Communicate the plan publicly in a uniform format understandable and accessible to all.

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

High quality assessments to include but not limited to: NWEA and Acadience will be used in combination with teacher and parent input to determine remedial and individualized student needs with frequent progress monitoring. Additional staff will be employed to lower class and group sizes for more individual attention and instructional time. Evidence based intervention strategies will be used both during the school day and during the summer as applicable.

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

Additional staff will be employed to increase proximity for students to a trusted adult. Individual attention, parent communication, and staff collaboration to refer students for emotional needs and social skills classes. Family referral information posted, available and provided. Staff professional development with strategies for their own mental well-being and also for their students to include recognizing signs and suicide prevention. Providing in person learning available for all students to ensure consistent interaction and access to a safe learning environment and daily meals.

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

This may include student health and food services.

The school will ensure continuity of services by implementing prevention and mitigation strategies that are, to the greatest extent practicable, consistent with the most recent CDC guidance on reopening schools, engage in meaningful consultation with all stakeholders, coordinate our preparedness and response, address the unique needs of our local school population and staff, and purchase supplies to sanitize and clean effectively. Should a long or short-term closure become necessary again, the school will use the Summer Meals grant to continue to offer meals to all families keeping the kitchen open for meal pick up. In addition, the school will serve as an information hub-providing social service and all related health resources to be disseminated ensuring continuity of services most especially for our most vulnerable populations. Please also see the Challenge Charter School Mitigation Plan, and the current school year plan.

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

The School offers an expansive benefits package that incorporates resources for mental, social, and emotional health. The School also offers a paid time off plan that staff can use at their discretion. August 2023 Professional Development about their school-home balance and strategies for social, emotional, and mental needs. A supportive Administration to seek out resources as needed and collaborate for student and staff needs.

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

The school will ensure continuity of services by implementing prevention and mitigation strategies that are, to the greatest extent practicable, consistent with the most recent CDC guidance on reopening schools, engage in meaningful consultation with all stakeholders, coordinate our preparedness and response, address the unique needs of our local school population and staff, and purchase supplies to sanitize and clean effectively. The School offers an expansive benefits package that incorporates resources for mental, social, and emotional health. The School also offers a paid time off plan that staff can use at their discretion and all leave needed for COVID-19 vaccinations will be paid Leave. Professional Development and PLC meeting agendas also incorporate school-home balance and strategies for staff social, emotional, and mental needs. A supportive Administration also seeks out resources as needed and collaborate for student and staff needs and maintains an open door. Please also see the Challenge Charter School Mitigation Plan.

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 Challenge Charter School Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services plan has been established based on parent/staff/student input to include surveys and collaboration with our faculty, staff, leadership, and stakeholders. The plan and related policies have been on the agenda at multiple public Governing Board meetings including a review at the August 31st, 2023 Board Meeting.
Putting our kids first is always the #1 priority at Challenge Charter 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