

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



LEA Information

1. LEA Name (one LEA per form)*

East Valley Institute of Technology

2. Entity ID Number*

4516

3. CTDS Number*

070801000

4. Plan's Primary Contact Name*

Edith Perez

5. Plan's Primary Contact Email Address*

edperez@evit.com

6. Plan's Primary Contact Phone Number*

4804614104

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

Revision Timeline: January 2023-June 2023, and July 2023-September 2023

7. When did your LEA last review or revise your plan within the last six months? Please provide mm/dd/yyyy.*

07/20/2021

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 the LEA's Safe Return to In-Person plan located on the website (do not link directly to the PDF). The plan must be on the ADE template that was provided. The narrative verbiage on the template must be identical to the narrative verbiage provided on this online form. *

<https://www.evit.com/covid19>

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.*

EVIT's Reopening Plan for 2020-21 required that all students, staff, and visitors wear a mask while on campus. Masks were available to students in each classroom and reception areas. Safe places were designated as needed for anyone needing to remove their mask. Superintendent updates were sent to families, teachers, and staff with information on the correct wearing of masks from the CDC and Maricopa County Department of Public Health. These updates were also posted on the district's website. EVIT provided face shields to anyone with a health condition that precludes wearing a mask when social distancing is not possible. On April 20, 2021 EVIT transitioned to an optional face mask policy based on the passing of 15-342.05 by AZ legislators and Governor Ducey. Face mask policy continued as optional for the 2021-22 school year.

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).*

EVIT's Reopening plan includes guidelines for physical distancing in accordance with CDC guidelines.

EVIT is uniquely situated to be able to offer inperson learning in a safer way than traditional high schools can. Students come to EVIT to take one class. They go straight to class when they arrive and immediately depart the campus when class is over. There are no class changes, no food service, no extracurricular activities that encourage congregating and socializing. In most cases, EVIT's classrooms, labs and facilities are much larger than those at traditional schools, enabling us to spread out our students and avoid overcrowding.

Classrooms at Main and East have been reorganized to ensure desks are 6 feet apart, and additional staff have been hired to accommodate additional classrooms.

Modifications have been made to water fountains. Student water fountains have been turned off; instead, water filling stations for student water bottles are available.

EVIT has changed how students enter campus buildings to reduce their contact with other students.

Non-essential visitors were not permitted on EVIT campuses. School and public tours of our campuses or community events on campus were cancelled during the 2020-21 school year.

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.*

EVIT's Reopening plan included procedures and protocols for students and staff to include regularly washing their hands and using hand sanitizer provided by EVIT.

Teachers and staff were trained in the new safety protocols. Training included proper use of PPE and supplies; cleaning and disinfecting, and other measures.

Signage and education on handwashing, hand sanitizing, and proper respiratory etiquette was covered. - Avoid touching the eyes, nose, and mouth. - Cover the mouth when coughing. - Cover the nose when sneezing.

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.*

EVIT contracted with a janitorial services provider for nightly cleaning and disinfecting services.

EVIT has hired three additional daytime employees (2 at Main and 1 at East) to operate Protexus and disinfect every classroom once a day in between AM and PM sessions. They also disinfect all touchpoints on the campuses at least two times a day – while AM students are in class, and while PM students are in class.

Additional disinfectant sprayers were purchased for each campus.

All EVIT employees and vendor staff are required to wear masks and gloves while disinfecting doorknobs, panic devices, restrooms, desks, tables, chairs and breakroom areas.

Facilities staff are assigned daily schedules for increased cleaning of classrooms.

Students are expected to use gloves when using lab equipment and any other shared items.

When using gloves is not practical, students will disinfect lab equipment and any other shared items after each use.

Every classroom is supplied with a disinfecting kit to include disposable gloves, disposable masks, hand sanitizer, disinfecting spray, paper towels, and disinfecting wipes.

Building entrances have hand sanitizer available.

Protective barriers were installed in reception areas.

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.*

EVIT has followed the Maricopa County Department of Public Health and Arizona Department of Health Services protocols, as well as CDC protocols for reporting cases which has been followed in regards to: - Reporting Positive Cases - Contact tracing - Isolation Enforcement - Notification to family and staff. - Quarantining of those who have been in close contact, or have tested positive on a campus or at home.

EVIT has also participated in the weekly COVID19 Webinars, provided by the Maricopa County Department of Public Health.

EVIT protocol encourage students and staff to stay home if ill, or exhibiting symptoms of respiratory infections. To help discourage students and staff from coming to school when they are ill, EVIT cancelled its annual perfect attendance car giveaway for students and perfect attendance bonus for staff.

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.*

EVIT continues to remain open since the reopening in August 2020. The reopening plan asked students, parents and staff to adhere to the district's safety protocols:
 Check for COVID-19 symptoms every morning before coming to campus.
 Stay home if you don't feel well or if you are waiting on the results of a COVID test, or if anyone in your household has tested positive for COVID.
 Wear a mask and keep a safe distance from others when on campus. This transitioned to being optional.
 Wash your hands, use hand sanitizer and practice good hygiene.
 EVIT's Governing Board approved the Extended Paid Sick Leave for employees that tested positive and/or were waiting for COVID test results.

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.*

EVIT counselors, teachers, and administrators continue to work with the district's special education contracted services, STEPS, to ensure the needs of the students with disabilities are being met. Accommodations can be provided in the classroom and on campus to keep students safe while remaining engaged in specially designed instruction activities. Students with disabilities eligible under section 504 are afforded equitable access to keep them safe and healthy in the educational setting. Alternate locations for the provision of services and instruction can be considered based on a student's unique needs.
 Students who have health conditions or disabilities that mean they cannot wear a mask will be provided a face-shield by EVIT.

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.*

EVIT participates in weekly webinars through MCDPH. Our School Nurse works directly with the MCDPH response team regarding outbreaks identified in the schools. Superintendent also communicated frequently with employees and parents of EVIT students.

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.

For the 2020-2021, 2021-2022, and 2022-2023 school years, our Main and Power campuses will be open for in-person instruction to ensure continuity of services.

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

East Valley students have a short window of time to take career and technical education programs at EVIT tuition-free while they are in high school. Most start in their junior year and complete their programs as seniors. They commit to spending a half-day of every school day for one to two years at EVIT because EVIT gives them the in-depth hands-on training and experience necessary to earn industry certifications and professional licenses. Traditional, inperson learning best aligns with hands-on learning for Career and Technical Education.

Academic intervention will be provided during the school day and supported by evening and Saturday school for students that need additional support.

Instructional specialist will provide additional training to teachers to recognize and support students who are facing new/additional challenges to academic success.

Instructional specialist will facilitate teachers' efforts to share best practices for mitigating learning loss.

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

Crisis level intervention is available for students with an emphasis to support family structure which includes referrals and resources to community partners. Materials to students, staff, and families regarding: Indicators of anxiety, indicators of depression, development of coping skills, and suicide awareness.

The following additional training were made available to staff and/or students:

- "Safe Talk" suicide awareness training available to staff
- Youth Mental Health First Aid
- ASIST Training
- Harassment in the workplace/classroom
- Digital Safety

Community resources will be posted in the counselors' Canvas Classrooms and website for:

- Housing assistance
- Financial assistance
- Mental health
- Suicide awareness

Teachers will monitor student progress weekly. If the student is not engaged in the instruction or grades are declining, teacher will conference with student as well as notify parent and campus counselor to identify barriers and initiate intervention strategies.

Teen Lifeline crisis information and numbers will be printed on counselor's business cards

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

This may include student health and food services.

EVIT will continue to follow recommendations and infection prevention protocols from public health partners in the school health office. The School Nurse will continue to educate and exclude students based on public health exclusion guidelines.

All individuals entering any building on district property will be required to self-monitor for symptoms.

Anyone with COVID-19 like symptoms should not report to school/work.

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

Campus Counselors create and maintain Canvas Classroom of resources for social and emotional support for easy access by students, families and staff. Many of these resources are additionally available on the district website.

HR shares communication with updates and successes. Included in the communication is a reminder about the district's Employee Assistance Program, including support for social emotional concerns

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

EVIT's Governing Board approved the Extended Paid Sick Leave for employees that tested positive and/or were waiting for COVID test results.

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.*

In June 2020, EVIT's Superintendent communicated to all parents, teachers and staff of its intent to reopen. This message, along with continued communications are posted on our District's website.

On June 9, 2020 a survey was sent to new and returning families to gauge their feelings on how we should reopen for the 2020-21 school year. We had over 2,300 responses– with 70 percent of families saying their student would attend EVIT if instruction was online-only, and 96 percent saying their student would attend if instruction was on-campus only. In the comments section, many expressed concern about COVID-19, but the overriding theme was that EVIT should provide on-campus instruction because our training is hands-on.

The District board has a commitment to the health and educational wellbeing of our students and staff. EVIT also has a monthly Board Meeting

where parents and community have an opportunity in the call to the public to share any concerns that they might have.

On April 20, 2021 - EVIT Governing Board voted to give students and staff the choice in whether to wear masks or not, discontinuing the requirement that masks be worn on campus. The board's decision follows Gov. Doug Ducey's executive order this week lifting a previous mandate that schools develop and implement a policy to require face coverings for all staff and students over the age of 5 to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19. The EVIT Governing Board took this action after considering comments and surveys of students, parents and staff that showed a majority wanted the mask mandate to be lifted.

- Parents (1,069 surveyed): "EVIT's mask requirement should continue even if the governor lifts the mandate." 34.24 percent of EVIT parents agree or strongly agree EVIT's mask requirement should continue, while 61.46 percent disagree or strongly disagree.

- Students (992 surveyed): "EVIT's mask requirement should continue even if the governor lifts the mandate." 39.62 percent of EVIT students agree or strongly agree EVIT's mask requirement should continue, while 54.53 percent disagree or strongly disagree.

- Staff (169 surveyed): "EVIT's mask requirement should continue even if the governor lifts the mandate." 43.19 percent of EVIT staff agree or strongly agree EVIT's mask requirement should continue, while 43.79 percent disagree or strongly disagree.

33. Did you make any revisions/changes to this plan from your last plan submission?*

No