

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



LEA Information

1. LEA Name (one LEA per form)*

Empower College Prep

2. Entity ID Number*

91277

3. CTDS Number*

07-84-01-000

4. Plan's Primary Contact Name*

Angela Ortega

5. Plan's Primary Contact Email Address*

angela.ortega@empowercollegeprep.org

6. Plan's Primary Contact Phone Number*

602-283-5720 x 1006

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

Revision Timeline: January 2022-June 2022, July 2022-December 2022, January 2023-June 2023, and July 2023-September 2023

7. When did your LEA last review or revise your plan? You must review your LEA's plan at least every six months. Please provide mm/dd/yyyy.*

08/12/2022

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 to the LEA's Safe Return to In-Person plan located on your LEA website. The plan must be on the ADE template that was provided. *

<http://www.empowercollegeprep.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/2022-08-12-Safe-Return-to-In-Person-Instruction>

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.*

Empower College Prep recommends all individuals to wear a face mask on campus when within six feet of other individuals on 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).*

Empower College Prep will encourage staff and students to maintain social distancing (at least six feet apart), when feasible, and will endeavor to employ other measures when maintaining six feet of distance is not feasible. Such efforts may include modified room layouts, physical barriers/guides, and/or closing or staggering use of communal spaces or wearing face masks.

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.*

Empower College Prep 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. The school will support healthy hygiene behaviors by providing adequate supplies, including soap and hand sanitizer.

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.*

Empower College Prep 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.

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.*

When a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, the school will communicate with and follow the guidance of local health officials in making decisions regarding appropriate reactive and re-entry mitigation measures, including the extent to which School operations should be temporarily restricted or closed, in whole or in part, and if so, for how long.

A. School Notification of Positive Test. The school will encourage staff and students/families to notify School's designated COVID-19 Point of Contact regarding any positive test result for COVID 19 with respect to any student or staff member.

B. Coordination with Local Health Officials. Upon learning of a positive COVID-19 test result in someone who has been in the School, the School will promptly notify local health officials and seek guidance to determine an appropriate course of action in light of the circumstances. At a minimum, the affected individual will be quarantined from the school on-site environment (including on-site support services or in person instruction) and other responsive actions will be taken, as directed in consultation with local health officials or in compliance with their guidance. Such actions may include, but are not limited to: 1. Short-term limitations on, or restrictions for, in-person learning with respect to a particular cohort, or the school generally. 2. Enhanced cleaning/disinfection of areas of the school used by the affected individual. 3. Extended school dismissal/closure. C. Communication with Staff, Parents, and Students. Consistent with privacy requirements, including those of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA"), and in consultation with local health officials, the school will provide notification to appropriate staff and parents regarding COVID-19 cases in the school. When a student or staff member has been required to stay home from school: (a) following a positive test for COVID-19; (b) after showing symptoms of COVID-19; or (c) after recent close contact with a person with COVID-19, the school will implement the mitigation strategies related to re-entry on the school campus. Such individuals will be permitted to return to School for in person learning, upon compliance with CDC and local health official guidelines

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.*

Empower College Prep provides information for families to engage in diagnostic testing in the case of any symptoms. The school is not currently participating in universal pool testing. Rapid COVID testing is available for staff and students with symptoms.

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.*

Empower College Prep is providing information for staff and families to receive vaccinations.

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.*

Empower College Prep is providing accommodations as needed for each individual student to safely participate in safe in-person learning.

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.*

Empower College Prep's designated point of contact for COVID-19 related concerns, including reporting positive test results or COVID-19 symptoms, is: Brian Holman, brian.holman@empowercollegeprep.org, 602-689-0671.

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.

Empower College Prep has been open and is committed to continuing to provide in-person learning for all students. In addition, the continuity of services will address students' academic needs and students' and staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs.

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

Empower College Prep has been open and is committed to continuing to provide in-person learning for all students. Additionally, the school has hired additional teachers and paraprofessionals to provide more targeted instructional support. The school has also revised curriculum to provide more accommodations and differentiation. The school also provides extended day, extended week, and summer school for students. The school has also contracted with an online educational provider to meet the needs of students who are unable to participate in in-person learning.

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

The school has hired two social workers and 3 counselors, as well as purchased a new SEL curriculum in which students engage regularly.

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

This may include student health and food services.

The school has a nurse and Family Community Liaison to meet the diverse needs of families.

Learning Remediation Plan:

All students in K-8 are universally screened for grade level readiness.

All students in 9-12 are assessed for readiness for state ACT assessment.

The plans are adjusted to ensure rigor matches grade level requirements and state assessments, also scaffolded to support learning. Additional assessments identify specific gaps and needs to remediate in small groups. The individualized remediation is provided through IXL learning and ACT Online Prep. There is an assessment at end of first quarter to monitor progress

Interventionists and Teaching Associates were hired to accommodate small group learning in the classroom. There is an assessment at end of the second quarter to monitor progress and adjust groupings of students and focus for objectives.

Additional interventionists were hired to accommodate small group learning in the classroom. Another assessment at end of the third quarter was provided to monitor progress and adjust groupings of students and focus for objectives.

At the end of the year, the instructional team work on establishing a summer school for students to continue rapid acceleration to close learning gaps.

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

The school's benefits include access to services for social, emotional, and mental health needs.

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

This may include student health and food services.

The school's benefits include access to work-life balance resources.

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 management of the risks associated with COVID-19 including those addressed by the components of this plan is discussed at board meetings and will continue to be in future meetings.

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

Yes