



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

LEA Information

1. LEA Name (one LEA per form)*

Fowler Elementary School District #45

2. Entity ID Number*

4273

3. CTDS Number*

07-04-45-000

4. Plan's Primary Contact Name*

Dr. Michelle Berg

5. Plan's Primary Contact Email Address*

mberg@fesd.org

6. Plan's Primary Contact Phone Number*

623-707-4507

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. *

07/31/2023

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.fesd.org/accnt_78578/site_78579/Documents/FESD-Safe-Return-to-School-Plan-Remediated.pdf

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 Fowler Governing Board approved a universal optional masking policy, effective April 12, 2022. The policy remains in place until further notice.

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).*

Fowler will aim to group students into cohort groups of students that will remain together throughout the school day, when possible.

Distancing - To the extent possible as determined by physical space, students will maintain a 3ft. minimum (6 ft. when space permits) of social distance between one another and Fowler employees. Although this may not be feasible at all times, it will be encouraged.

Staff are made aware of the mitigation strategies through various means including reminders in writing as well as verbally. The 23-24 FESD Mitigation Plan was revised in June 2022 and the 22-23 FESD Employee Safety Form was updated and reviewed with all employees by August 1, 2022. New employees are trained on the mitigation procedures within the first week of employment, using the FESD Safety Procedures form.

Optional restrictions have been implemented in all staff bathrooms limiting the number of individuals able to use the facility at once (delineated with an "in use" sign). Student bathrooms will stay within the stall capacity.

Effective August 1, 2022 cafeteria dining areas resumed normal operation. Playground use also resumed normal operation. Sanitation of equipment will occur, at minimum, once daily.

Hygiene signage (cover coughs, wash hands, etc.) will remain posted at all school sites to promote healthy practices.

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 and students shall keep their hands as clean as possible by washing them regularly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Employees and students shall also be reminded to wash or sanitize their hands at the following times:

- After blowing one’s nose, coughing, or sneezing;
- After using the restroom;
- Before eating or preparing food; and,
- After using shared equipment.

Employees and students are encouraged to wash their hands before and after touching their faces. The use of hand sanitizer is provided in every classroom and district space. Reminders are continually offered through weekly bulletins and announcements. The need for practicing proper respiratory etiquette is emphasized at all sites. Respiratory etiquette includes covering one’s coughs with a tissue and throwing the tissue away, sneezing into one’s upper sleeve instead of one’s hands, and washing hands or using hand sanitizer after coughing or sneezing. Signage will be posted in all FESD buildings encouraging these practices.

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.*

Fowler employees and cleaning staff shall follow the CDC’s Disinfecting Facilities Guide instructions that apply to the item being cleaned. These instructions are detailed below.

High Touch Surfaces

High-touch surfaces include tables, chairs, shared classroom equipment, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, floors, and sinks. These surfaces must first be cleaned with soap and water, rinsed, as possible and then disinfected with an EPA-registered disinfectant, when possible. High-touch surfaces in vehicles described in our mitigation plan do not require cleaning with soap and water and may be cleaned using the solutions described below or disinfecting wipes containing 70% alcohol. High-touch surfaces that are electronics, and therefore are not suitable for cleaning with soap and water are addressed in Subsection C below. High-touch surfaces will be cleaned at least once daily.

Electronics

Electronics include touch screens, keyboards, tablets, and remote controls. Devices used by one employee shall be cleaned once daily, and devices used by multiple users shall be cleaned after each user is finished using the device, when possible. If possible, wipeable covers will be placed on electronics. Electronics will be cleaned as follows:

- By following the manufacturer’s instructions for cleaning. If unavailable, with alcohol-based wipes or sprays containing at least 70% alcohol. The surface will then be dried thoroughly.

Ventilation

Transportation: When the weather allows it, windows will be opened to increase ventilation on the bus.

All air conditioning units in district buildings will remain retrofitted with ionization units to improve the air quality.

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.*

Our Registered District Nurses oversee all positive COVID cases, following established CDC protocols. They handle confidential communications with employees and family members. The CDC no longer requires reporting of positive cases (to the county), nor contact tracing. In the event an employee/student is confirmed to have contracted COVID-19, Fowler will take the steps below:

If an employee/student contracts a confirmed case of COVID-19, that employee/student shall remain in home isolation according to our updated mitigation plan procedures (July 2022). This generally requires 5 days of isolation (at home) and 5 additional days of masking (if returning to the building). Otherwise, a 10-day isolation period is recommended without a negative test at day 8. Additionally, employees/students who have come into close contact with the infected individual will closely monitor their potential development of symptoms and stay home if they develop any symptoms described in our mitigation plan. If these employees/students develop symptoms, COVID-19 testing is strongly encouraged. These employees/students may return to work/school based on the timeframes described in our mitigation plan.

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.*

Employees/Students who have a fever or are exhibiting any other symptoms listed in our mitigation plan, will be permitted to return to work/school on-campus under the following circumstances:
 If a symptomatic employee/student tests positive for COVID-19 (PCR or antigen testing): Return to work/school after they have not had a fever for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medicines), other symptoms have improved, and 5 days have passed since symptoms first appeared. An additional 5 days of masking is also required, including meal times (no eating around others). If a student/employee elects not to mask for the additional 5 days, she/he must remain in isolation for the full 10-day (or have a negative test result at or after day 8).

If a symptomatic employee/student tests negative for COVID-19 (PCR or antigen testing): Return to work/school after they have not had a fever for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medicines) and other symptoms have improved.

If a symptomatic employee/student has not been tested: Return to school after they have not had a fever for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medicines), other symptoms have improved.

If an asymptomatic employee/student tests positive for COVID-19 (PCR or antigen testing): Stay home for 5 days since the test was done. An additional 5 days of masking is required upon return, including meal times. If the employee/student elects not to mask, she/he must remain in isolation for 10-days (or have a negative test at or after day 8).

Ill employees/parents of ill children will be encouraged to call their health provider for advice on testing for COVID-19. District nurses will also provide guidance to employees and students.

The Fowler Elementary School District will offer over-the-counter COVID-19 tests, as long as they are available. Parental consent is required for all minors.

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.*

Fowler will continue to work with the Maricopa County Public Health Department to provide information to our community members about C-19 vaccination events throughout the 23-24 school year. Vaccinations are not mandatory for students or staff.

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.*

Special accommodations and compliance with all applicable state, federal, and local laws shall be made for Fowler students with disabilities or those with unique medical needs. Where possible, these students will be encouraged to wear masks and maintain a 3 ft. (6 feet when possible) social distance and employees who interact with these students are informed that wearing masks in their presence is uniquely important, and required. To the extent possible, these students will arrive at school at a separate, staggered start time and maintain a staggered schedule that allows for separation from other students. Virtual or distancing learning options will be readily available for these students. Fowler will also ensure that it protects the privacy of those students at higher risk for severe illness regarding underlying medical conditions.

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.*

Our lead registered nurse collaborates with the Maricopa County Department of Public Health for COVID-related issues. Fowler abides by all requirements implemented by agencies with authority to make policy/law impacting public schools.

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.

Fowler will ensure the continuity of services by providing both virtual and in-person learning options for all students. Fowler will facilitate asynchronous work (printed or electronic based on student need) for any student that may require the accommodation during the school year (i.e. illness, isolation/quarantine, etc.). Further, students who are sick are encouraged to stay home without fear of reprisal, consistently educating families on symptoms and criteria to stay home, and reassuring families that there will be no negative impact on school performance and evaluation if their child needs to stay home when sick. All Fowler schools will continue to provide access to all students (virtual and in-person) to the district's Learning Management System, Canvas. Canvas allows students and parents to maintain active participation in the course of their studies, without penalty.

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

Principals are reviewing student assessment data from the 2022-2023 SY to determine which students did not make academic progress as measured by formal school, district and state assessments. Additionally, students will be assessed at the start of the 2023-2024 SY to determine which students are not showing progress. Students will receive support in reading and writing through interventions from the site Reading Interventionists, small group targeted instruction during class and after and before school. In addition, all school sites will use evidence-based intervention curriculum to ensure that all students that need interventions are receiving them. The primary intervention areas will focus on ELA and math; however, students will be provided with enrichment and remediation instruction in all areas during their school day. Additionally, students are assessed quarterly throughout the school year to monitor student progress and provide remediation support for students that require it.

An academic and enrichment based summer school was held at all campuses for all current K-7th grade students, with a strong focus on AZ learning standards, and Math and Reading for students below grade level. Summer school classes were taught by certified teachers, incorporating the content areas through project-based learning. Each 3rd grade Fowler student who required additional support, as measured by AASA "Move On When Reading" cut scores, was invited to participate in an intervention program. Students received intensive reading remediation during the summer. The MOWR course utilized an evidence-based ELA intervention program (Corrective Reading, Wonders and Amira), delivered by a highly-qualified instructor, in order to ensure access to high-quality reading instruction.

Four schools have 21st CCLC funds which will allow for additional extracurricular support for students at those three campuses. Certified teachers will work with students in small groups in reading, and math. All schools will have access to Title I funding for extracurricular and academic courses to support all students.

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

Counseling personnel have participated in professional development to support student mental health needs. School leadership teams have developed comprehensive site plans to address the multiple issues that students will need support addressing. Fowler also assembled all school counselors, social workers and a district administrator in June 2022 to support a SEL focus across the district. The team planned out a districtwide focus, which includes articulated K-8 skills to cover during the 23-24 school year. In addition, summer planning took place in July 2022 to develop curriculum for all K-8 students and teachers. The curriculum was provided to all sites as part of our SEL district focus. In addition, quarterly skills to support positive mental health for all K-8 sites are published, communicated and emphasized throughout the 2023-2024 school year.

Our district has is in the process of reviewing new materials and resources to support this curriculum. Implementation is expected to begin in the 2023-2024 school year for all school sites (Pre-K-8th).

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

This may include student health and food services.

The District Lead Registered Nurse oversees the reporting and monitoring of CV19 infections among staff and students. She follows up with families who request assistance with finding testing for CV19, and locating immunization sites. Each site has a nurse or health aide working under the supervision of the District RN to assist with monitoring site specific health statistics.

The food services department will continue to make food accessible to all students. Students are encouraged to take advantage of the free breakfast for all students as well as the NSLP program.

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

Each school campus is assigned at least one counselor and middle schools have one social worker. When necessary, the counseling team is deployed to assist at the sites to support the emotional and mental well-being of our staff members. If a site experiences a traumatic event the social emotional support staff are available to assist.

All District personnel have access to free counseling services through our Employee Assistance Plan which is 100% district paid.

All District personnel also have access to a physician using our telehealth provider (Teladoc) which is also 100% district paid.

When employees need to miss work to care for family members or because they are ill (but still able to work) they are allowed to work from home if they are able to do so. This allows employees to maintain their income without exhausting their leave time which reduces the stress levels for the employee and their families.

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

The District Lead Registered Nurse oversees the reporting and monitoring of CV19 infections among staff. She follows up with staff that request assistance with finding testing for CV19, and locating immunization sites. Each site has a nurse or health aide working under the supervision of the District RN to assist with monitoring site specific health statistics.

Additionally, health and wellness programs are offered to all district employees. Staff have access to an Employee Assistance Program, which offers counseling, legal advice, and other wellness programs

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 Fowler School District created a Committee to review and revise the 2023-2024 District Mitigation Plan. The committee consists of all LEA schools and departments. In addition, the district previously conducted a family survey to gather parent input on mitigation procedures and practices (i.e., masking, social distancing, extracurricular sports/activities, temperature checks, general safety procedures). Parent/Guardian input is encouraged and supported throughout the drafting process of the 2023-2024 mitigation plan. Additionally, district staff input is encouraged through reviewing and revising the plan at the monthly Superintendent Liaison meetings, which are open to all district staff. The district's Mitigation Committee, comprised of certified and classified staff, meets, at minimum, annually to review and revise the district's mitigation and Safe Return to In-Person Instruction plans. Lastly, the Safe Return to In-Person Plan is also posted on our district website with a link for parents to submit online feedback through a Google form.

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