

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



### LEA Information

**1. LEA Name (one LEA per form)\***

GEM Charter School

**2. Entity ID Number\***

6372

**3. CTDS Number\***

0787740000

**4. Plan's Primary Contact Name\***

Nikki Jacksonq

**5. Plan's Primary Contact Email Address\***

nikki@heartwoodaz.org

**6. Plan's Primary Contact Phone Number\***

4805990137

**Please submit your Safe Return to In-Person Learning Plan every six months from your prior 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 within the last six months? Please provide mm/dd/yyyy.\***

10/11/2022

**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 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://irp.cdn-website.com/4b22248a/files/uploaded/Updated%20again%2010%3A13%3A22.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.\***

Per state law, masks are not mandated. Individuals who are not vaccinated are encouraged to wear a mask. Disposable masks are available upon requests.

**11. Has the LEA adopted a Governing Board policy on modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)?\***

☐ No

**12. Has the LEA adopted a Governing Board policy on handwashing and respiratory etiquette?\***

☒ Yes

**13. Please describe the LEA's Governing Board policy on handwashing and respiratory etiquette.\***

Lessons on hand washing and sanitization is done regularly. Sinks, sanitizer, and tissues are available in all environments. Individual's wash hands after each transition period.

**14. Has the LEA adopted a Governing Board policy on cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation?\***

☒ Yes

**15. Please describe the LEA's Governing Board policy on cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation.\***

Staff and teachers keep all environments clean and sanitized throughout the day. High traffic surfaces are cleaned often. If weather permits, doors to the classrooms and other areas are opened to allow better circulation.

**16. 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

**17. 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.\***

HW/GEM Charter school continues to follow the guidelines established by AZDHS. Protocols are followed when a positive case occurs, exposure to a positive case or the concern of COVID symptoms.

**18. Has the LEA adopted a Governing Board policy on diagnostic and screening testing?\***

☒ Yes

**19. Please describe the LEA's Governing Board policy on diagnostic and screening testing.\***

HW/GEM refers teachers, staff and families to nearby testing areas. They are drive thru accessible and at no cost to the individual.

**20. Has the LEA adopted a Governing Board policy on efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities?\***

☒ Yes

**21. Please describe the LEA's Governing Board policy on efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities.\***

HW/GEM provided multiple opportunities for all the teachers and staff to become vaccinated through AZDHS.

**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.\***

Special accommodations, along with compliance with all state and federal laws, shall be made for students with disabilities or unique medical needs.

**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.\***

All mandates, requirements and training recommended by CDC and AZDHS are followed and encouraged.

## 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.

Heartwood/GEM is dedicated to the continuity of services. The school Board holds frequent meetings to discuss any obstacles with the academic and emotional safety of each student as a priority. The teachers, staff and parent input is also a priority that is taken into consideration.

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

HW/GEM continues to provide all students with high-quality education through an in-person setting. Teachers will continue teaching through evaluation, observation, and guidance of each child. Progress and all lessons are tracked throughout the school year. Reports and Narratives about each child are covered with the parents/guardians twice a year. Children in grades 3-8 will participate in benchmark testing once a year.

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

The emotional safety of each child remains a top priority. All teachers and staff are trained to assist and respond to all emotional needs of the child.

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

This may include student health and food services.

Children are monitored for all illness. Administration follows the guidelines established by AZDHS.

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

Benefit packages are offered to qualifying teachers and staff members. Packages offer access and resources that support physical and mental health topics. The campus also participates in an annual event that assists all members in community building, communication, and the support of one another.

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

This may include student health and food services.

Heartwood/GEM Administration observes and communicates with all staff and teachers daily. If there is a need for additional support, staff and teachers will receive it.

**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.\***

The revision of the plan was based on parent input, community concerns and discussions lead by the board of directors. Parents input is asked via surveys.

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

☒ Yes