



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

LEA Information

1. LEA Name (one LEA per form)*

Painted Desert Demonstration Projects DBA The STAR School

2. Entity ID Number*

79086

3. CTDS Number*

038753000

4. Plan's Primary Contact Name*

Andy LaFrate

5. Plan's Primary Contact Email Address*

andy.lafrate@starschool.org

6. Plan's Primary Contact Phone Number*

9284154157

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. *

7/26/23

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.starschool.org/parents/other-resources>

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 Arizona legislature recently passed HB 2898 and one of the amendments states that schools are no longer allowed to require masks. However, the Navajo Nation still requires masks in public places based on a recent public health order and our parents have asked us to be extra cautious. Out of respect for the Navajo Nation and the majority of our students and their families who live on the reservation, our mask policy states "masks are strongly recommended for anyone who is in a vehicle (including buses) or indoors and in a room with other people while at STAR School." Even though we are not mandating masks, we consistently have had all of our staff, students and visitors complying with our recommendation to wear a mask.

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).*

At STAR School we have adequate facilities for social distancing to comply with the CDC guidelines of 3 feet between individuals. We are also using cohorting strategies to keep groups of students separated as much as possible. On the buses, students are grouped together with siblings and every effort is made to leave empty seats between the family groups when possible. At school, students' interactions with other students outside of their homeroom class is extremely limited. Students have classes, meals and recess time with the same group of students each day. This strategy allows for reduced spread of the virus and easier contact tracing.

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.*

All individuals on campus will be required to follow handwashing procedures upon arrival and throughout the day. Students and staff will be required to wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds (or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol when soap and water are not available) at the times listed below:

- upon arrival at school (use hand sanitizer if there is no sink in the classroom)
- after being outside for physical activity between interacting with different groups of people (i.e. teaching different groups of students)
- after using the restroom
- before and after lunch
- prior to leaving school for home
- after sneezing, coughing, or blowing nose
- after touching commonly touched surfaces

Students and staff will be trained in how to wash hands effectively, and signs will be posted as reminders. Hand sanitizer stations will be available throughout the school at various entrances, particularly for common spaces. Students and staff will also be provided with individual hand sanitizer bottles.

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.*

Prior to returning to in person instruction, we hired a full-time, onsite custodian for our school. In the past we have used outside cleaning services, but having a dedicated person on site is preferred.

We have made several improvements to our HVAC systems. We have forced air HVAC systems in some of our buildings, and in these we installed hospital grade HEPA filters. Many of our buildings have radiant floor heating systems, so in these we are using portable HEPA air purifiers. We also upgraded the HVAC system in our kitchen to ensure the highest level of safety for our staff and students.

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.*

We work closely with the Coconino County Health and Human Services (CCHHS) when we have an exposure or positive test at our school. They have a dedicated school liaison who provides guidance around isolation, quarantine and contact tracing. We attend regular briefings every two weeks with CCHHS and other schools in the area and also receive weekly school health reports prepared by CCHHS that we use to inform COVID-related decisions at STAR School. We also attend regular biweekly meetings with the Winslow Indian Health Care Center (WIHCC) and other schools who serve Native American students to understand the COVID situation on the Navajo Nation.

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.*

Our school participates in weekly pooled COVID testing, which is provided by Concentric using a PCR method. We test our students and staff every Thursday in pooled groups that range in size from 8 to 24 individuals. Concentric coordinates for a licensed nurse to come to our school campus and conduct the testing in partnership with our school administration. We currently have 97% of our staff and 92% of our students participate in the pooled testing program. In the event of a positive pooled test, the nurse helps us conduct individual follow up tests using the BinaxNOW rapid antigen tests. After the individual(s) who tested positive are identified, we coordinate with CCHHS regarding isolation, quarantine and classroom closures.

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.***

Because STAR School serves students from kindergarten through 8th grade, the majority of our students are currently not eligible for vaccination because they are under 12 years of age. Therefore, it does not make sense for us to host a student vaccination clinic at our school. There are a number of vaccination opportunities for students, staff and other community members through WIHCC on the reservation and CCHHS in other areas. We have provided our staff with information on where they can find these vaccination clinics.

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.***

We will work with students and families to accommodate any reasonable request for students with disabilities. For example, we have a student with special needs who has opted out of COVID testing because it is triggering for him and caused a traumatic reaction. Should other specific accommodations be required in the future, our administration will consider them.

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.*

As previously mentioned, our school works closely with our county health department, CCHHS, for many aspects of COVID in our school. We also receive regular updates from the Arizona Department of Education related to COVID.

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.

We have a plan in place for continuity of services should a classroom need to quarantine or there is an emergency school closure. Our teachers are prepared to engage students in distance learning using work packets (kindergarten through 5th grade) or online learning (6th through 8th grade) and we have policies in place to track student attendance during distance learning. Teachers are required to check in daily with all students while distance learning by phone, email, text message or video conferencing. Our school counselors also are prepared to offer services to students remotely by phone or video conferencing. We also have a plan for meal distribution during distance learning so we can continue to provide free breakfast and lunch to all of our students. Our kitchen and transportation departments have extensive experience with coordinating meal deliveries to students who are learning from home.

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

Our teachers are prepared to engage students in distance learning using work packets (kindergarten through 5th grade) or online learning (6th through 8th grade) and we have policies in place to track student attendance during distance learning. Teachers are required to check in daily with all students while distance learning by phone, email, text message or video conferencing.

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

Our school counselors also are prepared to offer services to students remotely by phone or video conferencing.

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

This may include student health and food services.

We also have a plan for meal distribution during distance learning so we can continue to provide free breakfast and lunch to all of our students. Our kitchen and transportation departments have extensive experience with coordinating meal deliveries to students who are learning from home.

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

Our school counselors also are prepared to offer services to staff remotely by phone or video conferencing.

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

N/A

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.*

Parent meeting in July 2023.

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