



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

### LEA Information

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

Parker Unified School District

**2. Entity ID Number\***

4510

**3. CTDS Number\***

150227000

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

Brad Sale

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

bsale@parkerusd.org

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

928-669-9244

**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. \***

05/09/2023

**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.\***

On the main page, <https://www.parkerusd.org>, there is a story that says our safe return. A person can click on this box, and it will take you to a separate page where you can click on a link to go directly to the document for our safe return plan. <https://www.parkerusd.org/article/361904>

**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 CDC recommends that Universal and correct wearing of masks on school grounds be one of many layers to mitigate COVID-19. With new legislation taking effect on September 24, 2022, the state will no longer allow a mask mandate, but rather the wearing of a mask is now optional

**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).\***

Parker Unified School District has completed an AC project in which 2/3 of all AC units have been replaced. The new AC units have bipolar ionization so the air will be safer for students and staff. In addition to the new air conditioning units, Parker Unified invested in Active Pure Technology to use in 50 rooms primarily at Le Pera as a desk top purifier. In addition, the district invested in the in-duct Active Pure Technology for AC units at the schools in town. This device has shown to kill 99.9% of viruses including the Corona Virus. Parker Unified has purchased plexi-glass dividers for the classrooms that requested them. Our classrooms are big enough to have 3-4 feet between each chair as class sizes are relatively small. For PUSD, that means classes did not have to be modified to promote social distancing, in some cases new desks were purchased, as they are smaller for more room. PUSD has invested in UV lights to help clean classrooms at night. These units can be placed inside of a classroom for 5 minutes and according to the literature, will kill viruses including the Corona Virus. PUSD has also invested in hand sanitizing stations that are easily accessible for all students and staff. In addition, all classrooms have hand sanitizing bottles for children and staff to use. In terms of cohorting or podding, all Elementary schools have students in the same classroom that stay with each other all day. Wallace Junior High will cohort the students as much as possible so they are with the same group. At the high school level, due to the nature of the class make-ups, students will not be cohorted, but there is enough distance in the classroom to be socially distant. The district has replaced drinking fountains with water fill stations

**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.\***

One of the best mitigation techniques is proper handwashing. Staff will continue to have students wash their hands frequently. Hands must be washed for at least 20 seconds using soap and water. Teachers will have students wash hands several times per day. In addition to regular handwashing, teachers will have students use hand sanitizer throughout the day. This is encouraged between stations, before recess, and throughout the day. Hands should be washed after touching your face/hair, after coughing/sneezing, before lunch, after using restroom, and after recess. Students are encouraged to practice safe respiratory etiquette. This practice includes at minimum sneezing into your elbow, but preferred way is to use a tissue to sneeze or cough. This tissue can then be disposed of properly. Students would be asked to wash hands after this by either soap and water or 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.\***

Our cleaning strategy is a key part of our mitigation strategy. A clean room is a healthy room. Our teachers have been given sanitizer, gloves, towels, and other supplies to wipe down the frequently touched surfaces each day. Teachers do this at least two times minimum per day, but most sanitize their room several times per day. Parker Unified has replaced 75 of the oldest individual classroom AC units at Wallace Elementary, Blake Primary, and Parker High School. Inside of the new units will be an air purifier that uses bipolar ionization techniques to clean the air. PUSD has also purchased 50 desk top air purification units using the Active Pure solution for those rooms not receiving a new AC unit at this time. PUSD continues to look at ways to retrofit our AC units to provide air purification to all classrooms including in-duct Active Pure air scrubbers that can kill up to 99.9% of the Corona Virus. PUSD has purchased one Ultra violet light unit per school that can be used in a classroom to provide additional virus killing capabilities. Each classroom takes approximately 5 minutes to sanitize using the UV light. All custodians have a fogger to use in the classroom to provide additional surface killing power. In our transportation department, each bus is fogged with a sanitizing agent after the morning run and again after the evening run. In the evenings, the custodians at each school continue to clean the room as they normally would, and clean and disinfect all toilet 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.\***

Parker Unified continues to work with La Paz County Health Department and Indian Health Services whenever a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19. Parker Unified will use isolation and quarantine for those students/staff members who have tested positive for COVID-19 but not for those who have been exposed to COVID-19. If a staff member or student will not have to isolate or quarantine if exposed to a student or staff member who has tested positive for COVID-19 regardless of vaccination status.

If a staff member has been exposed to anyone with COVID-19 at school, the staff member will continue to work but will monitor their symptoms.  
 If a student/staff member has been in contact with someone who is positive for COVID-19 outside of school, please monitor your symptoms and if any symptoms appear stay home and test to verify positivity. If positive, please call the school to let them know. A student/staff member may return to school on the 6th day after testing positive for COVID-19 if symptoms have improved and no active fever.

**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.\***

Parker Unified has the ability to rapid test staff members or students with the Binex test if the student or staff member is showing symptoms. Students will only be tested with parent permission and in most cases, present during the testing.

Parker Unified continues to ask our staff and students to get tested at the hospital, Indian Health Services, or Border Health.

**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.\***

Parker Unified has allowed the free use of its facilities for mass vaccination clinics for the people of La Paz County throughout 2021 and into 2022. PUSD will continue to offer our facilities to La Paz County Health, Border Health, and Indian Health Services to provide vaccination clinics for school year 2022-2023 and 2023-2024.

**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.\***

Currently, Parker Unified is using the same mitigation techniques for our children with disabilities as we are using with our non-disabled children. Parker Unified will continue to work with the individual IEP teams to provide accommodations that are needed for the individual child

**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.\***

Parker Unified has a very good working relationship with the La Paz County Health Department. We will continue to offer our sites for vaccination clinics. La Paz County Health Department continues to offer Parker Unified PPE and testing supplies when they are available. Our working relationship also involves reporting of positive cases, contact tracing, and isolation as well as support for our staff and community.

Parker Unified is working on our relationship with Indian Health Services. IHS has offered shot clinics for students on our campuses and has offered other opportunities to help with our COVID response.

## 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.

Students at Parker Unified will continue to receive their academic programming in case of a COVID-19 outbreak or being forced to quarantine/isolation at home due to testing positive. In cases of outbreak, the mitigation strategies will be increased to try and prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The District will keep our six schools running for in-person instruction unless directed by the La Paz County Health Department that we have to close.

COVID-19 Outbreak Continuity of Services:

Community Outbreak: The district will continue to keep schools open if there is an outbreak of COVID-19 in the community. Based upon historical data, children can attend schools in-person and be just as safe as if they are trying to learn at home. We will increase our mitigation efforts at the school sites and bus routes to prevent the spread of COVID-19. While masks are not required to attend school, those students who wish to wear masks may do so.

School Outbreak: If COVID-19 is isolated to one classroom, the building administrator will monitor the numbers of positive students. Mitigation techniques will increase to several times per day, with additional fresh air being put into the classroom. At all times confidentiality will be maintained.. If COVID is affecting multiple classrooms, multiple teachers, the administrator will determine who has been in close contact or direct exposure, and will have those students monitor their symptoms. Teachers who have been exposed need to monitor their symptoms. Teachers who are positive may return on day 6 if they have no symptoms and have improved symptoms, symptom free and no fever for 24 hours. Due to a lack of substitute teachers in the District, classrooms will be dispersed to other teachers in the same grade level.

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

Students at Parker Unified will continue to receive their academic programming in case of a COVID-19 outbreak or being forced to quarantine/isolation at home due to testing positive. In cases of outbreak, the mitigation strategies will be increased to try and prevent the spread of COVID-19.

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School Outbreak: If COVID-19 is isolated to one classroom, students will be asked to monitor their symptoms. If there is a change in symptoms, a test should be performed. At all times confidentiality will be maintained.. If COVID is affecting multiple classrooms, multiple teachers, the administrator will determine who has been in close contact or direct exposure, and will have those students monitor their symptoms. Teachers who have and have been in close contact or direct exposure will monitor their symptoms. Teachers who are positive may return on day 6 if they have no symptoms and have improved symptoms, symptom free and no fever for 24 hours. Due to a lack of substitute teachers in the District, classrooms will be dispersed to other teachers in the same grade level.

While children are home in isolation, how will they receive their academic needs? At minimum, the district will give the children in isolation homework packets. At the K-5 level, these packets will include Assignments for ELA including individual reading, and other work as assigned by the teacher. The students will also receive assignments for mathematics including review worksheets and material from the text book. Tutoring is provided 2 days per week for the 2022-2023 school year. At the 6-8 level, students who are in isolation will be expected to complete the work due in the classes they are assigned. This includes ELA, Math, Social Studies, Science, PE/computers. Teachers may record their lessons on google meet, but are not required to do so, where the students may access the recorded lesson throughout the day. At the 9-12 level, students are expected to complete work on Google Classroom. If student is unable to access their Google Classroom, they will be given print copies of the homework they are responsible for completing.

Multiple Schools/Multiple Classrooms

While Parker Unified will do everything in our power to continue in-person school everyday for all kids, if the district administration determines that school cannot be safely run with the number of staff members out or number of students testing positive for COVID-19, the Superintendent may call for Hybrid learning to be implemented. This is the worst case scenario. Schools will be split into Cohort A/Cohort B. One week cohort A will attend Monday through Wednesday with Cohort B attending Thursday and Friday the alternate week will have Cohort A attending Monday and Tuesday, while Cohort B attends Wednesday through Friday. Students will be given homework packets to complete on their days away from in-person school.

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

While school is open for in-person learning, students have access to teachers, counselors, and school psychologist. Our schools/teachers have been trained in Sanford Harmony, Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports, Capturing Kids Hearts, Trauma Informed Schools and Random Acts of Kindness.

With our district's plan to provide only in-person education in school year 2022-2023, our student's social, emotional, and mental health needs will be met. If a child happens to be at home due to isolation, at minimum the receptionist will check on the child by electronic means (telephone, text, email, google meets, zoom, facetime, etc). Our teachers are always on the lookout for signs of trauma, depression, anxiety, and other mental health issues. If spotted, they are to report what they observed to school administrator who can arrange district or community resources for help. In case of child abuse, mandatory reporting will apply.



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

This may include student health and food services.

Student Food Service: While school is open for in-person learning, students have access to breakfast and lunch. Due to the federal food program, all meals must be at the school in which the child is assigned.

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

While school is in session for in-person learning, teachers have each other to lean on for help. Teachers also have the ability to use resources that are at the school including, school psychologist, administrators, and counselors. If school is out of session, these same services are just a phone call away.

In addition, Parker Unified has an Employee Assistance Program through our employee benefit trust. The EAP can help with counseling in times of crisis and refer the teacher to counseling services. The EAP also gives ideas on reducing stress, eating healthy, and managing a stressful job. The EAP can also give financial and legal advice.

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

Parker is a close knit community. No one is ever on their own. Principals can continue to check on their staff through group messaging, texts, etc. They can then offer EAP services, talk with counselors or school psychologist if needed.

**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.\***

We have used our parents, teachers, and administrators to write this plan.

Revision 1: December 14. On December 13, a public meeting was held in the Ronald C. Curnutt Library to seek input on the plan. The district used the website including the live feed with notification and the district notification system for advertisement.

Revision 2: A public meeting was held in conjunction with our Impact Aid Task Force meeting. The meeting was held in the Ronald C. Curnutt library on May 9. Twelve people were in attendance. Community members were satisfied with how the district was handling COVID-19 as well as how we are spending relief monies.

Revision 3: A public meeting was held in conjunction with our District Improvement Committee. The meeting was held in the District office Conference Room on December 13, 2022. Nine people were in attendance. Only minor changes were made to the overall plan to coincide with changes to state law or CDC recommendations.

Revision 4: A public meeting was held in conjunction with our Impact Aid Task Force meeting. The meeting was held in the Tribal Council Chambers at 26600 Mohave Rd. There were 15 people in attendance. Tribal and Community members were satisfied with how the district was handling COVID-19 as well as how we are utilizing ESSER funds.

**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