

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



LEA Information

1. LEA Name (one LEA per form)*

Aprender Tucson

2. Entity ID Number*

79426

3. CTDS Number*

108785000

4. Plan's Primary Contact Name*

Molly Gannon

5. Plan's Primary Contact Email Address*

mgannon@scstucson.org

6. Plan's Primary Contact Phone Number*

520-623-7102 x11

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. What is your most recent revision date?*

March 31, 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. *

<https://www.scstucson.org/covid-policies-procedures/>

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.*

On Wednesday, March 31st, the Board voted to revise our masking policy. Masks will no longer be required when transmission levels of COVID are low. This is defined by the CDC as 200 cases per 100,000 or fewer. When cases in Pima County are above 200 per 100,000 cases, Southside will require masking. Students or staff who would like to wear masks are always welcome to do so at any time.

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).*

Students are separated into grade-level pods while indoors. Pods are only together indoors when necessary and are separated by 6 feet or more at all times. All events that require pods to be together take place outdoors.

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.*

Students must wash hands or use hand sanitizer before and after eating, after using the restroom and after playing outside. All classrooms always have a regular supply of hand sanitizer and disinfectant.

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.*

Doors in the front and back of classrooms are left open whenever possible to allow for increased airflow. Most classrooms also have air purifiers, and there are multiple air purifiers in areas of high traffic, like the front office. The school will be installing new air conditioning units with higher quality filters before the end of School Year 2021-2022. Regularly touched surfaces such as desktops, light switches, doorknobs, bathrooms, etc are being disinfected regularly. All classrooms are cleaned daily.

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 will always communicate with you about any potential exposure on campus. In order to maintain confidentiality, we will never publicly reveal the names of any students or staff who have tested positive, but we will communicate general information about exposure and response.

If you or your student was in close contact with a positive case of COVID-19, you will receive a letter letting you know that your child was potentially exposed to COVID-19 on campus. This letter will give you details about what you should do in response. As of March 2022, close contact cases will no longer be asked to quarantine, though families may choose to do so.

A close contact or direct exposure for children is defined as being within three feet of the child who tested positive for COVID for a total of 15 minutes over a 24-hour period. This is only if the child is wearing a well-fitting mask appropriately (over the mouth and nose). If the child is not wearing a mask appropriately, then the distance increases to six feet.

Adults are considered within close contact or direct exposure with adults and children if they are within six feet for a total of 15 minutes over a 24-hour period if they are unvaccinated and/or are not wearing a mask.

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.*

Bionex tests are individual tests that have been approved by the Arizona and Pima County Health Departments to be used in schools. These tests require a Q-tip up the nose about a half inch. Individual test results will be available within 15 minutes. Southside will test symptomatic students who are on campus and will have testing clinics open for symptomatic students once per week. Families will also be tested if resources permit. We will continue to Bionex test all students with potential exposure and/or COVID symptoms as needed.

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.*

We are currently in the process of applying to be a vaccine site for any parents interested in being vaccinated or having their students vaccinated.

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.*

Students with disabilities receive separate services from their teachers during a closure and/or quarantine. Their teachers most often meet with them one on one over Zoom during the time when their services would normally take place.

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.*

We remain in contact with Pima County Health Department weekly through their school webinars. We also report all testing results through their reporting tool.

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.

Our focus this year is keep the school functioning with as little disruption as possible so the students can feel physically and mentally safe to learn on campus. The first semester witnessed a big emphasis on testing students regularly and isolating positive cases quickly. For as long as rapid tests were available, we conducted weekly pooled testing with Concentric, which allowed us to screen students for COVID. When positive cases are detected, we immediately remove the student and notify any close contacts before there is spread to the rest of the school community. Students who do need to quarantine are moved to online learning for the duration of their time out of the classroom. This online learning provides students with assignments that will help them to keep up with what is going on in the classroom remotely. Students are given video instruction and assignments that cover core curriculum and are designed for the students to be able to do independently or with help from parents when they are available after work.

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

Students will be given instruction in-person for as long as it is safe to so. Our emphasis on testing helps to keep outbreaks from happening so in-person classrooms can stay available. If that is not possible, students are given tablets to take home where they can work on assignments from teachers. Most of our current curriculum has an online component, so students can work on the same things they would have been working on in class and can complete their quarantine without falling behind.

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

We have enrolled in a SEL program that is training five of our staff to be Certified Mental Health Specialists. This program also provides training for all-staff in ways to handle student mental health issues that have arisen since the pandemic. We also have a Family Advocate, who reached out to the students and the families who were not responding to teachers when we were doing online learning last year. In the event of another closure, she will continue to do so.

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

This may include student health and food services.

We had food available for pick up daily for all families during the school closures. We also currently have a partnership with the local Food Bank, and are a distribution site for large amounts of food every other week for our parents and other members of the community. We have used federal funding to hire on a Health Coordinator, who we will be responsible for reaching out to parents and families with students who have health concerns in the event of another closure.

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

Staff are encouraged not to work after hours, and to take time off when needed. There are typically two people in every elementary class, so substitutes are available without further burdening other staff members during the substitute shortage. We have staff events every quarter that allow staff to talk and let off steam in areas outside of campus. We also have done small things to boost morale, like keeping our coffee bar stocked.

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

This may include student health and food services.

We have used some of the extra money in our budget to give stipends to staff for tutoring and provide supplies so they do not have to pay for anything out of their own pocket.

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 hold public hearings regularly when implementing new policies and procedures. We advertise these to parents, families and the community and actively ask for feedback about policy proposals. As one example: One recent revision involved decisions on whether to continue full day kindergarten, considering that social distancing would be a concern. We decided to implement full-day kindergarten based on feedback from multiple parents within that meeting.

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

Yes