



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

LEA Information

1. LEA Name (one LEA per form)*

Sanders Unified School District No. 18

2. Entity ID Number*

4156

3. CTDS Number*

010218000

4. Plan's Primary Contact Name*

Barbara Baca

5. Plan's Primary Contact Email Address*

barbarabaca@sandersusd.net

6. Plan's Primary Contact Phone Number*

8556787873

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. *

07/10/2023

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.*

To access the Safe Return to In-Person plan go to the district website scroll down on the left side under District News and click on the link

<https://www.sandersusd.net/>

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.*

Students and staff are encouraged to wear masks but are not required per the Navajo Nation Guidelines issued on 5/5/2023.

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).*

In classrooms, the student desks will be 3 feet apart. Mandatory social distancing has been lifted for indoor events. Social distancing is not required outdoors on playgrounds or on the school bus.

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.*

The District will instruct & reinforce handwashing with soap & water for at least 20 seconds. Hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol will be available in every classroom and room throughout the district including free-standing hand sanitizing stations. Signage/posters will be placed on each campus to educate and encourage preventive 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.*

The District has developed a schedule for increased, routine cleaning and disinfection. Door handles, sink handles, and desks shall be sanitized throughout the day. HVAC filters are changed and are on a maintenance schedule to ensure efficient operation. Increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible at all school sites and student/staff areas. Buses will be sanitized between morning and afternoon routes and at the end of each day. The district purchased disinfecting/sanitizing portable and industrial machines. The district used ESSER funding to purchase new HVAC units with built-in HEPA Filtration Systems.

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.*

The District's FY 2023 Back to School 12 Point Plan will be presented to all staff, students, and parents. Included in the plan are the forms to report an exposure or COVID-19 illness. The Navajo Tribal Health Guidelines state that an individual experiencing symptoms or receiving a positive test should self-quarantine for 10 days and may return to school when symptom-free, receive a negative COVID-19 test and follow their physician's orders.

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.*

The district provides a 12-point symptom-checker to assist parents in evaluating their student's health – prior to boarding the school bus. Parents have been given digital thermometers to help with the health check. The district's Health Techs will immediately respond to any student or staff experiencing COVID-19 symptom(s).

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.*

All individuals are encouraged to be vaccinated and receive additional boosters for COVID-19 per the Navajo Dept. of Health Services (NDOH). The Navajo Health Clinic provides free COVID-19 vaccines.

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.*

In addition to the return to In-Person Instruction Health and Safety procedures and mitigation strategies as approved by the Board; all appropriate accommodations will be made to ensure that students with disabilities have their specific needs met in regards to health and safety protocols. These accommodations are provided per each student's IEP. At-risk students may attend distance learning, if requested, home visits may be provided by Sped. Specialists and/or Health Tech for specialized services.

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.*

The Superintendent attends all scheduled meetings with the Apache County Health Dept. and the NDOH.

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.

A student with special health needs may attend the district's AOI online school. The district hired 4 Social, Emotional Counselors for staff and students. Employees have been given a hotline number to reach a certified mental health provider through the district's employee health insurance provider. The district remains diligent in its safety and cleaning protocols and adheres to health regulations adopted by the NDOH. ESSER funds provide a Retention Stipend to all certified and classified staff as an incentive for maintaining student/teacher consistency while retaining well-qualified workers. Staff will receive COVID-19 prevention training as recommended by the Apache County Health Dept. or the NDOH.

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

Teachers will make every effort to ensure each student has the tools to complete their school work. Parents are encouraged to contact their student's teacher with learning concerns. The district is providing an extensive summer school program to address the learning gap and summer slide. Each student received an iPad or Chromebook. Hotspots will be issued to each student's family should we have another COVID-19 closure. Students living remotely without internet access will have learning packets delivered to their homes. hotspot.

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

The District hired a Social Emotional Counselor for each school site to provide support to students and staff. The district assists the local chapter houses with the distribution of mental health resources to families.

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

This may include student health and food services.

Daily breakfast & lunch is available to students at the school sites. Families located remotely will pick up their meals at a designated spot closer to their homes. Meals will be transported by school personnel in official vehicles.

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

The district has a social-emotional counselor at each school site to serve staff and students. The District's healthcare provider has online resources; counselors and nurses are available via telephone. All services are free. Teachers receive additional professional development in Response to Intervention (RTI) to increase knowledge and integration of effective intervention strategies.

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

The district's custodians, maintenance workers, and bus drivers receive regular training through The Trust to learn best practices in preventing the spread of COVID-19. The district partnered with the Apache County Health Dept. to set up an immunization center at the district parking lot. Staff may attend professional development delivered virtually so they do not fall behind in their fields, and to ensure they have the tools to succeed at their jobs.

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 Mitigation Plan is discussed at the monthly Governing Board Meeting - updates on the virus and preventative measures are presented. Stakeholders may state their concerns or suggestions at the Call to the Public at the monthly Board Meetings. Parents are asked to call the District Office or their child's school with their concerns or suggestions. A Notice to Parents was placed on menus welcoming parents to call the school and review the Safe Return to School Plan on the district's website.

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