



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

### LEA Information

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

Snowflake Unified School District #5

**2. Entity ID Number\***

4391

**3. CTDS Number\***

090205000

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

Jason Owen

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

owenj@snowflake.k12.az.us

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

928-536-4156 x.7721

**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. \***

07/23/2023

**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.\***

<https://www.susd5.org/>

Go to the Snowflake Unified School District Website using the link above. When the page loads, scroll down to the blue buttons and click on "Safe Schools".

**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.\***

A universal Mask Policy was required under the Governor's Executive Order 2020-41, and then still recommended upon the repeal of the Executive Order, and in accordance with CDC recommendations. However, the policy is now void under the AZ State Legislature's Budget Amendment passed on 6/24/21 and additional Legislation that prohibits requiring the wearing of masks in schools.

**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).\***

Classrooms will be set up as much as possible with students all facing the same direction, or other sanitizing procedures implemented more frequently.

Social distancing will be encouraged, within reason, for students and staff throughout the day.

Eating areas will be set up to social distance as much as possible given the available space. Seating areas will be disinfected throughout the lunch period so students will be seated on clean tables.

Students will be reminded not to share supplies in the classroom or food in the cafeteria.

Students and staff will be permitted to bring their own drink containers. These containers must have a screw on lid, contain water only, and should be disinfected daily by the staff member, student or their parent.

Water Bottle Filling stations have been installed at all campuses.

**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 will be asked to use hand sanitizer as they enter and leave the classroom for transitions to lunch and recess at the elementary level and as they enter classrooms for 7-12.

Students will regularly be educated/reminded on proper hygiene i.e. washing hands, avoid touching their face etc.

Hand sanitizer will be available in each classroom.

Signage/posters will be placed on each campus to educate and encourage preventive practices.

Additional grants for hand wipes has been applied for and received and are being distributed to help facilitate and encourage additional and consistent proper hygiene 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.\***

Teachers/Staff will disinfect classrooms at least daily with a 24-hour disinfectant provided by the district. This includes disinfecting student desks and chairs, sink and drinking fountain areas etc. High traffic surfaces such as doorknobs, computers, horseshoe tables at the elementary, often used books etc. will be cleaned throughout the day. Cleaning logs will be kept for each classroom and office area during the Covid 19 emergency. Thereafter; cleaning logs may be recommended, but not required for regular use.

Buses will be sanitized between morning and afternoon routes and at the end of each day.

ESSER funds have been and will be used to purchased cleaning and sanitizing equipment and supplies including, but not limited to hand held and backpack disinfectant sprayers, custodial cleaners for classrooms, floors, and bathrooms, and additional sanitizers.

ESSER funds have also been allocated for additional custodial staff and equipment to help with the added cleaning and sanitizing processes.

ESSER funds have been used to replace old heaters and swamp coolers with HVAC units with air purification components in classrooms and school buildings, including the addition of air purification components to existing HVAC units, to help mitigate the possibility of virus exposures and provide cycled air through the purification systems to provide cleaner air to support the health and safety of students and staff.

All HVAC units have been installed and have internal ionizers for air purification as part of the system.

SUSD has now purchased Adabot UV Disinfection systems that are used daily at each school. Additional UV replacement bulbs are being ordered to anticipate continued use of the UV sanitizing protocols.

**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?\***

No

**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.\***

The District Nurse was trained and certified to provide rapid tests for school staff, students, and family members, as needed. The Nurse has been fully utilized in the testing protocols. Testing protocols have now been eased with an emphasis on illness monitoring at schools as described below.

An emphasis will be placed on ensuring that students or staff who are sick, stay home or go home. We ask for parental support in this effort. If a student or staff member has a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher, they will be sent home. No student or staff member should come to school with COVID symptoms and will not be allowed to stay at school if symptomatic. Following is the CDC's list of possible symptoms:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

It is also recommended that students and staff quarantine for 3 days if they have been exposed to Covid-19, but they may return to school after 3 days, if they are symptom free after 3 days.

The recommendation for positive cases is to quarantine for 10 days (from the onset of symptoms and includes the weekend days).

The standard isolation period is 10 days. The isolation period can be shortened to five days if you are asymptomatic or your symptoms are improving and you do not have a fever for 24 hours. You can then return. It is recommended that a mask be worn for the next few days, but that cannot be enforced via state law.

All suspected cases are referred to the District Nurse for follow up.

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

No

**21. Has the LEA adopted a Governing Board policy on appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies?\***

Yes

**22. 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 previously outlined (and 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 traditionally also addressed in individual IEPs.

**23. Has the LEA adopted a Governing Board policy on coordination with State and local health officials?\***

No

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## 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.

### 24. 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.

SUSD, reopened school to in-person instruction during the 2020-2021 school year and will maintain that status moving forward. SUSD5 will keep schools open for regular in-person instruction while implementing the use of adopted and recommended sanitizing procedures and social distancing guidelines in addition to other CDC SUSD, reopened school to in-person instruction during the 2020-2021 school year and will maintain that status moving forward. SUSD5 will keep schools open for regular in-person instruction while implementing the use of adopted and recommended sanitizing procedures and social distancing guidelines in addition to other CDC recommended health and safety guidelines. PPE may be used, but according to Arizona State Legislative mandates, they may not be required.

In person instruction will be available for the same number of days per week and open the same hours offered during the prior school year before the COVID-19 closures or mitigation strategies took effect.

ESSER funds were used to pay retention stipends for teachers and staff to help ensure the return of school employees to assist in the continuity of services for the return to school and in-person instruction. Additional teacher and paraprofessional positions are being funded to provide more targeted instruction and a few lower class sizes to help mitigate learning loss by providing additional intervention opportunities to at risk students and all subgroups.

In the eventuality of a school closure or Spike in Covid-19 cases or exposure, regular classroom teachers may/will convert their instruction to remote learning and provide recorded instruction, materials, resources, and assignments via Google Classroom until face to face instruction can resume, maintaining continuity of classroom instruction. High School teachers would also have the availability of Edgenuity to help facilitate remote learning and maintain continuity of services.

Additionally, in the event of a school closure due to Covid-19, school locations will provide teacher led instruction via remote distance learning options until in-person learning can resume. However, the schools will each provide free on-site support options and make them available for the same number of days per week and open the same hours offered during the prior school year before the COVID-19 closure took effect.

SUSD5 does have two dedicated Mental Health Counselor, who primarily services students with IEPs and 504s, but is also available to help support students with SEL needs. Also, an additional Mental Health Counselor has been hired for the district.

Teachers also received professional development and classroom support materials to help provide awareness and support for Student Well-Being. SUSD also procured and added a student well-being program, which focuses on the whole well-being and character of each student and staff member.

SUSD5 has also partnered with a local community resource "3E" to provide food packs to students on a weekly or biweekly basis to help support at risk students and families. This is in addition to the extension of the Summer Feed Nutrition Program from the Federal Government that SUSD5 has also written grants to become participants where we can provide free meals to children 18 and under. However, those Summer Feed Programs are ending in Summer of 2022. The State has also released additional funds to help address school lunch programs again, and students and families have been notified.

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

In anticipation of addressing learning loss resulting from Covid-19, SUSD5 used ESSER funds for the retention of teachers and staff for continuity of services, to add additional teachers, paraprofessionals to help lower some class sizes to provide more targeted instruction for at risk students and to provide additional intervention opportunities to support at risk students of all subgroups. Additional Summer School teachers have been hired and the Summer school opportunities have been expanded to support a larger segment of the population to help bridge the learning gap and summer slide.

ESSER funds are being used to purchase additional computers and software to provide greater equitable opportunities for all students to access to the appropriate technology that is used for instructional and intervention opportunities.

Funds will also be used to assist in purchasing updated curriculum that better addresses updated state standards which will provide more equitable opportunities for academic understanding, intervention and growth.

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

SUSD5 does have a dedicated Mental Health Counselor, who primarily services students with IEPs and 504s, but is also available to help support students with SEL needs. Also, an additional Mental Health Counselor has been hired for the district.

Teachers also are receiving professional development and classroom support materials to help provide awareness and support for Student Well-Being. SUSD also procured and added a student well-being program, which will focus on the whole well-being and character of each student and staff member.

SEL was addressed in school Comprehensive Needs Assessments and was further addressed additional resources. Our Well-Being Program also assisted in these aspects.

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

This may include student health and food services.

SUSD5 has also partnered with a local community resource "3E" to provide food packs to students on a weekly or biweekly basis to help support at risk students and families. This is in addition to the extension of the Summer Feed Nutrition Program from the Federal Government that SUSD5 has also written grants to become participants where we can provide free meals to children 18 and under. However, those Summer Feed Programs are ending in Summer of 2022. The State had also released additional funds to help address school lunch programs again, and students and families were notified that to qualify, they must fill out the Federal free and reduced lunch applications.

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

Teachers have SEL courses available to them through our Vector/Safe Schools Training Program and The Holman Group including: Stress Management, Understanding Emotional Well Being, Mental Health strategies. Also County provided opportunities with the Nexus Coalition with Trauma Awareness.

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

Teachers also are receiving professional development and classroom support materials to help provide awareness and support for Student's Well-Being, including SEL Needs.

Teachers have also received additional professional development in Response to Intervention (RTI) to increase knowledge and integration of effective intervention strategies.



**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**

**30. Describe the process used to seek public input, and how that input was taken into account in the revision of the plan.\***

SUSD5 implemented a return to in-person instruction and health and safety mitigation plan in July and August of 2020 for the 2020-22021 school year. This plan has been updated every six months, as required, and has been updated with additional required information for the adoption and implementation of the 2023-2024 school year. This plan has and will be reviewed and updated every 6 months as required by ADE and USEd. The revisions were recommended by staff and stakeholders and then presented to the School Board during an advertised public meeting for community input. The plan is also posted on the SUSD website [susd5.org](http://susd5.org) and comments can be sent to the Federal Programs Office for consideration, discussion, and/or to be considered for inclusion in future updates.

**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.**

**31. Did you upload the completed EMAC form to your LEA website?\***

Yes