



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

LEA Information

1. LEA Name (one LEA per form)*

Stepping Stones Academy

2. Entity ID Number*

10966

3. CTDS Number*

078781000

4. Plan's Primary Contact Name*

Dedre STEWART-ALLIGER

5. Plan's Primary Contact Email Address*

ddsa@ssa.school

6. Plan's Primary Contact Phone Number*

16234654910

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. *

8/1/2023

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.*

<http://nebula.wsimg.com/04270508e60b30362ad4599729c345cc?AccessKeyId=F74C84385C83AD3ACC8D&disposition=0&alloworigin=1>

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.*

Face coverings optional unless required by state, county, or local mandate. Face coverings available in School Office for individuals needing face covering.

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).*

Classes separate cohorts and do not mix with other classes. Staggered times for use of classrooms (i.e. Gym) with cleaning in between classes. Students assigned to desk and remain in same classroom. Teachers move to different classrooms as needed. Classroom furniture removed to allow for more spacing between student desks. Desks arranged in rows and not as groups.

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.*

Sinks have signs posted explaining correct handwashing procedures and reminding individuals to wash hands. Students taught correct handwashing procedures and procedures reviewed frequently. Designated handwashing times for each class (i.e. entering classroom, before and after lunch and recess, exiting classroom) and teachers remind and ensure students complete this. Teachers also follow this schedule. Hand sanitizer available in all classrooms and throughout campus.

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.*

Daily campus times and class times for cleaning, sanitizing, disinfecting – This includes hand washing and cleaning “high touch” areas (i.e. door handles, top of desks).
 Purchase of floor cleaner, contactless thermometers, additional room sanitizers, and magic wand cleaner for keyboards, books, and manipulatives.
 Purchase of refillable water bottle station and addition of water fountains to classrooms - Outside water fountains unavailable for use
 Continuation of daily/nightly deep cleaning

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.*

Continued following of CDC and DHS guidelines and recommendations. Charts explaining procedures available to families in School Office and emailed/sent home quarterly with each student.

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.*

Continuation of providing families with diagnostic and screening testing information as provided by DHS. Staff required to get tested if sick or exposed Staff and families (as needed) provided with tests provided by DHS.

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.*

Information provided to staff and families about vaccination sites and schedules via emails and written letters sent home with each child and staff member

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.*

All accommodations in IEP and 504 Plan in place and occurring. Students provided extra support by as needed and included in IEP or 504 Plan. Parent meetings scheduled as needed or requested to determine additional accommodations

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.*

Continued coordination with DHS and administrator participates in weekly webinar to learn about new/revised/updates policies and protocols

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.

Continuity of services ensured by administrators following up with staff members to address issues with providing in-person learning and communication with parents. Check-ins with students and staff members to ensure both groups have needed supplies and resources. Meeting with new staff to answer questions and ensure job responsibilities being completed. Additional time for PD focusing on social, mental, and emotional health needs of both students and staff members. Continued check-ins with staff members by administrators for mental, emotional, and social needs and other needed supports.

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

All in-person learning with instructions provided to families and staff about policies for quarantining or isolating. Information provided via emails to all families, printed letters/packets sent home with each student, and letters/packets offered to parents when in School Office. Assignments to complete at home provided to students when quarantining or isolating via Google classrooms and/or printed copies picked up by parents or delivered to homes by principal as needed. Teachers available for questions or assistance at scheduled times via email, text, phone calls, or Zoom. Additional staff hired to assist with students needing extra help or interventions.

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

PD provided to staff at before school In-Service and staff developed plans to address the social, emotional, and mental health needs at different grade levels. Increased outside time, especially time with school animals (i.e. pigs, goats, sheep, horse, cow and calf, pony, donkey, dog) and school garden, to support these health needs. Increased focus on these needs and provide weekly lessons within each classroom.

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

This may include student health and food services.

Continued provisions for needed school uniforms, school supplies, and financial assistance for field trips or extra-curricular activities
Continuation of ensuring all students have lunch and snacks
Continued monitoring of health needs

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

Continued monitoring of staff needs by school administrators with individual staff meetings. Extra time provided for staff to address social, emotional, and mental health with mental/emotional health days approved as needed.
PD provided before school to help staff better understand their own social, emotional, and mental health needs –
Time provided to discuss issues, individual and small group trainings addressing staff needs
Teachers teamed together to complete activities and projects
Fun games played throughout year sponsored by administrative team with prizes awarded
Administrative team checks in with teachers individually at least once every 10 days

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

Home tests, PPE supplies, and masks provided to staff as 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.*

Governing Board Agendas posted on school website and public may attend and request to address Board members
Letters emailed and sent home to families and other stakeholders requesting input – All input considered and discussed

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