

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



LEA Information

1. LEA Name (one LEA per form)*

Vail Unified School District

2. Entity ID Number*

4413

3. CTDS Number*

10-02-20-0000

4. Plan's Primary Contact Name*

Ethan Hurley

5. Plan's Primary Contact Email Address*

hurleye@vailschooldistrict.org

6. Plan's Primary Contact Phone Number*

520-879-3941

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. When did your LEA last review or revise your plan? You must review your LEA's plan at least every six months. Please provide mm/dd/yyyy.*

09/28/22

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.vailschooldistrict.org/page/covid-information>

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.*

VUSD acknowledges recommendations from the CDC and local health agency, the Pima County Health Department (PCHD). VUSD has adopted changes to practices following CDC updates. The District also evaluates local and community COVID outbreaks and transmissions. Effective July 1, 2021, the wearing of masks has been optional for staff, students, and visitors. This decision was due to the change in Arizona law that requires mask wearing be made 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).*

Per current (as of the date of this Plan) CDC recommendations, students may safely engage in a classroom setting. Desks and tables will be positioned to appropriately distance students, as permitted by space restriction and/or student attendance.

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.*

VUSD provides hand sanitizer and hand soap to allow for frequent handwashing. Hand sanitizing dispensers are easily accessible and have been placed throughout each school campus, including classrooms, gyms, multi-purpose rooms, etc. The health plan provides the following handwashing guidance: wash hands often; use warm water and soap; scrubbing for at least 20 seconds; and use hand sanitizer with an alcohol content greater than 60% when water and soap are not available. Handwashing and/or hand sanitizing is expected to be performed after coughing, sneezing, nose blowing, or any time the hands are visibly dirty. Students and staff have been directed to follow this protocol. Signage containing respiratory etiquette reminders are placed throughout the school 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.*

HVAC systems are inspected and cleaned regularly. The systems are set to maximize outside air circulation. Preventative maintenance has been contracted through an outside vendor to maintain service and regularly change air filters. Custodial staff have been added to provide cleaning throughout the day of restrooms and high-touch surfaces and regular end of the day sanitizing of all classrooms and work spaces.

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.*

Contract tracing will be in combination with isolation and quarantine, and performed by the Pima County Health Department in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments if and when required. The District recommends CDC protocols for isolation for COVID-19 positive employees and students.

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.*

VUSD continues to collaborate with the PCHD to conduct COVID-19 diagnostic and/or screening testing. The District has obtained rapid antigen testing and provides free at-home test kits to employees who are symptomatic. The District has also provided free COVID-19 testing at designated sites, as needed based on the level of community COVID activity.

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.*

VUSD coordinates, as needed, with United Community Health Center and PCHD to offer all employees an opportunity to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. PCHD has partnered with VUSD for multiple vaccination clinics for staff, families, community members, and eligible students. VUSD will continue to organize vaccination events for staff, students, and families, as needed based on the level of community COVID activity.

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.*

The District will meet students' needs to deliver instruction according to their abilities while observing appropriate health and safety protocols. The District will continue to offer home-bound services, virtual learning, and in-person modified instruction for students with a qualifying disability and/or eligible chronic health condition.

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 District has a positive and collaborative working relationship with State and local health officials. The District enforces required isolation periods per the PCHD and CDC guidelines.

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.

Vail School District has taken and will continue to take actions to ensure 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.

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

VUSD has provided a variety of in person, virtual and hybrid options for student learning that are in place depending on the COVID numbers and recommendations from the state. As of spring 2022, the LEA has returned to in person learning for all students. However, virtual options are provided for students not able to return or those who are home sick. The District also created intersession and summer learning opportunities for all students to ensure a continuation of learning opportunities.

- Increased learning opportunities will be provided outside of the school day to students via targeted
- Before/after school tutoring, intersessions, and online learning modules.
- Student level data will be tracked to provide differentiated learning designed to remediate and accelerate students during the school day.
- Increased credit recovery learning opportunities will be provided to high school students.

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

Using ESSER funds and ADE funds additional staffing has been added to every school site and at the LEA level to support the increased needs related to student mental health. This includes additional staff trainings and opportunities for students

- VUSD hired 10 new counselors for the 2021/2022 school year to support those struggling with social, emotional, and mental issues that have been exacerbated by the pandemic.
- VUSD will evaluate and implement a K-12 Social Emotional Learning curriculum.
- A multi-tiered system of support, based on behavioral data, focused on both staff and students that integrates positive interventions, relationships, and community building.
- Support provided will include small group and classroom lessons to support school-wide implementation.

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

This may include student health and food services.

VUSD participates in the federal free lunch program to ensure all students are receiving meals every day and has used ESSER funds to support high risk groups as their needs arise. Site personnel coordinate these supports. Free meals will continue to be offered to students through June 30, 2022.

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

The District offers a free employee assistance plan (EAP) and mental health benefits are embedded in the medical plans offered to eligible staff. Employees are encouraged to use accrued leave for time away from work. The District has an established Wellness Program with a representative at each worksite.

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

This may include student health and food services.

The District works with every school site and department and meets on a regular basis to assess the needs and to allocate available funds and resources to support staff.

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.*

In developing this Plan, the District sought staff, student, family and public feedback using multiple strategies, including but not limited to: public comments during Governing Board meetings, town halls, surveys, school site council meetings, and other appropriate venues. Public input was taken into account to establish the current plan and will be considered for future revisions of this Plan

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

Yes