

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



LEA NAME

Aspen School District

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)

CDC Safety Recommendations	Has the LEA Adopted a Policy? (Y/N)	Describe LEA Policy:
Universal and correct wearing of masks	Y	ASD acknowledges recommendations from the CDC and local health agency, Pitkin County Public Health (PCPH). ASD will adopt changes to practices following CDC updates for fully vaccinated individuals. The District also evaluates local and community COVID outbreaks and transmissions. As of July 1, 2022, the wearing of masks is optional for staff, students, and visitors.
Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)	Y	Per current (as of the date of this Plan) CDC recommendations, students may safely engage in a classroom setting 3 feet apart. Desks and tables will be positioned to appropriately distance students, as permitted by space restriction and/or student attendance. Students from the same household may sit together on the bus.
Handwashing and respiratory etiquette	Y	ASD will provide hand sanitizer and hand soap to allow for frequent handwashing. Hand sanitizing dispenser 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.
Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation	Y	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

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		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 workspaces.
Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments	Y	Contract tracing will be in combination with isolation and quarantine, and performed by , Pitkin County Public Health in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments. The District utilizes CDC protocols for COVID-19 positive employees and students.
Diagnostic and screening testing	Y	ASD 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 parents of students who are symptomatic or identified as close contacts. The District also provides free COVID-19 testing at designated sites, as needed based on the level of community COVID activity.
Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities	Y	ASD coordinates, as needed, with , Pitkin County Public Health to encourage all staff members to get vaccinated and provide information on local vaccination events, students, and families.
Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies	Y	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.
Coordination with State and local health officials	Y	The District has a positive and collaborative working relationship with State and local health officials. The District reports all COVID positive staff and students to PCPH on a daily basis, as needed, and enforces required isolation and quarantine periods per the PCPH mandates.

How the LEA will 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**, which may include **student health and food services**

How the LEA will Ensure Continuity of Services?

The Aspen 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.

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Students' Needs:

Academic Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASD hired 4 new counselors for the 2022/2023 school year to support those struggling with social, emotional, and mental issues that have been exacerbated by the pandemic. ASD 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.
Other Needs (which may include student health and food services)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free and reduced meals will continue to be offered to students through June 30, 2022.

Staff Needs:

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.
Other Needs	The District will continue to evaluate and adjust to employee's needs.

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**



(1) LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

- (a) An LEA must describe in its plan under section 2001(i)(1) of the ARP Act for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services—
 - (i) how it 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 CDC:
 - (A) Universal and correct wearing of masks.
 - (B) Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (*e.g.*, use of cohorts/podding)
 - (C) Handwashing and respiratory etiquette.
 - (D) Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation.
 - (E) Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments.
 - (F) Diagnostic and screening testing.
 - (G) Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities.
 - (H) Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies.
 - (I) Coordination with State and local health officials.
 - (ii) how it will 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, which may include student health and food services.
- (b)(i) During the period of the ARP ESSER award established in section Start Printed Page 212022001(a) of the ARP Act, an 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.
 - (ii) In determining whether revisions are necessary, and in making any revisions, the LEA must seek public input and take such input into account
 - (iii) If at the time the LEA revises its plan the CDC has updated its guidance on reopening schools, the revised plan must address the extent to which the LEA has adopted policies, and describe any such policies, for each of the updated safety recommendations.
- (c) If an LEA developed a plan prior to enactment of the ARP Act that meets the statutory requirements of section 2001(i)(1) and (2) of the ARP Act but does not address all the requirements in paragraph (a), the LEA must, pursuant to paragraph (b), revise and post its plan no later than six months after receiving its ARP ESSER funds to meet the requirements in paragraph (a).
- (d) An LEA's plan under section 2001(i)(1) of the ARP Act for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services must be—
 - (i) In an understandable and uniform format;
 - (ii) To the extent practicable, written in a language that parents can understand or, if it is not practicable to provide written translations to a parent with limited English proficiency, be orally translated for such parent; an
 - (iii) Upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA, provided in an alternative format accessible to that parent