

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



Entity ID	CTDS	LEA NAME
4442	110221000	Coolidge Unified 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	Beginning July 1, 2021, students, staff and visitors to any CUSD campus have the option of wearing a mask for personal safety. Masks are no longer required.
Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)	Y	<p>Per CDC guidelines, students will remain socially distanced as possible. Since all students have the option to return to fulltime in-person learning, we cannot guarantee the three feet or further, but will when the space allows. Elementary classrooms will remain self-contained in grades k-3. Upper elementary grade levels will stay in their homeroom cohorts for class changes.</p> <p>Elementary students will continue to eat breakfast in their homeroom classroom and eat lunch as grade level cohorts. Students will be spaced according to provided guidelines as possible.</p> <p>High school and junior high students will not be podded or placed in cohorts. Additional outdoor space has been created for physical distancing during lunches. Plans to modify and/or build additional facilities to improve ventilation, increase physical distancing, and provide additional instructional space are being developed.</p>
Handwashing and respiratory etiquette	Y	Restrooms have signage to promote handwashing. Handwashing stations have been placed throughout the campuses and students are encouraged to wash their hands frequently throughout day. Hand sanitizer is supplied to all classrooms and offices for individuals to sanitize often. Students who may not be able to thoroughly wash or sanitize will be aided by instructional staff. Schools will be supplied with soap, paper towels, and trash receptacles.
Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation	Y	<p>All custodial staff will implement deep cleaning and sanitizing procedures for classrooms, offices, athletic facilities, and common spaces will continue throughout the school year.</p> <p>Teachers and staff have supplied to sanitize classroom space and shared desks as needed. All occupied classrooms and offices have improved ventilation and filtration systems.</p> <p>Most drinking fountains have been replaced with water bottle filling stations to reduce the possibility of transmission. The filling stations will be routinely changed (per industry standards) to support health and hydration of students and staff.</p>

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		An evaluation of each school's ventilation systems was performed to ensure they met the industry standards and to maximize their effectiveness. Custodial staff will ensure that the air system filters are replaced on a regular basis.
Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments	Y	<p>Contract tracing will continue utilizing the Pinal County Health Department as a guide.</p> <p>https://www.pinalcountyz.gov/publichealth/CoronaVirus/Pages/Home.aspx</p> <p>Each site nurse and site administration will continue to follow up with staff and students to gather information on case investigation and contact tracing. Sites will report known cases to the Department of Human Resources to proceed with informing the local health department.</p>
Diagnostic and screening testing	Y	<p>Students and/or staff who are ill are recommended to stay home until any symptoms or fever have subsided.</p> <p>Rapid COVID tests may also be provided by the school health office.</p> <p>https://www.pinalcountyz.gov/publichealth/CoronaVirus/Pages/Home.aspx</p>
Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities	Y	<p>In conjunction with Pinal County Health, opportunities for vaccination are provided to parents, students, and employees. As a district we want to ensure that those who wish to be vaccinated can do so. Individuals may use personal or sick leave to receive the vaccine or recover from any side effects. There are no current plans for providing additional vaccination opportunities on school/district sites.</p> <p>https://www.pinalcountyz.gov/publichealth/CoronaVirus/Pages/Home.aspx</p>
Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies	Y	Coordinating with the Director of Special Services and parents/families, the district will prioritize in-person instruction for students with disabilities who may require special education services on site. Any accommodations needed for students with disabilities will be provided in accordance with their IEP or medical documentation.
Coordination with State and local health officials	Y	<p>CUSD Superintendent will continue to coordinate with AZDHS, Pinal County Health, and CDC recommendations when making decisions regarding the health and safety of students and staff. The Superintendent will report ongoing information to the CUSD Governing Board and facilitate discussion/decision making in response to the impact of COVID-19.</p> <p>The Director of Human Resources will continue to share information related to case investigation, quarantines, vaccination status, and contact tracing.</p>

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?

Coolidge Unified School District will ensure continuity of services with a multifaceted approach that includes services for academics, SEL, mental and physical health, and food services.

Academics

- Multiple modalities for students to receive instruction.
- Continuation of 1:1 technology.

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- Flexible scheduling for students.
- Additional instructional time provided.
- Professional development for staff focused on intervention strategies for identified subgroups.
- Transportation for students who participate in after school tutoring or activities.

SEL – Students

- Continuation of comprehensive, embedded SEL curriculum.
- Social workers and counselors hired for each site.
- Implementation of restorative practices for student discipline.

Mental Health

- Staff provided with 9 days of professional development before the first day with students.
- Staff provided with 4 personal days to take as needed.
- Biweekly coaching sessions to discuss performance and/or other issues.
- Comprehensive EAP program that provides mental health counseling sessions.

Other

- Nurses hired for each school site.
- 1:1 health aides to support students with significant mental and physical needs.
- Free breakfast and lunch for all students regardless of free and reduced lunch status.

Students' Needs:

Academic Needs

CUSD is providing a multi-faceted approach to ensure **continuity** of services for the 2021-2022 school year. This plan creates an emphasis on maintaining the current staffing model while increasing intervention support. Funds have been utilized to provide returning staff with a retention stipend which will be disbursed twice during the year (in July and December) as an incentive to remain with the district.

Continuity of Services will be provided in the following:

- Students have the option to be in person or online as CUSD as been awarded the opportunity to facilitate a fully online program in grades 6-12. Students in grades K-5 will have in-person instruction only beginning July 25, 2022.
- Students will continue to have technology devices provided by the District. This will allow for continuity of instruction regardless of the instructional modality.
- Students will be provided with District email accounts in order to communicate effectively with their instructors and have access to online meeting platforms.
- High school students will have the opportunity to have a more flexible schedule and still meet the required minutes of instruction.
- Since CUSD is already on a four-day week, students will have time for intervention on two Fridays per month that will target specific skills and/or standards. This time will also be used for extension of learning for students who are accelerated and/or gifted.
- Tutoring will be provided daily before and after school in multiple content areas.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional paraprofessionals have been hired to provide support in all kindergarten and first grade classrooms. • Professional development for teachers on specific instructional strategies that strengthen tier 1 instruction. • Academic interventions will be provided for students after an analysis of multiple data points. • Continuity and quality of services will be supported through the continuation of the Master Teacher position for each site. These positions work with administration to provide onsite and timely coaching for teachers and provide weekly professional development on site benchmark data and instructional strategies. This creates an emphasis on Tier 1 instruction with strategies for Tier 2 and Tier 3 interventions.
Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs	<p>CUSD is providing the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive SEL curriculum for all students in grades Pre-k – 12. Social-emotional learning strategies and supports are imbedded in classroom activities. Instructional staff will be receiving continued professional development this year to build on/expand their skills in social-emotional learning to better meet student needs. • Social workers or counselors hired to support each school site. • Utilization of restorative practices as an alternative and partner to disciplinary practices to ensure a continuity of services to meet the behavioral and academic needs of the student.
Other Needs (which may include student health and food services)	<p>CUSD is providing the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nurse or health aide at each school site. • 1:1 health aide for specific students in identified special education classrooms. • CUSD is a benefactor of Community Eligibility but is also a participant in Summer Feeding. Free breakfast and lunch provided for all students and any child in the community birth – 18 through June 30, 2022. Beginning July 1, 2022, only CUSD student will be provided with free breakfast and lunch.
Staff Needs:	
Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs	<p>CUSD is providing the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2021-2022 School year: Nine days of professional development prior to the first day with students. 2022-2023 School year: Seven days of professional development prior to the first day with students. • Weekly or bi-weekly coaching/check-in sessions with each teacher and/or staff member. • Approval of up to four personal days throughout the 2021-2022 school year.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprehensive EAP program provided to all staff members at no charge.
Other 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**

Date of Revision	12/1/2021
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Public Input

Describe the process used to seek public input, and how that input was taken into account in the revision of the plan:	Two public forums were offered on June 16, 2021. In attendance were representatives from all special populations, human resources, finance, and facilities. The district provided information on how the money is able to be used and gave examples on how to determine if it would be allowable under ESSER III. In addition, the district showed how they would like to utilize the funding and how each item was beneficial to the district and how it met the requirements under ESSER III. Attendees were able to provide input on the district recommendations as well as give their own input. Through this process, several after school activities, ideas on facility usage, and staffing were taken into consideration and added to the comprehensive plan for ESSER III funding. A survey of parent, students and staff was provided in April 2022 to determine any additional needs and/or guidance for the remainder of ESSER funded projects.
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U.S. Department of Education Interim Final Rule (IFR)

(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.

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- (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