

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



Entity ID	CTDS	LEA NAME
4245	070295000	Queen Creek 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	Face coverings that cover the nose and mouth are recommended.
Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)	Y	Hire additional staff to reduce class sizes, build new campuses to reduce crowding, take advantage of flexible space within existing buildings to allow for increased social distancing.
Handwashing and respiratory etiquette	Y	Promote healthy hygiene practices via video training, posters, and social media.
Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation	Y	Hand sanitizers are provided near classroom entries, high-touch surfaces are sanitized daily, and ventilation will be intensified.
Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments	Y	School nurses will conduct contact tracing and coordinate communication with affected students and families according to MCDHS recommendations.
Diagnostic and screening testing	Y	Parents are encouraged to screen their children before sending them to school. Information about health screening is communicated to parents via letters and social media.
Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities	Y	Send communication about PODS and testing to school families and staff.
Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies	Y	Intensify sanitation of transportation services and further reduce class sizes. An AOI option is provided via Queen Creek Virtual Academy.
Coordination with State and local health officials	Y	Work with Maricopa County Department of Public Health Administration on COVID-19 case reporting.

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?

A variety of steps have been taken to ensure a well-rounded approach to addressing the academic needs, physical health, and emotional needs of students and staff.

### Students' Needs:

Academic Needs	Provide additional tutoring for at-risk students, instructional assistants, data and reading specialists, and provide in-person learning. An AOI option is provided via Queen Creek Virtual Academy.
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Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs	Addressed through PBIS district-wide and further supported via school counselors.
Other Needs (which may include student health and food services)	Health and fitness classes available to students during the school day in addition to extracurriculars and YAP (Youth Athletics Program)
<b>Staff Needs:</b>	
Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs	The Governing board approved extra leave for staff to accommodate additional mental and physical health needs <i>and</i> approved the creation of a “leave bank” with 800 hours available for staff to request additional leave due to COVID.
Other Needs	In addition to ADA accommodations and FMLA, KAIROS health insurance provides mental health services. Also, hiring of permanent substitutes and additional staff reduces staff workload.

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**

<b>Date of Revision</b>	7/01/2023
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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:	Governing Board Members seek and take note of public input during Governing Board Meetings.
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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.



- (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