

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



Entity ID	CTDS	LEA NAME
79455	078925000	Pointe Schools

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	Yes	As of 5/21/2021, the Board has made the use of masks optional on all school campuses. Prior to this date, masks were required for all individuals over the age of 2. We follow all applicable state laws regarding the use of masks on campus.
Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding	Yes	<p>Utilizing the Maricopa County Health Department's website, when conditions are at substantial or widespread levels in the zip code where the school is located, school administration <u>may consider any or all of these interventions:</u></p> <p>K-6 students are cohorted with their classroom all day (on the playground, at lunch, and throughout the day).</p> <p>7-12th grade students are given the option to learn at home or in person to allow for physical spacing in classrooms.</p> <p>All grade levels: Arrange desks facing same direction, 3-6' spacing (in accord with local recommendation). Keep belongings separate. Assign seating. Maintain social distancing in open areas. Eat outside as is feasible. Bring own water. Separate recesses. Adjust pickup and drop off routine as needed. Provide signage to prompt appropriate distancing behavior.</p> <p>When spread is mild or direction is given by the State or County Department of Health, these directions are eased.</p>

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Handwashing and respiratory etiquette	Yes	<p>At all levels of spread:</p> <p>Direct teaching of appropriate handwashing and respiratory etiquette.</p> <p>Frequent Hand washing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use soap and water, scrubbing for 20 seconds. • Use paper towels to dry hands & open doors, discard. <p>Use at least 60% alcohol hand sanitizer.</p> <p>Use hand sanitizer in lobbies and upon entering classrooms.</p> <p>Cough or sneeze into elbow.</p> <p>Stay home when ill.</p>
Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation	Yes	<p>At all levels of spread:</p> <p>Properly maintain HVAC units, including changing air filters as scheduled. Open doors for ventilation as weather permits.</p>
Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments	Yes	<p>We follow the latest guidance from the State and County Health departments regarding isolation and quarantine to the greatest extent possible.</p> <p>All schools provide on-campus isolation room and PPE for suspected cases.</p>
Diagnostic and screening testing	Yes	<p>At widespread and substantial levels of spread, school administration may consider any or all of these interventions:</p> <p>Temperature check and health screening of all individuals on campus.</p> <p>Parents/guardians assess student health daily, prior to going to school.</p> <p>Monitor for an outbreak (2 or more cases) and follow specific guidance from Maricopa County Health Department.</p>
Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities	Yes	<p>We provide information to families regarding vaccination events as requested by the County Health Department</p>

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Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies	Yes	The IEP team and the school principal make appropriate individual determinations for the health and safety of students with disabilities to ensure access to the general education curriculum.
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Coordination with State and local health officials	Yes	To the extent possible, we follow the guidelines established by the Maricopa County Health Department unless specifically directed otherwise by the Board or State requirements.
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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?

Our charter district has invested in Chromebooks, teacher training, wi-fi upgrades and more to ensure that teaching can continue at all levels of COVID spread. The district continues to use data to ensure that additional learning opportunities are provided to all students with an emphasis on student populations that are vulnerable. We make every attempt to use the most up to date information to provide a continuity of service to all in our community.

We have developed specific chain of command, mitigation strategies, and communication plans to ensure that all members of our school community are informed of what the current needs are, how teaching will be provided, and what strategies are in place to ensure that we can continue providing the education our students need whether we are in person or not.

In the event that a student or group of students needs to quarantine, we have provisions in place to easily and quickly move to online learning scenarios. In the event of staff needs, we have detailed plans in place to provide for those situations. We continue to focus on providing a high quality education while being nimble and responsive to the community needs.

Students' Needs:

Academic Needs	We have adopted a program to provide additional learning opportunities to students who need support. This includes appropriate benchmark testing; tutoring afterschool or during summer; bridges during general instruction time between grade level standards and areas where there may have been less robust learning.
Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs	<p>Students are provided any needed referrals to the school counselor (7-12th grade) or conferences with parents to refer to appropriate agencies. A virtual calming room is available for students to use at home or in school.</p> <p>K-6 schools have adopted specific protocols for teaching coping strategies and concrete steps to manage social, emotional, and mental health needs.</p> <p>7-12 has developed peer and staff intervention models to provide support for social, emotional, and mental health needs.</p>
Other Needs (which may include student health and food services)	Referrals are provided to appropriate state and/or non-profit organizations as needed to help families navigate this crucial time.

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Staff Needs:

Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs	Staff members have been provided with training and support throughout the 2020-2021 school year for assistance with social, emotional, and mental health needs. This support will continue into the 2021-2022 school year. In addition, topics that help teachers and other staff members be more efficient and have a work home balance continue to be a focus. In addition, we continue to provide referrals and support through our employer benefit plans including telehealth therapy appointments at no cost to plan participants.
Other Needs	On an individual basis, the school administration review requests for work at home. Teachers or other staff members required to quarantine at home due to exposure or suspected exposure are allowed to work at home and receive pay.

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	7/2021, 2/2022
Public Input	
Describe the process used to seek public input, and how that input was taken into account in the revision of the plan:	<p>Public surveys for families, teachers and other staff, and other interested groups; posting for public comment on our website(s); Board meeting comments were all used to inform our plans. Ongoing public comments both solicited and unsolicited continue to inform any changes we make.</p> <p>All comments from all available data sources were used to review current practices and make changes/updates that reflect the needs of our students, families, and staff members.</p>



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