

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

Section 2001(i)(1) of the ARP Act requires each local educational agency (LEA) that receives ARP ESSER funds to develop and make publicly available on the LEA’s website, no later than 30 days after receiving ARP ESSER funds, a plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services. In New Mexico, districts and state-chartered charter schools are LEAs.

This is a federal requirement and is not the same as the past state requirement for LEAs to submit Reentry Plans.

Pursuant to ARP requirements, LEAs must post on their website a fully compliant Plan for Safe Return to In-person Instruction and Continuity of Services by **December 24, 2021**.

This is the template we are providing for you to complete the ARP ESSER Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services. The template incorporates the federally-required components of this plan.

This template incorporates the federally-required components of the LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services.

PED hopes this template will allow LEAs to efficiently and effectively plan and to easily post their LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services on their websites as required by the ARP Act.

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 Safe Return to In-person Instruction and Continuity of Services through September 30, 2023	
Date of Revision	12-14-21

District ID	County	LEA NAME
076	Taos	Taos Municipal 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) https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html		
CDC Safety Recommendations	Has the LEA Adopted a Policy? (Y/N)	Describe LEA Policy:
Universal and correct wearing of masks	Y	Face Masks: All adults and students are required to wear masks when on school grounds, with the exception of eating. Masks must be

		fitted properly and worn over the nose. Face masks will also be required for students riding the bus to and from school. All students are expected to follow face covering requirements while in school or school sponsored activities/events for the health and safety of themselves, school staff, and others. Students who do not comply should be reminded of these guidelines and provided with a face covering if needed.
Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)	Y	Social distancing is maintained while students are in class and eating lunch. Students are all facing the same direction. Schools must promote social distancing, which includes spacing desks at least six feet apart, limiting gatherings, and restricting all nonessential visitors. Schools must limit the sharing of toys, personal belongings, books, and other equipment. Schools are asked to do the following: Maximize Physical Distance • Student Desks Facing Same Direction • Desk Trifold Carrels used as needed. Facilities Safety while in-person learning • Procedures will be followed to ensure students follow CDC guidelines for social distancing.
Handwashing and respiratory etiquette	Y	Handwashing: Students and staff will wash hands or use hand sanitizer regularly throughout the school day. As a precaution against transmitting the COVID-19 virus through shared texts, students should wash and/or sanitize their hands before and after using shared texts. Signage on the proper way to wash hands is placed throughout the school. All individuals in the building will socially distance themselves to the greatest extent possible and wear masks at all times.
Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation	Y	Deep cleaning and disinfecting of facilities occur daily. Schools and buildings thoroughly cleaned once a day in accordance with CDC recommendations. Door handles, light switches and restroom fixtures are disinfected and cleaned several times a day. Ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible, as long as this does not pose a safety or health risk. Portable air purifiers are located in every classroom and

		<p>offices . In the event of a positive COVID-19 case at school, schools will shut down impacted facilities/classrooms for a minimum of 2 hours (24 hours recommended) and perform enhanced cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting of facilities in accordance with CDC guidance.</p>
<p>Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>Taos Municipal Schools will maintain information on all individuals in our facilities. COVID-19 surveillance testing is required for all schools providing in-person student learning, including athletics. The purpose of surveillance testing is to detect COVID-19 outbreaks as early as possible by screening asymptomatic individuals. In alignment with CDC guidance, those who participate in athletics and other extracurricular activities are strongly encouraged to participate in surveillance testing. Every facility has a dedicated isolation room and quarantine protocols are followed. Contact tracing is conducted immediately based on attendance, vaccination status, classroom seating charts, following the NMPED guidelines and NMPED Toolkit. If a student or staff member has been found to be infected with COVID- 19, the New Mexico Department of Health will be contacted to activate their contact tracing efforts. Care rooms will continue to be utilized in every school, and will be equipped with all necessary PPE, technology. The District collaborates with State, local, territorial and our Tribal health departments.</p>
<p>Diagnostic and screening testing</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>Taos Municipal Schools has a three-prong approach. The District has a weekly goal testing of unvaccinated staff. The District has a weekly goal of testing 25% of unvaccinated students that have parent permission on file. Surveillance testing is in partnership with Premier Medical Group (PMG). Symptomatic staff and students are tested immediately using a rapid antigen test with parent permission and staff are tested with rapid antigen test and/or a PCR test with our local hospital. We are conducting the modified quarantine test to stay program (Days 1,3, 5). We are offering 5-7 day test for vaccinated staff</p>

		who have had a direct exposure at school. Upon request, on a case by case basis, staff are given the opportunity to have a rapid antigen test.
Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities	Y	Taos Municipal Schools have sponsored vaccination events at various school sites. All have had the opportunity to get vaccinated including booster shots. The District provides updated information to students, staff, parents where vaccination events are being held in the community. The District will continue to promote vaccinations to unvaccinated individuals in the school community.
Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies	Y	All health and safety protocols will include students with disabilities while following IEPs or 504 plans. Meet as an individual IEP team to determine each student's needs while encouraging mask wearing and providing other alternatives as needed.
Coordination with State and local health officials	Y	The District will make every effort to coordinate with state and local health officials. Rapid Response Team Leader regularly attends state and local trainings and meetings regarding COVID-19 updates. Taos County has a local COVID-19 task force that meets bi-weekly made up of local health care providers, emergency response providers, County and City officials, School Officials, large employers, etc. to talk about COVID-19 trends in the community and come up with solutions.

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?
Taos Municipal Schools will ensure continuity of services by utilizing our three prong approach in outlined in our reentry plan. We currently provide in-class learning and we have a plan set up for a hybrid model or full remote model in the event that we needed to restrict use of the building for COVID outbreaks. We utilize Canvas platform for both in-class and remote delivery. Students are provided with one-one devices and the district provides hotspots or access to other internet connections as needed. Our District is committed to provide services including but not limited to student academic needs and student and staff social emotional mental health. Food services will be provided in all models.
How will the LEA address Students':

Academic Needs?	Students academic needs will be met through a variety of systems, programs and policies. All students have been issued a mobile device and access to connectivity. All curriculum can be accessed online via CANVAS platform and other learning platforms. We are currently providing in-class learning and the option of attending the TMS Virtual School.
Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs?	Taos Municipal Schools has hired a Social/Emotional Coordinator. We provide social work and counseling services as needed. Partnerships with local mental health providers such as Taos Behavioral Health. The District Social Emotional Learning (SEL) program aims to continuously build the SEL capacity of all adults and students in the district. This includes adult training, in-school programs, and community partnerships.
Other Needs (which may include student health and food services)?	Taos Municipal Schools has hired a Family Engagement Coordinator and a Homeless Liaison and other school personnel to assist families with food, shelter, clothing, mental health services, ets. We also have a nurturing center in two of our school building. We also partner with El Centro Clinic to provided health services at Taos Middle School and Taos High School.
How will the LEA address Staff:	
Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs?	The District is now offering FREE after-hours wellness opportunities for staff. Taos Municipal Schools also provides Employee Assistance Programs in the area of Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs to both staff and families. A staff re-charge/relaxation room has been created at Taos High School. The District is working on creating re-charge/relaxation rooms for all staff at each location.
Other Needs?	Staff are provided 10 days of COVID leave as needed. Leave policies have been refined to include COVID leave.

Public Input	
Describe the process used to seek public input, and how that input was taken into account in the revision of the plan.	Taos Municipal Schools have conducted virtual ARP & COVID-19 forums to provide opportunities to members of the public to share information and express their opinions and perspectives for consideration in decision making. ARP Plans and COVID-19 plans were approved by the local school board where the public had the opportunity to provide input. Phone calls and robo calls were sent out to parents. Information is also shared on our website.

Understandable and Uniform Format	
Describe the process by which the LEA will, to the extent practicable, present the plan 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, describe the process for orally translating the plan for such parents.	Taos Municipal Schools plan will be posted on the school website in English. We are in the process of converting the plan to Spanish and will be placed on our website. Interpreters will also be available to translate the plan. The TMS Enhanced Re-Entry Plan has been posted on the school website. We are in the process of converting the plan into Spanish. Notice of vaccination clinics, notice to test and other information is sent out in both English and Spanish. Our Family Engagement Coordinator, Nurturing Center and Native American liaison translates as needed.
Describe the process by which a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA, will be provided a version of the plan in an alternative format accessible to that parent.	Any person who requests, will be provided a copy of the plan that is in alternative format that is accessible to that person.

U.S. Department of Education Interim Final Rule (IFR)

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

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 –

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. During the period of the ARP ESSER award established in section 2001(a) of the ARP Act, an LEA must
 - a. 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.
 - b. In determining whether revisions are necessary, and in making any revisions, the LEA must seek public input and take such input into account.
 - c. 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.
4. 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).
5. 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—
 - a. In an understandable and uniform format;

- b. 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; and
- c. 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.

The IFR and ARP statute, along with other helpful resources, are located here:

April 2021 IFR: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2021-04-22/pdf/2021-08359.pdf>

ARP Act text: <https://www.congress.gov/117/bills/hr1319/BILLS-117hr1319enr.pdf>

ED COVID-19 Handbook Volume I: <https://www2.ed.gov/documents/coronavirus/reopening.pdf>

ED COVID-19 Handbook Volume II: <https://www2.ed.gov/documents/coronavirus/reopening-2.pdf>

ESEA Evidence-Based Guidance: <https://oese.ed.gov/files/2020/07/guidanceeusesinvestment.pdf>

ED FAQs for ESSER and Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER):

https://oese.ed.gov/files/2021/05/ESSER.GEER_FAQs_5.26.21_745AM_FINALb0cd6833f6f46e03ba2d97d30aff953260028045f9ef3b18ea602db4b32b1d99.pdf