

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



Entity ID	CTDS	LEA NAME
79437	138760000	Acorn Montessori Charter School

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	All students, staff, and visitors on campus must wear masks indoors at all times, except while eating.
Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)	Y	Classes are limited enrollment. Classrooms are set up in student pods to allow for physical distance to the greatest extent possible as well as for quick and efficient contact tracing.
Handwashing and respiratory etiquette	Y	Frequent and efficient handwashing is scheduled regularly throughout the day and as needed such as upon entry, before and after meals, before and after shared materials, and whenever a student sneezes, coughs, touches face etc.
Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation	Y	Additional janitorial staff to frequently clean and disinfect high touch surfaces in the school and on playgrounds. All staff clean and disinfect between transitions, any time students switch work areas. Air purifiers were purchased and are used in all classrooms, offices, workspaces, and hallways. Doors and windows are open as often as weather allows.
Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments	Y	All contact tracing, isolation, and quarantine is done in collaboration with the Yavapai County Health Department. Families are notified of both direct and indirect contact with COVID-19 and the quarantine and isolation requirements for students and/or staff.
Diagnostic and screening testing	Y	In collaboration with Yavapai County Health Department, students and staff are tested, with permission, when symptomatic by school personnel. Families are also referred to testing outside of the school when requested and needed.
Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities	Y	Two vaccine clinics have been made available on school campuses for vaccines and boosters to the students, families, staff and community.
Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies	Y	Students with disabilities are provided accommodations as needed to access education through in person, distance learning, waivers for mask requirements.
Coordination with State and local health officials	Y	Yavapai County Health Department, AZ Dept of Health

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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?

#### Students' Needs:

Academic Needs	Students receive in person instruction in the appropriate grade level with highly qualified teachers to the greatest extent possible. In person instruction will be provided unless otherwise directed by local or state officials. Students needing to quarantine, or isolate, will be given a comprehensive distance learning alternative during their isolation/quarantine period. This distance learning program for quarantined/isolated students will include access to all lessons and materials, a school provided computer and hot spot, if needed, check in with teachers to support instruction and learning, videos and access to online curriculum, and opportunities to interact with the teachers and material. Curriculum used for both in person instruction and distance learning is aligned to Arizona state standards and lessons/activities are differentiated to meet the needs and levels of every student. All students are assessed and monitored frequently to determine understanding and mastery of grade level material. Students falling below grade level are given additional support through tier 2 and tier 3 instruction both in and out of the classroom in addition to tutoring and small group/1:1 support. Students above grade level are challenged through in class or pull-out extension materials.
Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs	A wellness program is provided to all students where support and training is given to staff and students on monitoring well-being, self regulation, building connections, socialization, and de-escalation. Students in need of additional support attend social groups or 1:1 sessions with school counselors and wellness staff. Trainings and materials are also provided to teachers and parents/guardians to address the mental health needs and signs for students in all age groups.
Other Needs (which may include student health and food services)	Free breakfast and lunch is provided to all students. Students also have access to clothing, coats, jackets, and hygiene products as needed.

#### Staff Needs:

Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs	Frequent check ins with staff occur daily. Staff are given additional days off or opportunities to leave early to help with stress and burn out. Staff are provided opportunities for team building, rewards, reinforcement, and time to observe other teachers. Additional days are paid in the event staff needs to isolate or quarantine as a result of COVID.
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** 8/18/21

**Public Input**

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Describe the process used to seek public input, and how that input was taken into account in the revision of the plan:

Board meetings are held regularly and open to the public. Board meeting days and times are posted on our school website and are also posted in view 24 hours prior to meeting being held. Request for public comment is recommended to be received prior to board meeting. Letters from parents, staff, and community members are also shared and discussed with the leadership team to take into consideration when policies change, are revised, or are adopted. In addition to board meetings and leadership reviews, parent and staff surveys are sent out periodically and used to help guide policy and operation of in person instruction and school support to students.

## 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;

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- (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