

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.

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| 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 | October 1, 2021 |

| District ID | County | LEA NAME |
|-------------|--------|------------------------------|
| 085 | Union | Des Moines 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 | | |
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| CDC Safety Recommendations | Has the LEA Adopted a Policy? (Y/N) | Describe LEA Policy: |
| Universal and correct wearing of masks | Y | DMMS will follow NM PED guidance in the tool kit for mask use. |

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| Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding) | Y | Breakfast and lunch are split into pods to allow adequate social distancing while eating. Social distance posters are placed throughout the school building. |
| Handwashing and respiratory etiquette | Y | Students are encouraged to wash hands regularly. Proper handwashing techniques have been taught and signage is posted. Hand sanitizing stations are available throughout the school. Masks are available at the school entrance, on buses and in classrooms for mask replacement. Windows are opened when possible and air purifiers are in each classroom. |
| Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation | Y | DMMS has air purifications systems in every classroom and gathering space. Fresh air is brought in with air conditioners and fans as well as open windows when appropriate. HVAC systems have been upgraded to the highest level of MERV filtration supported by the system. |
| Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments | Y | DMMS follows the NMPED toolkit guidance with each contact tracing case. Contact tracing is properly reported to the NMPED portal and NM Environmental Department. |
| Diagnostic and screening testing | Y | DMMS follows NM PED toolkit guidance for screening and testing. Currently all unvaccinated staff must test weekly. Students are encouraged to test but not mandated. The district applied and received a CLIA waiver to conduct COVID rapid tests on site daily. |
| Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities | Y | DMMS has offered two vaccination clinics and plans to offer another for 5-12 year olds soon. Any time a vaccination event is available in the community, we advertise on social media and put out a robocall. We will continue vaccination clinics as needed in conjunction with DOH. |
| Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies | Y | At this time, no students are currently enrolled who require an exemption from the health and safety policies. In the event this would occur, medical documentation would be required and a determination would be made by the IEP or 504 team per the tool kit. |

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| Coordination with State and local health officials | | The superintendent remains in close contact with the NMPED and NMDOH officials regarding the most recent guidance on health and safety protocols. DMMS works closely with the Des Moines Health Clinic and local hospitals as needed. |
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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?

Within the Department of Health guidelines, New Mexico Public Education Department requirements, Des Moines Municipal Schools is dedicated to meeting students academic, social emotional and physical needs to the best of our abilities. We work within our abilities to provide education, school lunches and social and emotional support. We have access to the Des Moines Rural Health Clinic to meet additional health needs that are not met by our one day a week nurse. Our health clinic is open on Wednesdays year round. School lunches are provided daily throughout the school year regardless of in person or remote instruction. Our teachers provide instruction or virtually as needed throughout the school year. We have made a commitment to in person instruction and are working to better mitigate risks with Test to Stay protocols to keep more students in school at all times.

How will the LEA address Students':

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| Academic Needs? | Des Moines will continue to have in person instruction when possible. We will provide virtual instruction as needed when we have health issues. All students are provided one to one devices and internet hot spots to those who need it. |
| Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs? | Des Moines Schools utilizes the Overcoming curriculum 7-12 th grade and Seven Mindsets for k-6. This is done with weekly instruction, support of the school social worker and classroom teachers for wrap around support. We have a school social worker available once a week. Additional mental health services are always in demand. We work with various state agencies to try to provide them as well as the Des Moines Rural Clinic. |
| Other Needs (which may include student health and food services)? | |

How will the LEA address Staff:

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| Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs? | The administration works to support the social, emotional and mental health of all staff. We provide professional development on CPI, stress, stress relievers and suicide prevention. We try to provide understanding, listening ears and encouragement to staff at all times. Staff stay in close contact with administration and administration check in |
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| | frequently to ensure they are ok. Bi-weekly we meet with staff to address concerns and celebrate successes. |
| Other Needs? | |

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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. | The public was consulted in August for three different virtual meetings to seek input on the return. The plan was shared with the Equity Council and the Parent Advisory Committee in addition to a public forum before a board meeting. |
| 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. | The district will have the plan available on the school website and will translate it if necessary. Our current language surveys do not indicate that need, but if it changes, we will accommodate a translation. The district will work with the REC to translate if 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. | We will ensure all parents are provided a version of this document in a manner in which they can read. We will make any necessary accommodations of audio or visual versions if needed |

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