

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

District ID	County	LEA NAME
	McKinley	Hozho Academy

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	Staff and students are required to wear a mask inside when not eat or drinking

Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)	N	Students are separated into cohorts. Desks are spaced as much as possible. There is no official policy from the school board.
Handwashing and respiratory etiquette	N	Students and staff are encouraged to wash hands regularly. Younger students are given instruction in hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette. There is no official policy from the school board. Public health guidelines are followed at Hozho Academy; including posted signage.
Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation	N	Facilities are cleaned regularly; classrooms are disinfected with a hospital-grade, non-toxic disinfectant at least once per day. Merv 13 classroom air filters have been ordered for each room.
Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments	N	Hozho Academy follows the most recent recommendations released in the NMPED/NMDOH Toolkit. No official separate policy in place.
Diagnostic and screening testing	N	Hozho Academy requires staff who are displaying possible covid symptoms to be tested. Staff who have not received covid vaccinations and have not had a positive covid test in the past 90 days are required to do weekly testing. No official policy is in place.
Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities	N	Hozho Academy provides notification to families of covid vaccination clinics that are offered in the community
Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies	N	Accommodations for students with disabilities are provided as needed by Hozho Academy administration and staff.
Coordination with State and local health officials	N	Hozho Academy works in cooperation with the NMDOH, and the Regional School Health Advocate to provide a safe and healthy school for our students and their families

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?	
Hozho Academy continues to provide educational services, social/emotional/mental health services and provide food services to our students. We will continue to utilize the classroom as the location where students will eat their lunch. Students in attendance, during morning or afternoon school sessions will be served a “no contact” breakfast and lunch in the classroom. No sharing of food or any materials will be allowed. Families who choose remote learning will still have access to school meals and more information about meal pick-up will be released soon. Families may need to submit a new application each school year to see if they qualify for free or reduced lunches.	
How will the LEA address Students’:	
Academic Needs?	Hozho Academy provides rigorous educational opportunities for our students, both live and in-person as well as a remote option
Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs?	Hozho Academy has a full-time licensed counselor on our staff and also has a full-time counseling intern. The counselors work closely with teachers and other staff to continually assess and provide support for our students’ social, emotional, and mental health needs.]
Other Needs (which may include student health and food services)?	Students at Hozho Academy participate in our Arete Wellness program and are offered many opportunities throughout the day to healthy, physical activity. We have made a concerted effort to improve the health of our students through the offering of fresh, nutrient dense meals.
How will the LEA address Staff:	
Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs?	The licensed school counselor is available for school staff. School staff are also offered an additional paid 30-minute exercise break during the day to give staff an opportunity for a healthy break.
Other Needs?	

Public Input	
Describe the process used to seek public input, and how that input was taken into account in the revision of the plan.	Hozho Academy regularly receives input from families, staff members, and the input of our School Health Advisory Committee regarding our systems and policies. We also up for public comments at every board meeting .
Understandable and Uniform Format	

<p>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.</p>	<p>Hozho Academy has staff that are able to translate the plan into Spanish, Navajo, and Zuni which are the most common non-english languages in our community. Hozho Academy has other staff members who may be able to help with other languages depending on the need.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Any parent who needs support with the information in the plan, regardless of their ability level, will be provided with any necessary support from school administration and the special education staff as necessary.</p>

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