

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
	Lea	Eunice Public 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	Yes	Face coverings are required for all students and staff except while eating, and drinking with limited exceptions. Students or staff who have a medical reason for not being able to wear a mask or face shield must have documentation on file from their health care provider. The district will provide masks for each student and staff member. It will be their responsibility to clean the mask daily. Additional masks will be available if needed. Staff and students may bring their own face covering to use from home.
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Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)	Yes	Students will be enrolled in smaller class sizes with 6ft distance between students. Hallways will be marked with a clear distinction of 6 ft difference between students as they are in the hallways heading to class.
Handwashing and respiratory etiquette	Yes	The district will conduct deep cleaning of schools prior to students/staff returning and will occur daily after the students depart. Additional routine cleaning will be scheduled each Friday during the day of virtual learning for our district. Hand sanitizer will be provided at each entrance to the building and in each classroom. Staff will teach and reinforce good hygiene measures such as handwashing, covering coughs, and appropriate use of face covering. Staff and students will be allowed to bring hand sanitizer to use from home.
Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation	Yes	Air quality in our building is very important to the Eunice Public School District. Merv-13 Air Filters have been installed in each one of the HVAC units and are checked monthly as a part of our routine maintenance program. Air scrubbers have been placed in every classroom and office area. The district brings in fresh air wherever possible to ensure the safety of our students' health.
Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments	Yes	The LEA follows the NMPED and the NMDOH guidelines that are required when completing contact tracing.

Diagnostic and screening testing	Yes	The LEA has a CLIA waiver and performs the test to stay program.
Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities	YES	The LEA has coordinated with 575 Pharmacy to perform vaccination clinics as needed.
Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies	Yes	The district plan will reflect accommodations designed for students with disabilities to ensure continuity of service. These accommodations will be made in accordance with the student's Individualized Education Plan. Case managers will work with teachers to support students in building a tolerance for mask wearing. Students will receive support from building staff (i.e. school counselors, OT, PT, and social workers) as they return to in-person learning.
Coordination with State and local health officials	YES	Data is uploaded weekly as asked by the NMPED to the NMPED Portal.

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?

The District will provide students with in-person learning as much as possible. If a student is unable to attend in person learning we have virtual options for short term and long term learning. The teachers in the district provide each class with a Google Classroom to allow for easy access to daily classroom activities during a quarantine or illness period. If a student needs to be provided with long term distance learning the district has invested in Edgenuity to provide for the learning needs of the students.

How will the LEA address Students':

Academic Needs?	The staff at Eunice Public Schools is dedicated to providing a well-rounded education to the students who are in person or virtual learners during this time. Staff will maintain their classroom expectations and programs utilizing the programs that are used in the classroom and to help supplement the learning. We will continue to analyze the data that is produced to help with the individual and whole group intervention process.
Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs?	The Eunice Public Schools realizes that during times of crisis, social and emotional needs are a priority. COVID-19 has added additional stress to students and staff and we are committed to providing support as all stakeholders begin to engage in rigorous academic opportunities in either remote learning or more traditional learning environments. We believe that when students and staff are physically and psychologically safe, they are able to engage in formal rigorous teaching and learning. In developing a plan for social and emotional support for students it will be very important to be aware that reentry into the school environment at a modified level may be challenging for some students. Counselors will be checking in regularly with students on their caseloads. All

	students will be given information on how to reach out if needed. Teachers will be on alert for any student who may need additional support.
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Other Needs (which may include student health and food services)?	Same as above.
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How will the LEA address Staff:

Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs?	The LEA for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services requires that the staff of Eunice Public Schools be provided with mental health services to facilitate a smooth transition. Blue Cross Blue Shield and Cigna provide for mental health counseling through the district insurance benefits. Isolation has been a significant concern for staff who have provided instruction from their homes. Social events sponsored by the schools for the inclusion of all staff members will be provided to encourage collaboration and community. Stress reduction will be vital for the mental health of all staff. Therefore, literature communicating skills in mindfulness and meditation will be shared with all staff. During the first year return to full instruction, a mental health day will be provided through ESSR funds, whereby all staff may call in to take a one-time mental health day.
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Other Needs?	Not at this time.
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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 Eunice Public Schools has provided opportunities for community input in the form of surveys that were distributed via Google Classroom. We invited families and community members to give their input through our School Messenger System as well as our social media pages that are managed by the administration of the schools.
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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>We have distributed the plan to parents who needed it translated through the EPS webpage that is maintained by the district. When a parent or guardian needs oral translation we have staff members present in all buildings who can provide this service to these individuals.</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>We have plans available through the webpage or if a parent needs a hard copy of the plan we have them printed and ready for any individual who needs the plan in this form.</p> <p>In our district, we are able to provide the plan in an alternative format that a parent would need &/or have access to the information. This could be in transferring plan to Spanish or to a language that the family could understand. If the family needed for us to explain the plan in person or on the phone, we would provide information in an understandable manner that the family needs.</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-](https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2021-04-22/pdf/2021-08359.pdf)

[08359.pdf](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-](https://www.congress.gov/117/bills/hr1319/BILLS-117hr1319enr.pdf)

[117hr1319enr.pdf](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/guidanceusesinvestment.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_FINALb0cd6833f6f46e03ba2d97_d30aff953260028045f9ef3b18ea602db4b32b1d99.pdf