

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



Entity ID	CTDS	LEA NAME
4156	010218000	Sanders Unified School District No. 18

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	Students & Staff are encourage to wear face masks, but are not required per the Navajo Nation Guidelines.
Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)	Y	In classrooms the student desk will be 3 feet apart. Desk Shields are placed on all student desks. On buses students will be seated one per row. Siblings may sit together. Exception mandatory social distancing is not required outdoors or on playground.
Handwashing and respiratory etiquette	Y	The District will instruct & reinforce hand washing with soap & water for at least 20 seconds. Hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol will be available in every classroom and rooms throughout the district including free-standing hand sanitizing stations. Signage/posters will be placed on each campus to educate and encourage preventive practices.
Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation	Y	The District has developed a schedule for increased, routine cleaning and disinfection. Door handles, sink handles, and desks shall be sanitized throughout the day. HVAC filters are changed and units on a maintenance schedule to ensure efficient operation. Increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible at all school sites and student/staff areas. Buses will be sanitized between morning and afternoon routes and at the end of each day. The district purchased disinfecting/sanitizing portable and industrial machines. The district is using ESSER funding to purchase new HVAC units with HEPA Filtration Systems built-in.
Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments	Y	The District's FY 2023 Back to School 12 Point Plan will be presented to all staff, students and parents. Included in the plan are the forms to report an exposure or COVID illness. The Navajo Tribal Health Guideline state that self-quarantine for 7-days and may return to school when symptom free, and receive a negative COVID-19 test.
Diagnostic and screening testing	Y	District provides a 12-point symptom-checker to assist parents in evaluating their student's health

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		– prior to boarding the school bus. Parents have been given digital thermometers to help with the health check. The district’s Health Techs will immediately respond to any student or staff experiencing COVID symptom(s).
Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities	Y	The Navajo Health Clinic provides free COVID vaccines. The District provides each household free test kits.
Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies	Y	In addition to the return to In-Person Instruction Health and Safety procedures and mitigation strategies as approved by the Board; all appropriate accommodations will be made to ensure that students with disabilities have their specific needs met in regards to health and safety protocols. These accommodations are provided per each student’s IEP. At-risk students may attend distance-learning, if requested, home visits may be provided by Sped. Specialists and/or Health Tech for specialized services.
Coordination with State and local health officials	Y	The Superintendent meets weekly with the Apache County Health Dept. and a separate weekly meeting with the Navajo Nation Health Services.

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?

A student with special health needs may attend the district’s AOI online school. The district hired 4 Social, Emotional Counselors for staff and students. Employees have been given a hotline number to reach a certified mental health provider through the district’s employee health insurance provider. The district remains diligent in its safety and cleaning protocols, and adheres to the strict regulations adopted by the Navajo Nation. ESSER funds provides an in Retention Stipends to all certified and classified staff as an incentive for maintaining student/teacher consistency and retain well-qualified workers, and continual COVID Response to Intervention (RTI) training.

Students’ Needs:

Academic Needs	Teachers will make every effort to ensure each student has the tools to complete their school work. Parents are encouraged to contact their student’s teacher with learning concerns. The district is providing an extensive summer school program to address the learning gap and summer slide. Each student received an I-Pad and hotspot.
Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs	The District hired a Social Emotional Counselor for each school site to provide support to students and staff.
Other Needs (which may include student health and food services)	Daily breakfast & lunch is available to students attending either distance-learning or in-person. The district complies with all NSLP feeding requirements. Lunch periods are structured to reduce the total number in each group to promote physical distancing measures. School campuses are closed to outside food delivery. Students may bring sack lunches if appropriately prepared, wrapped, and consumed. Bring or sharing refreshments, snacks, treats, etc. during

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	school is prohibited. Daily after-school snacks are given to all students.
Staff Needs:	
Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs	Social Emotional Counselors are available at each school site for students and staff.
Other Needs	<p>The District’s healthcare provider has on-line resources and counselors and nurses are available via telephone. All services are free.</p> <p>Teachers receive additional professional development in Response to Intervention (RTI) to increase knowledge and integration of effective intervention strategies.</p> <p>Custodial, Maintenance, Bus Driver receive regular trainings through the Trust to learn best practices in preventing the spread of COVID.</p>

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	7/18/2022 https://www.sandersusd.net/
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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 district provided an on-line survey for all stakeholders. The District’s Mitigation Plan is discussed at the monthly Governing Board Meeting. Stakeholders may state their concerns or suggestions at the Call to the Public at monthly Board Meetings. On-line survey was posted on the district’s website. Notice to Parents was placed on menus welcoming parents to call the school to add input.
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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



or 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;
 - (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