

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



Entity ID	CTDS	LEA NAME	Readopted on
92976	07-84-11-000	Think Through Academy	August 30, 2023

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	<p>Think Through Academy District removed the mask mandate on July 31, 2021. Masks are available for individuals who want to wear them.</p> <p>If mandated by Maricopa County Department of Public Health (MCDPH) or Executive Order, TTA will require masks for students, staff, and visitors.</p> <p>The principal will continue monitoring national, state, and local government and health agency updates and will report to the Board</p> <p>The district will continue training students and staff in the proper wearing of masks when needed.</p> <p>The district will post signage outlining the proper wearing of masks.</p>
Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)	Y	<p>3 ft distancing</p> <p>Directional flow using opposite signs for non-interesting traffic.</p> <p>Small size of classrooms</p> <p>Added new space to allow for physical distancing.</p> <p>Lunch and Breakfast It will be plexiglass separators for students who needed it.</p>
Handwashing and respiratory etiquette	Y	<p>Signage is posted throughout the district as reminders of handwashing and respiratory etiquette.</p>

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		<p>Hand free soaps dispensers are available in each classroom, each office, the restrooms, and the cafeteria.</p> <p>Individual belonging stations are available for each student which include individual hands sanitizer and gloves.</p>
Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation	Y	<p>-Routine cleaning and disinfecting of all classrooms and hallways.</p> <p>-Minimizing the sharing of equipment.</p> <p>-Sanitize and clean bathrooms and hallways daily.</p> <p>-Improve central air filtration: air (HEPA) fan/filtration systems</p>
Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments	Y	<p>TTA will follow Maricopa County Public Health Guidance for isolation and quarantine in cases of COVID19 symptoms, positive tests, or close contact.</p> <p>Students with symptoms will be separated from staff and students in a designated area.</p> <p>Students in contact with any positive contacts will be notified and will be given instruction based on state and/ or local health department.</p> <p>Students staff, or visitors with the following symptoms: fever > 100.4, chills, muscle or body aches, headache, sore throat, congestion, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, or new loss of taste or smell: should be tested for Covid -19.</p> <p>If tested positive: Will return to District 10 days since symptoms first appeared and there is an improvement in symptoms. TTA will collaboration with CDC.</p> <p>Think Through Academy will work collaboratively with AZ health department in regard to quarantine and isolation decisions.</p> <p>Students will be allowed to access missed assignments electronically or pickup/ delivery paper-work assignments.</p>

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Diagnostic and screening testing	Y	<p>Think Through Academy District does not conduct COVID-19 diagnostic or screening tests.</p> <p>Students and staff are monitored for symptoms.</p> <p>Students staff, or visitors with the following symptoms: fever > 100.4, chills, muscle or body aches, headache, sore throat, congestion, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, or new loss of taste or smell: should be tested for Covid -19</p>
Efforts to provide vaccinations to District communities	Y	Think Through Academy will not force vaccination.
Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies	Y	Think Through Academy will properly accommodate students with disabilities based on each student's needs.
Coordination with State and local health officials	Y	Think Through Academy will continue contacting and collaborating with State and local health officials.

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?

TTA used ESSER fund monies to support with the decrease of enrollment count, hire extra staff to provide small group and one on one instruction, provide academic counselor.

Students' Needs:

Academic Needs	<p>Think Through Academy District provided students with extra time (Summer) to assist them with academic recovery and make up classes.</p> <p>TTA decided to provide in-person instruction during the district year 2021-2022/ 2022-2023/2023-2024.</p> <p>TTA reverted to the daily schedule used before Covid 19. Additional instructional personnel have been added to support students in their courses.</p> <p>TTA will used more than 20% of ESSER 3 to address learning loss.</p>
Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs	<p>TTA will continue providing students, staff, and parents with support on social, emotional, and mental health.</p> <p>Used ESSER Grant to add Gym to allow for physical activities.</p>

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Other Needs (which may include student health and food services)	TTA will continue providing Free meal to all its students during the district year.
Staff Needs:	
Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs	TTA will continue providing staff with support on social, emotional, and mental health.
Other Needs	TTA adopted a policy that allow employee use their sick leave and personal leave in advance if needed.

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, 2024**

Date of Revision: August 30, 2023

Public Input

Describe the process used to seek public input, and how that input was taken into account in the revision of the plan:	TTA will open this plan for public input. The input will be taken into consideration in the revision of the plan twice a year.
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helpful resources

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) COVID-19 School Operation Guidance:	Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools through Phased Prevention CDC
ESEA Evidence-Based Guidance:	https://oese.ed.gov/files/2020/07/guidanceusesinvestment.pdf

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

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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;
 - (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

Specifically, ARP ESSER funds may be used to develop strategies and implement public health protocols including, to the greatest extent practicable, policies in line with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on reopening and operating schools to effectively maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff, as well as:

coordinating preparedness and response efforts with State, local, Tribal, and territorial public health departments to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19; • training and professional development on sanitizing and minimizing the spread of infectious diseases; • purchasing supplies to sanitize and clean the LEA's facilities; • repairing and improving school facilities to reduce risk of virus transmission and exposure to environmental health hazards; • improving indoor air quality; • addressing the needs of children from low-income families, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and foster care youth; • developing and implementing procedures and systems to improve the preparedness and response efforts of LEAs; • planning for or implementing activities during long-term closures, including providing meals to eligible students and providing technology for online learning; • purchasing educational technology (including hardware, software, connectivity, assistive technology, and adaptive equipment) for students that aids in regular and substantive educational interaction between students and their classroom instructors, including students from low-income families and children with disabilities; • providing mental health services and supports, including through the implementation of evidencebased full-service community schools and the hiring of counselors; 3 • planning and implementing activities related to summer learning and supplemental after-school programs; • addressing learning loss; and • other activities that are necessary to maintain operation of and continuity of and services, including continuing to employ existing or hiring new LEA and school staff -

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An LEA that receives ARP ESSER funds must, within 30 days of receiving the funds, make publicly available on its website a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services. Before making the plan publicly available, the LEA must seek public comment on the plan.

An LEA must reserve not less than 20 percent of its total ARP ESSER allocation to address learning loss through the implementation of evidence-based interventions, such as summer learning or summer enrichment, extended day, comprehensive afterschool programs, or extended school year programs, and ensure that such interventions respond to students' academic, social, and emotional needs and address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on underrepresented student subgroups.

The remaining ARP ESSER funds may be used for the same allowable purposes as ESSER and ESSER II, including hiring new staff and avoiding layoffs.

addressing learning loss, preparing schools for reopening, and testing, repairing, and upgrading projects to improve air quality in school buildings)

An LEA must reserve not less than 20 percent of its total ARP ESSER allocation to address learning loss through the implementation of evidence-based interventions, such as summer learning or summer enrichment, extended day, comprehensive afterschool programs, or extended school year programs, and ensure that such interventions respond to students' academic, social, and emotional needs and address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on underrepresented student subgroups.

The remaining ARP ESSER funds may be used for the same allowable purposes as ESSER and ESSER II, including hiring new staff and avoiding layoffs. Note that section 2001(e) specifically authorizes an

LEA to use ARP ESSER funds to develop strategies and implement public health protocols including, to the greatest extent practicable, policies in line with guidance from the CDC for the reopening and operation of school facilities to effectively maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff. An LEA may also 6 Topic ESSER Fund (CARES Act) ESSER II Fund (CRRSA Act) ARP ESSER (ARP Act) use its ESSER and ESSER II funds for this purpose, although it is not expressly listed in the CARES or CRRSA Act.