

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



| Entity ID | CTDS | LEA NAME |
|-----------|-----------|---------------------|
| 6235 | 078907000 | PLC Charter 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)

| CDC Safety Recommendations | Has the LEA Adopted a Policy? (Y/N) | Describe LEA Policy: |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| Universal and correct wearing of masks | Y | We removed our mask mandate on March 28th, 2022. Masks continue to be optional to wear for students and staff. |
| Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding) | Y | PLC Charter Schools has emphasized the importance of socially distancing when and where possible on campus. Floors have been marked in primary and early elementary classrooms to help support social distancing, as well as areas outside the cafeteria. |
| Handwashing and respiratory etiquette | Y | PLC Charter Schools have posted proper handwashing etiquette on signs by sinks in the staff and student bathrooms and washing areas. |
| Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation | Y | PLC Charter Schools has had maintenance crews cleaning classrooms nightly and over the weekends to maintain cleanliness in high-traffic areas and high-touch surfaces. Air filters are checked and changed regularly in all buildings. All AC units have been updated and upgraded within the last 4 years. Classroom "fogging" can be done upon request or upon finding any outbreaks. |
| Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments | Y | PLC Charter Schools communicates with parents to confirm positive tests among students, tracking last day on campus, date of positive test, and any other close contacts outside of the student's homeroom. PLC Charter Schools has reported our positive student cases to Maricopa County Dept of Public Health. Letters are sent out to parents and staff designated as close contacts when a positive case is confirmed. |
| Diagnostic and screening testing | Y | PLC Charter Schools housed testing facilities on our campus via Maricopa County Public Health (third party- WellHealth). PLC Charter Schools has also provided immediate testing for staff who are feeling symptoms. |
| Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities | Y | PLC Charter Schools housed vaccination events through December via the Maricopa County of Public Health (third party- U of A Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health). |
| Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies | Y | PLC Charter Schools has made sure to accommodate students with disabilities to minimize contact with others and can safely |

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| | | distance themselves while in their classrooms. Contractors coming on campus to provide services have also been required to follow our mask policy. |
| Coordination with State and local health officials | Y | PLC Charter Schools is in regular contact with Maricopa County Public Health to report cases and close contacts, receive communication to give to all stakeholders, and to assist in any services available that may help our community. |

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?

PLC Charter Schools continues to follow CDC guidelines in regards to our campus safety measures. Should any changes be considered, the same protocols will be followed- 1.) Discussion amongst corporate/district members to gather possible alternatives, 2.) Discussion amongst staff to gather input and feedback concerning any changes, 3.) Communication with parents to alert stakeholders of possible changes. All decisions are made with the idea of incurring the least restrictive environment on students and staff.

Students' Needs:

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| Academic Needs | PLC Charter Schools continues to support our students' academic needs through all avenues. Tier 2 and 3 Intervention services have continued non-stop through our academic year, after school and summer tutoring are being offered, as well as Kindergarten Enrichment Summer Program. We have also created two K-8th Interventionist positions for push-in services to all classrooms to assist with students needing extra support. Physical and online materials are available to all students and staff who wish to access the curriculum. |
| Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs | PLC Charter Schools has created a School Social Worker position to help assist students with their social, emotional, and mental health needs. After school clubs, activities, and sports have been slowly transitioned into opening up to give students access to extracurricular activities. Professional developments for staff to implement best practices for students have also been scheduled and attended. |
| Other Needs (which may include student health and food services) | PLC Charter Schools has a full-time health office to assist and support students' well-being. Food Services has provided free breakfast and lunch to all students; a new snack bar has been created to give middle school students other healthy options during lunch. Snacks are provided during testing days to keep students active and nourished. |

Staff Needs:

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| Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs | PLC Charter Schools ensures and promotes that all staff have access to the Employee Assistance Program for free counseling services and resources for them and their households. Leadership has been consistent in providing staff wellness and appreciation days to build the campus climate. |
| Other Needs | PLC Charter Schools ensures professional developments continue to be provided so teachers can gain insight into their craft and get the latest information and support via leaders on campus as well as outside vendors. |

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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 the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services **through September 30, 2023**

Date of Revision

July 28, 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:

PLC Charter Schools values the input of all stakeholders and stresses the importance of two-way communication to make the best informed decision for our students. Surveys have been sent via Google Forms to gain insight into the possibility of moving some instruction to the virtual platform. Similar surveys have addressed uniforms, daily schedules, and the construction of future school calendars. Town halls have been held virtually for stakeholders to participate in and take part in discussion and information gatherings.

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 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