

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



Entity ID	CTDS	LEA NAME
79074	078513000	Country Gardens 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	yes	Wear masks when indoors and close proximity to other persons, as allowed by AZ state law. Reminders are given to staff and students to wear masks that cover their mouth and nose. All students and bus drivers MUST wear a mask on all school buses.
Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)	yes	Keep classes together including seating at lunch. Reminders are provided on mitigation strategies to help prevent COVID-19 in on-going staff and parent emails and communications.
Handwashing and respiratory etiquette	yes	All sink areas have signs posted with appropriate 20 seconds handwashing techniques with pictures. We taught students a singing jingle that takes 20 full seconds to complete while using words to guide them through the proper handwashing techniques. Social distancing was put in place and enforced. Hand sanitizer is available in all classrooms and areas throughout the campus for students and staff.
Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation	yes	Installed all new AC units with halo UV air scrubbers, which improved filtration and ventilation. Installed touchless drinking fountain water bottle fill stations, with filtered water and are touch-free. All classrooms, campus areas and contact areas are cleaned thoroughly every evening and contact surfaces are cleaned throughout the day. Hand sanitizer stations were installed throughout the campus, as well as social distancing pathways. Indoor eating areas were closed and all eating was moved to outdoor seating. Outdoor seating was marked for appropriate seating with distancing and classes sit with their own group/cohort. Campus and transportation staff are given sanitizer and cleaning supplies for cleaning throughout the day. Seating on buses was assigned with appropriate distancing. Carpet sanitizing techniques are utilized daily after hours. Classroom seating was assigned when feasible, to facilitate social distancing.
Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the	yes	Continual contact tracing, and quarantining of persons with or suspected of Covid19, as per the

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State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments		CDC, all local and state agencies and Maricopa County Health Dept. guidelines. Reporting notifications are emailed to families and staff when a COVID-19 case is reported. Isolation guidance and Quarantine guidance documents from Maricopa County Health Dept. are also provided to staff and families for positive COVID-19 cases on campus. We offer guidance for both close contacts and if a student or staff is positive with COVID-19.
Diagnostic and screening testing	yes	Require staff to get tested if possibly sick or near a contagious person. Binax Tests are ordered from Maricopa County Health Dept. and are available for staff and students.
Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities	yes	We have constantly provided our school community with sites where vaccinations are being given.
Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies	yes	All accommodations per their IEPs are in place. If requested, this plan will be provided in an alternative format accessible to the parent.
Coordination with State and local health officials	yes	Our School Administrator takes the weekly webinars on COVID-19 from MDHD and updates are sent to the school Superintendent. This Administrator is in constant contact with Maricopa County Health Dept and other state officials getting advice when needed. She creates and sends out all appropriate letters to families of students needing to quarantine as well as all staff members.

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?

Students' Needs:

Academic Needs	We are providing all in-person learning. When students must be quarantined or are out sick, we provide them with make up work to complete at home. We have created new Outdoor Learning Labs to reduce inside exposure, plus gave teachers training in how to teach lessons outside when weather permits.
Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs	We have created the Outdoor Learning Labs, and new outdoor Specials, as well as outdoor activities that can be carried out safely and provide mental breaks for students, while integrating academics. We have counselors to provide extra special animal therapy with our Barnyard Program as well as Art therapy, gardening, etc. for students who need extra emotional support. We increased learning games in our classroom learning centers to increase social interaction and enjoyment of academic skills in a fun learning environment (Of Course with safe distancing.). Time is available daily for staff to teach Social and Emotional Learning.

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	We also installed a new, larger outdoor playground so when students came back to school, they would have a larger more expansive outdoor play area. This included lots of shade trees throughout the playground and other areas of the school. Research has shown the positive emotional benefits of being in and around trees, which then translates into boosted productivity when people feel better.
Other Needs (which may include student health and food services)	We provide needed uniforms, school supplies and food when needed to families. This plan will be orally translated as needed for any family who requests this in their home language. Teacher and Staff trainings are taken periodically on all Health and Safety Precautions necessary to maintain as safe and healthy an environment as possible.
Staff Needs:	
Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs	We held two Teacher Retreats in the White Mountains just before school started this year. These was designed to help teachers be prepared for teaching more activities outdoors and integration of all subjects with these activities. It was also designed to help teachers bond, get to know each other, and enjoy a much needed mental break from the first year of COVID ending May 2020. It rejuvenated everyone, and set everyone up for a positive year ahead. (All expenses were paid for by the school, including the log cabins, kayaking and meals, etc.) All staff were placed into teams to earn points for all sorts of items throughout the year. Teams winning at the end of the year are rewarded monetarily. This boosts morale and keeps groups working together to help each other throughout the year. Trainings on outdoor learning and SEL integration techniques are implemented, as well.
Other Needs	All PPE supplies and masks, etc. were provided to students and staff on a regular basis as needed as well as access to Binax home tests for COVID19.

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	
Public Input	
Describe the process used to seek public input, and how that input was taken into account in the revision of the plan:	We are listening to our Parents/Guardians ideas and concerns and considering all their requests. Staff and administration are also consulted to create the best outcome for our students, their families and our staff. Governing School Board Meeting Agendas are posted on our website as well as in the front lobby. These Agendas contain any and all pertinent items that pertain to our Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan(ARP Act).

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