

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



Entity ID	CTDS	LEA NAME
4284	070501000	Buckeye Union High School District (BUHSD)

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, and visitors to the district schools have the option of choosing to wear a mask for additional personal safety. This policy applies to classrooms, hallways, lunchrooms, buses, sporting events and all other sectors of the high schools and district office. This policy will remain in place unless modified through BUHSD School Board policy due to a change in pandemic conditions.
Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)	Y	<p>Students will be separated in the classrooms as much as space allows. All space will be reviewed for removal of nonessential furniture so that areas can be maximized.</p> <p>All school locations will continue two lunch periods this coming school year. Passing times for student lunches are staggered so that students from the initial lunch period are settled in their next class prior to releasing students for the second lunch period. The available space for student dining has been increased to allow for student distancing for those who desire it (including indoor and outdoor dining options). The Food distribution is available through multiple distribution points to assist in disbursing student numbers during lunch.</p> <p>Students will be limited to no more than two students per seat on the bus while being transported to and from school.</p> <p>All school sites require that visitors check in at the Front Office and be checked through a security system. We recognize that having guest speakers and others servicing are students is important. The schools wish to maintain as much contact as possible with parents/family members/guardians of attending students. Staff will continue to take advantage of digital modes</p>

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		of communication where feasible and effective (phone calls, team meetings etc.).
Handwashing and respiratory etiquette	Y	All restrooms will have signage to remind students about the benefits of frequent handwashing and the proper steps to maximize disease prevention. Hand sanitizer dispensers are installed throughout school campuses, along hallways and through mobile units which are placed in high density areas (such as the lunchroom). Students who may not be able to thoroughly wash or sanitize their own hands will be provided needed assistance by instructional staff. Custodial staff will ensure that each school location is provided with adequate supplies such as soap, towels, hand sanitizer and numerous trash receptacles.
Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation	Y	<p>Custodial staff will be maintained to the extent possible this school year to provide support for more frequent cleaning and sanitation of school facilities. All custodial staff will implement an increased cleaning regimen throughout the day. Hand sanitizer is available throughout campus in wall mounted and portable units. Custodial staff will ensure that each school location is provided with adequate supplies such as soap, towels, hand sanitizer and numerous trash receptacles.</p> <p>Teachers will open classroom doors and greet students during passing periods to reduce the number of individuals needing to touch the door handles and to have brief one-to-one interactions with students. Teachers will be provided cleaning materials upon request.</p> <p>Some drinking fountains have water bottle filling stations to reduce the possibility of transmission. Water bottle filling station filters will be routinely changed (per industry standards) to support health and hydration of students and staff.</p> <p>Industry approved air filters are placed in all classrooms, offices, and large spaces at each school location and replaced frequently.</p> <p>The number of trashcans has been increased on both school campuses with increased cycles for removal of refuse by custodial staff. Trashcans were increased in targeted areas (such as student dining areas) to facilitate social distancing.</p>

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Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments	Y	<p>The Buckeye Union High School District will continue to follow the recommendations of the CDC and the Maricopa County Public Health Department. Additional information can be found at the following link:</p> <p>https://www.maricopa.gov/5302/Public-Health</p> <p>The health office staff and site administrators at all school locations will continue to follow-up with staff and students to gather information on case investigation and contract tracing and report to Maricopa County Public Health Department as needed.</p>
Diagnostic and screening testing	Y	The health office staff will continue to assess for illness and isolate students until they can return home from school.
Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities	Y	The district arranged for staff to receive the two-dose vaccine at the school site during the 20-21 school year.
Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies	Y	As coordinated by the Exceptional Student Services Director (in collaboration with parents/families) the district will prioritize in-person instruction for students with disabilities who require special education services be provided on site.
Coordination with State and local health officials	Y	The BUHSD Superintendent will maintain periodic contact with Maricopa County Public Health Department officials to remain informed on statewide COVID-19 indicators, the level of community transmission and pertinent measures to monitor the local community burden. The Superintendent will report information to the BUHSD School Board and facilitate discussion/decision making in response to the changing climate of the COVID-19 virus as needed.

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?

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BUHSD is fully open for in-person learning and activities. For in-person learning, besides the regular classroom instruction taking place, there are a number of opportunities being given for students to receive extra academic tutoring and credit recovery. The district's regular system of learning assessments including DFAs (district formative assessments) and BMAs (Benchmark Assessments) has fully resumed in all core subject areas, as well as many other framework-like areas. Before school and after school tutoring has resumed; some of it being done through Teams for students who don't have transportation home if they don't take the bus. Mental Health Counselors and Psychologists on each campus are working with individual and groups of students as they return to campus and all the stress that comes with being in high school. All student activities (including clubs, athletics, art performances, etc.) have returned to allow students areas to socialize together, work as teams, and develop talents they may have outside of the classroom. This is providing a much-needed return to normalcy for students. Food service continues to participate in the national school lunch program. For families who are choosing not to return to in-person learning, the district AOI is providing online instruction and coaches who reach out to provide emotional and academic support.

Students' Needs:

Academic Needs

The district has taken measures to ensure the **continuity** of services being provided to students during the upcoming school year providing parents with options for their students. The district will be continuing the opportunity for students to participate in our existing Arizona Online Instruction program (AOI) which is an asynchronous learning environment. This option allows flexibility and accommodates those students and families who remain uncomfortable with a return to in-person learning.

With the renewal of the override, the district has hired additional staff to cover the student enrollment growth experienced over the past two school years to ensure that there is an adequate staff to student ratio to maintain educational quality and effectiveness. Hiring and Retention one-time stipends for employees who completed Covid mitigation training were given in the fall of 2021 to assist in hiring and retaining quality employees. The district also increased the daily pay for substitutes teachers in support of adequate staffing during teacher absences. As part of the contracts teachers and staff sign for SY 2022-23, Continuation of Educational Operations stipends were included as a retention incentive.

The district will continue to assign each student with a full functioning laptop for use in their educational activities. Students will be able to continue to engage in educational services regardless of whether they are currently in-person or learning online (AOI). For those students who do not have access to the Internet, the district will supply hotspots so that students can maintain regular and consistent contact with district educational services. The district will ensure that students continue to have access to the appropriate district online platform regardless of whether they are in-person or learning online (AOI). All teachers will continue to keep courses in the Microsoft Teams platform for access by students.

The district will continue expanded tutoring opportunities for both in-person and online learning program (AOI) as a part of a multi-tiered intervention strategy supported through supplemental federal funding. Tutoring is also be available before school and after school for students needing assistance. The district will continue to offer

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	<p>the opportunity for credit recovery and will offer a credit recovery summer school session. Students needing assistance to increase reading skills will have continued access to the Houghton-Mifflin Harcourt program (which includes Read 180 and System 44) and the support of reading intervention teachers at all school sites.</p> <p>The district will strive to actively engage parents and families in the learning of their child(ren). Many parents have become accustomed to engaging in “virtual” meetings and have indicated they enjoy the ease and convenience of this method of communication. The district will continue to offer both “virtual” and in-person meetings as an option for providing parent-teacher conferences, educational updates, and engaging families in meaningful, two-way communication regarding educational services.</p>
Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs	<p>The district has a mental health counselor at each campus who services students who have identified needs through an individualized education plan (IEP). The counselor also intervenes with students in crisis. When needed outside crisis team are also called to assist families in obtaining more intensive therapy or treatment for their student.</p> <p>Social-emotional learning strategies and supports are imbedded in classroom activities. Instructional staff will be receiving periodic professional development this year to build on/expand their skills in social-emotional learning to better meet student needs.</p>
Other Needs (which may include student health and food services)	The district will be exploring additional needs as we come out of the pandemic to meet the needs of both staff and students.
Staff Needs:	
Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs	<p>District staff will continue to have access to mental health services through the Employee Benefits Program. The mental health counselor at each school site is also available to assist staff as needed.</p> <p>Staff qualifying for health care benefits may also access wellness resources which focus on promoting a healthier and happier whole person. Wellness programs support mental and physical health and include a variety of resources such as health care management, exercise programs, health fairs, screening events and virtual telehealth services.</p>
Other Needs	N/A

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 8/14/2023

Public Input

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Describe the process used to seek public input, and how that input was taken into account in the revision of the plan:

The preliminary plan went to the governing board for approval in July 2021. The preliminary plan was then posted on the district website with a survey to provide opportunity for feedback from all stake holders. An email was sent to all parents inviting them to view the plan and provide feedback. The revised plan, based on feedback received, went to the Governing Board in August of 2021 for final approval. The plan is being revised every six months as required. The first revision was in December of 2021 to more fully describe services being provided. The second revision was in May of 2022 to indicate changes being implemented for SY 2022-23. The third revision was in November of 2022 to indicate continued changes as the district seeks a return to normalcy for students and staff. The fourth revision approved by the Governing Board in April 2023 included no revisions. The fifth revision was done in August 2023.

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