

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



Entity ID	CTDS	LEA NAME
4457	120201000	Nogales Unified School District @1

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	Governing Board has masking policy, following CDC guidelines, that has been confirmed at Governing Board meetings and included in written plan. School board adopted regulations concerning wearing of masks on 8-24-20 Regulation GBFB-R Staff Personal Security and Safety. Board voted to accept the superintendent's executive order to make mask wearing mandatory for everyone on campus and on school buses.
Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)	y	As part of District procedures and included in the Safe Return to Instruction Plan, use of physical distancing in classroom and common areas was articulated. Protocols approved by school board on 8/24 on facility maintenance and safety preparation of school buildings, cleaning, disinfecting and safety measures taken in preparation of when/if NUSD transitions to in-person instruction/hybrid model in September. Board agreed to follow all CDC regulations and protocols.
Handwashing and respiratory etiquette	Y	
Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation	Y	
Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments	Y	
Diagnostic and screening testing	Y	
Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities	Y	
Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies	Y	
Coordination with State and local health officials	Y	

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



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?

The District will utilize an Instructional Time Model (ITM) to assist in ensuring continuity of services that employs remote learning during isolation and quarantine. To this end, the District provides laptop and MiFi devices to all students that require them during isolation/quarantine.

### Students' Needs:

Academic Needs	Academic needs will be addressed through improved instructional materials, extended learning opportunities, and during school interventions.
Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs	Social, emotional and mental needs are met through activities incorporated into instruction and services, which are provided for students and their families as part of the written plan. Through ESSER III funding, each site now has a Mental-Social Emotional Coordinator who works with community and social agencies that are providing SEL activities for staff and students, and who is working with teachers to incorporate SEL lessons into their curriculums. An additional psychologist was hired to work with all sites.
Other Needs (which may include student health and food services)	Other student needs are being met through the Community Eligibility Plan and Food Service to ensure all students are being fed. Additionally, there are liaisons at each site to identify and address needs related to clothing, educational materials, etc. The District set up more than 20 locations at which breakfast/lunch meals were provided during remote learning and during breaks such as fall break and spring break. Once students become age-eligible, vaccines provided on campus or at community events. School buses and drivers delivered meals to distribution sites.

### Staff Needs:

Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs	
Other Needs	

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** 4-17-23

### 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 NUSD admin team sent out surveys to all administrators faculty/staff, and parents seeking their input on wearing of masks and possible learning models to include remote, hybrid, or return to full in person instruction in May 2020. The responses supported mask wearing by more than 95% and favoring remote learning until the infection rate dropped. When a return to an in person instruction was possible, over 90 percent favored following the hybrid method of having half the students attend two days a week and the half two days a week in person with remote learning on the other days. All students would have remote learning on Wednesdays when schools would be closed to any in person instruction to allow for a deep cleaning of all facilities. For FY20, only self-contained SPED students had in-person learning until such as time as Santa Cruz County had the highest infection rate in the state and those students returned to only remote learning.
--	---



In June 2020, NUSD established a Return to School committee consisting of 67 members to include all District and Site administrators and directors, teachers/staff from each school site, parents/guardians from each school site, students, community members to include the Santa Cruz County Health Director, and medical personnel from Mariposa Community Health Center. The CDC guidelines were shared with all administrators, staff, and parents through emails and through the District Messenger system, and through public presentation during Governing Board meeting (with YouTube streaming and on local television station) with information on website and newspaper article to solicit comments. The first zoomed meeting with the Return to School Committee was held virtually through zoom on July 8, 2020 with the following agenda: Update by Medical and Health Officials, Discussion of Models for learning, including remote, hybrid and in person. Minutes of that meeting:

Reopening of Schools Committee Meeting Minutes  
July 8, 2020 via ZOOM

NUSD Supt. Fernando Parra called the meeting to order shortly after 9 a.m. Sixty-nine individuals included NUSD site and district administrators, teachers, classified staff, medical personnel, community members, support personnel, and two students participated. Below is a synopsis of the main points covered in the meeting:

1. Mr. Parra welcomed the committee and presented a reminder regarding the Governor's Executive Order that in-person school is delayed until August 17 statewide. NUSD will start online school on the official calendar date of August 5- only online instruction. Superintendent Parra highlighted several factors as to why we are recommending for online school to start on August 5. He said NUSD will communicate to our school communities the start of online school on August 5 as well as sending an updated parent survey asking for feedback and input on the hybrid model or in-person instruction to be able to be implemented starting August 17 or at a later time and transition in the fall.

1. Dr. Eladio Pereira reviewed some of the data from Arizona Department of Health regarding the number of infections, noting that Santa Cruz County is extremely high and that there is currently community spread. He also clarified that there are three types of testing ongoing, and that the antibody test reveals if there are virus antibodies present.

The PCR test can determine if a person is currently infected but can have a high number of tests coming back negative given that when the test is administered can affect the results. He explained that there are four levels of risks, and the lower the risks, the more it can be mitigated. However, he added, there will be some degree of risk since the virus has not gone away. The highest level of risks is community spread, which as he had said previously, is where our community is currently.

2. Dr. J. Phillip Williams said that the pediatrics organization strongly recommends having students be physically present due to the socialization and mental health considerations. He said there must be protocols in place if a student or staff member does have the infection as well as policies in place for keeping students and staff as safe as possible.



3. The committee was presented with a survey containing six questions that generated immediate results once submitted. The results of this survey will be combined with similar surveys sent out to other parents and teachers to provide guidance on providing a hybrid learning approach of combining on-campus and distance learning.

4. Mr. Parra will convene another community meeting in the near future to review any new guidance from the State or changes in mandates as well as decisions on how to initially set up the hybrid model if indeed on-campus schooling starts Aug. 17 or later. He said that the District must remain flexible and have various plans in place.

Following the first Return to School committee meeting, updates on infection rates, changes in CDC guidance, and a second survey result were shared with the Return to School committee through emails and zoom meetings. The NUSD Reopening of Schools Plan shared with the NUSD Community with a foreword by NUSD Supt. Fernando Parra stating the NUSD Reopening of Schools plan was created with information from Centers for Disease Control, practicing medical physicians who are on the frontline fighting Covid 19, as well as officials from the Sana Cruz County Health Services Department.

**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.

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



- (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