

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



Entity ID	CTDS	LEA NAME
79701	078945000	NORTH STAR CHARTER SCHOOL, INC.

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	Strongly encouraged but not mandatory.
Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)	Y	Use of plexiglass and other mitigation practices.
Handwashing and respiratory etiquette	Y	Use of soap and water for 20 seconds at prescribed times. Following CDC guidelines for respiratory etiquette.
Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation	Y	Daily cleaning and disinfecting. Restrooms sanitized after each use. Air quality system was installed.
Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments	Y	Coordinate with the Maricopa County Health Department in the event of a positive test and coordinate as appropriate for contact tracing.
Diagnostic and screening testing	Y	Daily temperature checks of students. At the beginning of every shift, employees entering their workplaces shall acknowledge their temperature is at or below 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit.
Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities	N	
Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies	Y	IEP team will make individual determinations for the health and safety of students with disabilities.
Coordination with State and local health officials	Y	Coordinate with the Maricopa County Health Department in the event of a positive COVID-19 test result.

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?

North Star Charter School, Inc. will continue to provide social, emotional and unique needs for students regardless of the academic setting. In addition to In-Person and Hybrid models, we have a Remote Instruction model as well. Our Remote Instruction model is open to all of our students. Remote instruction is provided entirely online at home and includes interaction and support from teachers. Therefore, internet access is required. Technology devices from North Star Charter School, Inc. will be offered as needed and services will be provided (e.g., special education, gifted, English Language Learners). Special education services will be determined by the IEP team. North Star Charter School, Inc. has the ability to operate entirely through remote instruction if necessary. We have the ability to provide all of our students with a laptop computer and a mobile hot-spot if the student does not have internet access.

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Students' Needs:

Academic Needs	<p>Within all of the instructional delivery models, best practice is supported through professional learning, professional learning communities, and teacher evaluations. North Star Charter School, Inc. has supported effective learning models such as student equity and agency, formative assessment, constructive feedback, inquiry-based instruction, collaborative learning, multi-tier systems of support, and data driven decision-making.</p> <p>It is the expectation of all instructional leaders to provide quality and appropriate instruction to all learners including special populations: special needs, English Language Learners (ELL), culturally diverse learners, disadvantaged, and homeless learners.</p> <p>Delivery of instruction will follow the adopted school calendar, and support evaluation of student learning through Galileo K-12 assessments. Supporting and monitoring for the computer based instructional delivery will be the responsibility of each teacher for the content for which they are assigned.</p>
Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs	Address challenges to social emotional health of students caused by isolation and disruption due to COVID-19.
Other Needs (which may include student health and food services)	N/A

Staff Needs:

Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs	Address challenges to social emotional health of staff caused by isolation and disruption due to COVID-19.
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	AUGUST 2, 2022
Public Input	
Describe the process used to seek public input, and how that input was taken into account in the revision of the plan:	<p>Feedback from students and parents communicated to the faculty was evaluated when developing the plan. The plan is on the school website and feedback is always welcome.</p> <p>North Star Charter School, Inc. was able to take away some key pieces of information from the feedback including: enhanced access to digital learning offerings for all students; utilize a video conferencing application to allow for group/class interaction with students and educators; increase expectations for student attendance, engagement, consistent grading, and address learning loss from this past spring; provide additional training for staff on digital instructional strategies, and resources needed to support students' social emotional needs.</p>



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