

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



Entity ID	CTDS	LEA NAME
4359	078758000	Montessori Day Public School Chartered

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	MDPSC follows the most current CDC guidance and recommendations. Currently all school employees, students, parents and visitors are advised that wearing a mask when on campus is optional according to personal health considerations.
Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)	Y	MDPSC has very large classrooms plus outdoor classroom patios to accommodate distancing, with use of cohorts/podding, following current CDC guidelines.
Handwashing and respiratory etiquette	Y	Students and staff observe CDC guidelines for handwashing and respiratory etiquette.
Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation	Y	MDPSC has air purifiers in all classrooms and administrative spaces. All classrooms have direct outdoor access and – weather permitting – doors are kept open for air freshening. Staff follows CDC guidelines for cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities.
Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments	Y	MDPSC follows the Maricopa County/AZ Dept of Health Services and CDC guidelines on contact tracing, isolation and quarantine.
Diagnostic and screening testing	Y	All MDPSC classrooms conduct a student health check, per ADHS guidelines, as students enter their classroom. Students demonstrating any sign of ill health are taken to the school office for further checking and phoning parents/guardians for pick up if needed.
Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities	Y	MDPSC leadership actively provides vaccination information and strongly encourages vaccination for all eligible students, families and stakeholders to prevent spread of COVID and its variants.
Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies	Y	IEPs are updated as necessary to provide accommodations for our students with disabilities.
Coordination with State and local health officials	Y	Per contact tracing explanations (above), MDPSC is working with both state and local entities to ensure compliance with directives.

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

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and food services

How the LEA will Ensure Continuity of Services?

MDPSC Admin has built strong staff teamwork, including cross training and employment of classroom assistants, and developed a culture of cooperation and mutual support, such that staff members capably cover for each other in case of absences. Principals of our small communities have an open door policy with all stakeholders, to assure needs are heard and met appropriately and with ongoing communication. Additionally there is technology in place to allow for distance learning and/or dual distance/campus learning if/when mandated by the Governor's Office or higher authority.

Students' Needs:

Academic Needs	Instruction is individualized as part of core Montessori practice. All classrooms have an assigned Lead Teacher and Assistant Teacher to implement instruction. Campus Directors and the Superintendent are actively involved in classroom observations and staff and level planning meetings to best assure student needs are noted and addressed. As part of the LEA's Title I program, push-in/pullout is used to assist students in the bottom quartile of benchmark testing targeting needs in ELA and math.
Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs	Noted and addressed individually, as above, to include parent conferencing with staff to determine needs. MDPSC has contracts in place to provide for social, emotional and mental health issues on an as identified basis. Teachers and admin staff are actively engaged in ongoing observation of student and staff actions in order to identify areas where further inquiry or intervention may be deemed appropriate.
Other Needs (which may include student health and food services)	Individualized, as above. MDPSC has always worked as a community to ensure students' nutritional needs are met despite the fact it does not operate a NSLP program.

Staff Needs:

Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs	. Individualized; includes open door policy with Administration to discuss needs, plus insurance as part of staff benefits options.
Other Needs	Individualized, as above.

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 **08-31-2023**

Public Input

Describe the process used to seek public input, and how that input was taken into account in the revision of the plan:	Open door policy with all stakeholders; strong outreach by admin team, board members and staff to stay current with, share and implement resources and guidance in the ever-changing dynamics of the pandemic via meetings, email, text, zoom, other. Administration has always taken stakeholder input into account as a component used in setting school policy.
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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) Hand washing 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