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Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan Template

Updated: May 17, 2022

District: Fremont County School District #1

The Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief 3.0 (ESSER 3.0) Fund under the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2, enacted on March 11, 2021. ARP ESSER Funding provides a total of nearly \$122 billion to states and local educational agencies (LEAs) to help safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the nation's students. In addition to ARP ESSER Funding, ARP includes \$3 billion for special education, \$850 million for the Outlying Areas, \$2.75 billion to support non-public schools, and additional funding for homeless children and youth, Tribal educational agencies, Native Hawaiians, and Alaska Natives.

LEAs must develop and make publicly available a **Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan that meets the following requirements within 30 days of receiving ARP ESSER allocation**. If an LEA developed a plan before ARP was enacted that does not address the requirements, the LEA must revise its plan no later than six months after it last reviewed its plan. All plans must be developed with meaningful public consultation with stakeholder groups (i.e., families, students, teachers, principals, school and district administrators, school leaders, other educators, school staff, advocacy organizations representing student groups). The consultation process must include an opportunity for input and meaning consideration of that input. ARP ESSER plans need to be published in an understandable and uniform format; to the extent practicable, written in a language that parents can understand or, if not practicable, orally translated; and upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability, provided in an alternative format accessible to that parent.

Note: LEAs need to update the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan at least every six months through the life of the grant. Additionally, LEAs must seek public input on any of these revisions and must take that input into account. All revisions must include a rationale of why the revisions were made.

Please see the WDE's [District Plan Checklist](#) as an additional resource.

Part One: Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Plan:

1. Describe to the extent to which the LEA has adopted policies and a description of any such policies on each of the following health and safety strategies.

Mitigation Strategy	LEA Response
Universal and correct wearing of masks	Mask use to protect others continues to be recommended among individuals who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 and who return to school after 5 days of isolation and among individuals who have been exposed to COVID-19.
Physical distancing (e.g., including use of cohorts/podding)	Physical distancing of 6' is recommended for those who have tested positive and are not wearing a mask for the first five days of their return to school.
Handwashing and respiratory etiquette	Students are reminded to wash their hands and sanitizer is available in classrooms as well as in common areas.
Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation	The district hired additional custodial staff to sanitize high-traffic areas often throughout the day. Each classroom high-touch areas are sanitized multiple times during the day. The district has contracted with a company to provide full building sanitization quarterly. In addition, the district installed ionization equipment in all buildings, is installing new HVAC controls at Lander Valley HS, and installing new HVAC system and controls at Pathfinder HS.
Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine	Isolation and quarantine are still recommended for all individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status. Individuals should remain home from school until they meet all of the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The individual has not had a fever (without the use of fever-reducing medication) for at least 24 hours; ● Other symptoms are improving; ● It has been at least 5 days since symptoms first started or since the positive test was collected.
Diagnostic and screening testing	The district has COVID-19 testing available for staff and their family.
Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible	The district held a vaccination clinic in the spring of 2021 as well as a clinic for booster shots in Fall 2021.

Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies.	The district provides homebound services for those students who are medically unable to attend in-person school.
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2. Describe how the LEA will ensure continuity of services including but not limited to services to address the students' academic needs, and students' and staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services.

Lander Valley High School is bringing in Challenge Days, this is a normal event but has not happened the past couple years due to COVID, and is an important piece of our larger SEL package. We are also giving staff WELLNESS WEO's to allow staff to take care of themselves. When students are quarantined we have a process in place that our team takes care of the individual needs of the student and ensures that they have what they need to continue learning during their quarantine period.

Pathfinder High School students have referral days at the end of each semester to complete missing work; lunch and after school tutoring for students who have ILPs; No ILP Celebration days that allows students to work with teachers if they have ILPs and the others attend a field trip to a local place;

Other methods that schools are using to connect with students who are quarantined or isolated include HyperDoc with links to live sessions, online programs, audiobooks, and lessons/materials within Google Classroom; Chromebooks and Hotspots provided to students without access to the resources at home; and home delivery of materials to students.

SEL check ins are completed by teachers and school counselors. The district is a partner with a local mental health provider through a SAMHSA grant that provides students and families mental and emotional health support. Title IV funds are being used for a 6-12 Therapeutic Counselor who helps address SEL needs. Elementary schools have mindfulness practice for staff and students incorporated throughout the day. The 7 Mindsets SEL approach addresses both adult and student social-emotional health and is incorporated at Pathfinder HS and Lander Middle School.

3. The State requires a description of the process by which the LEA will collaborate with local health officials to monitor student health metrics throughout the school year. Provide that description below.

District nurses monitor district data and are in contact with state and local health officials as necessary throughout the school year.

Part Two: Consultation with Stakeholders

1. Describe how the LEA will, in planning for the use of ARP ESSER funds, engaged in meaningful consultation with stakeholders, including, but not limited to:

- students;
- families;
- school and district administrators (including special education administrators);
- teachers, principals, school leaders, other educators, school staff, and their unions;
- tribes;

- civil rights organizations (including disability rights organizations); and
- stakeholders representing the interests of children with disabilities, English learners, children experiencing homelessness, children and youth in foster care, migratory students, children who are incarcerated, and other underserved students.

The district conducted surveys of staff and administrators on the effective use of ARP ESSER funds. Continued plans are to have more informational gatherings including student and parent input meetings to seek input. These include K-5 parent engagement night; Parents-in-Education meetings, Title I Parent Information night, and Parent-Teacher nights.

2. Provide an overview of how the public stakeholder input was considered in the development of the LEA's Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan?

Public stakeholder input was and is considered in not only the development of the plan, but in the expenditure of funds.

To facilitate transparency, the department will post the link to each school district's plan on its website. It will be the responsibility of the district to ensure its link remains valid.