

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



| Entity ID | CTDS | LEA NAME |
|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|
| 79499 | 088759000 | Masada Charter School |

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 | Masada works closely with AZDHS to issue a mask mandate when necessary. We are supportive of any parent /child who wishes to wear a mask in school. |
| Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding) | y | Masada is adding additional space by way of increasing building capacity to give support for social distancing. |
| Handwashing and respiratory etiquette | y | Masada provides sinks in every classroom to support student handwashing and teachers actively teach correct and frequent handwashing. Signage is posted. |
| Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation | y | Additional cleaning and sanitizing procedures have been added during the school day as well as to the regular cleaning schedule. |
| Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments | y | Masada supports students who have been quarantined due to local outbreaks by sending instruction/technology equipment home to students and accommodating prolonged illness through supportive grading/attendance policies. |
| Diagnostic and screening testing | y | Masada provides supportive time off and attendance measures for students/staff who need to be tested for COVID 19. |
| Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities | y | Masada works in collaboration with the local health clinic to advertise vaccination clinics and support student/teacher absences for vaccination purposes. |
| Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies | y | Masada meets the IDEA laws in regards to disabilities and has a facility safety team that works to ensure a safe facility and to create and practice crisis plans. |
| Coordination with State and local health officials | y | Masada works closely with the local representative of Mohave County Health department in regards to policies and practices. |

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?

By providing in-person opportunities for all students and by providing high quality interventions for learning loss and necessary absences due to illness. When in closure due to significant local spread, Masada provides a distance learning opportunity for all students.

Students' Needs:

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| Academic Needs | The very best academic support is provided by in-person teachers in a classroom setting. Through high quality prevention measures, Masada has been able to offer students in-person learning and after school/summer school interventions to help prevent learning loss and build learning where loss has occurred. |
| Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs | To support the increase of anxiety and mental health issues caused by the pandemic and other social/societal strains, Masada employs 2 full time counselors and 1 full time behavior coach to provide social/emotional supports for students. |
| Other Needs (which may include student health and food services) | Masada is currently hiring a full time school nurse position. Masada does not provide lunch or other food services. |
| Staff Needs: | |
| Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs | Administration has removed the pressure of accomplishing curriculum as a priority and emphasized with teachers and staff to ensure the mental health and well-being of themselves and their students during this pandemic. |
| Other Needs | Masada has actively encouraged all teachers/staff to receive a vaccination from the local health clinic and provides time off if needed. |

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 February 29, 2024**

Date of Revision August 15, 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: | Masada held 2 public hearings and 1 annual parent night where we sought public input for our policies. We also received input through survey. |
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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) 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