

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



Entity ID	CTDS	LEA NAME
80923	07-08-02-000	Western Maricopa Education Center #402, West-MEC

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	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> West-MEC Governing Board did not mandate wearing of a mask for employees or students. West-MEC is following state law and each individual employee and student has the option to wear a mask for their own personal safety. Signage is still provided on all campuses and District Office that wearing a mask is optional and how they can choose to social distance. West-MEC still provides masks for students and staff if they choose to wear them. Masks are available for visitors on our campuses if they choose to wear one.
Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social distancing guidelines were provided to all Campus Administrators and all other employees, this still is an option for classroom set up. Sharing supplies amongst students, such as pens, pencils, notepads, etc., is discouraged and congregating in the common break areas is still discouraged. Students will remain with same student groupings and the same staff throughout the day. Seating will be faced in the same direction, and will only sit on one side of the tables. Instructors use an assigned seating chart. West-MEC does not provided transportation to and from the student's home schools. Students are encouraged to bring their own reusable water bottles to reduce the possibility of transmission. Water bottle filling station filters are routinely changed per industry standard guidelines.

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Handwashing and respiratory etiquette	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequent handwashing was encouraged. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use soap, scrub for 20 seconds, and use warm water if possible. • Signage and education on handwashing, hand sanitizing, and proper respiratory etiquette was covered. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Avoid touching the eyes, nose, and mouth. - Cover the mouth when coughing. - Cover the nose when sneezing. • Each classroom has hand sanitizer and tissues for students.
Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilities and classrooms are cleaned and disinfected daily, and frequently touched surface areas, such as door handles, sink handles, vending machines, and drinking fountains are cleaned routinely. • The lab equipment and any other shared equipment is cleaned between usages of groups of students. • Facility staff will increase the cleaning of surfaces and bathrooms throughout the day. • West-MEC uses contracted custodial services, and they were requested as part of their cleaning to sanitize all high touched areas on the campuses. They were also asked to follow CDC Guidelines regarding products used while disinfecting. • Preventive maintenance is done for all HVAC units, especially cleaning filters more frequently. • HVAC units were adjusted to increase the amount of fresh air that was brought into classrooms and lab areas. • Disinfectant sprayers were purchased for each campus. • Staff are provided with a bottle of disinfectant and gloves for daily cleaning. • Some campuses purchased protective barriers for the front office.
Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West-MEC has followed the Maricopa County Department of Public Health and Arizona Department of Health Services protocols, as well as CDC protocols for reporting cases which has been followed in regards to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reporting Positive Cases

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contract tracing - Isolation Enforcement - Notification to family and staff. - Quarantining of those who have been in close contact, or have tested positive on a campus or at home. • West-MEC has also participated in the weekly COVID-19 Webinars, provided by the Maricopa County Department of Public Health. • West-MEC protocol encourage students and staff to stay home if ill, or exhibiting symptoms of respiratory infections. • Campus Administrator were required to report all positive cases, as well as students who have been exposed to the District Office. The District Office then in return reported the positive cases to the Maricopa County Department of Public Health.
Diagnostic and screening testing	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West-MEC provides school campuses with rapid COVID-19 tests. • Campuses were required to keep records of all students or staff results that were provided a Rapid COVID-19 test.
Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West-MEC has not provided vaccination for students or staff or community on any of their campuses.
Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exceptional Student Services Staff coordinate with campus counselors and teachers to ensure that the needs of English language learners and students with IEPs and 504s are receiving the services required by law. They are being treated with respect to health and safety policies.
Coordination with State and local health officials	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West-MEC staff has listened to weekly updates from MCDPH Officials. These updates are sent to all staff weekly, so they are aware of any changes concerning COVID-19 issues. • West-MEC has also called on a few occasions to get clarification on guidelines to coordinate COVID-19 Protocols. • Superintendent also communicated frequently with employees and parents of West-MEC students. • West-MEC's commitment to health and education wellbeing of our students and

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		<p>staff is located on the District's website for staff, parents, and community to access.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> West-MEC update all of their COVID-19 protocols for the 2022-2023 school year. These guidelines and frequently asked question is on the West-MEC website.
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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?

West-MEC provided continuity of services by providing tradition in person learning five days a week.

Students' Needs:

Academic Needs	Student's academic needs are reviewed weekly by building administrators and instructors. Students needing interventions or additional tutoring are given opportunities to make up assignments on an ongoing basis. Parents have an opportunity to monitor their students' academic progress, through School Master and FOCUS, which is accessible on our Family Link Portal.
Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs	Exceptional Student Services Staff coordinate with campus counselors and teachers to ensure that the needs of English language learners and students with IEPs and 504s are receiving the services required by law and are being met with respect to health and safety policies. We have hired two additional staff members for the 2022-2023 school year, who are serving students social, emotional and mental health needs.
Other Needs (which may include student health and food services)	West-MEC does not have school nurses or offer food services to students.

Staff Needs:

Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs	Exceptional Student Services Staff are available to visit with any social, emotional issues that staff may have. We also have counselors on each of our campuses that can support employee issues, as well as an employee assistance program, EAP, that provides free counseling and other services to staff. We have a weekly wellness update that is sent out to all employees with tips and suggestions on how to improve your personal well-being.
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	10-31-2022
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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 2022 Return to West-MEC Plan was communicated to parents through the Superintendents message that is currently located on our District's website. The District board has a commitment to the health and educational well-being of our students and staff. The Superintendents task force on opening of the campuses consisted of representatives from all stakeholder groups. West-MEC also has a monthly Board Meeting where
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parents and community have an opportunity in the call to the public to share any concerns that they might have.

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