

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



Entity ID	CTDS	LEA NAME
1002080	118645000	Heritage Academy Maricopa, 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	Heritage Academy Schools encourages face masks for all students, staff, and visitors when while indoors on our campuses and other school sanctioned events and activities.
Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)	Y	Heritage Academy Schools encourages staff and students to maintain social distancing, when feasible, and will endeavor to employ other separation measures when maintaining three feet of distance is not feasible. These measures include cohorting of students, directional signage for passing between classes, lunch schedules that include eating outdoors, and signage within the schools to promote physical distancing.
Handwashing and respiratory etiquette	Y	Heritage Academy Schools encourages and reinforces handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or as appropriate, use of hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol after bathroom use, before and after lunch and at other appropriate times during the day. Heritage Academy Schools support healthy <u>hygiene</u> behaviors by providing adequate supplies, including soap and hand sanitizer. Additional hand washing stations were installed in the lunch area and sanitizing stations have been installed in the school facilities. Heritage encourages staff and students to cover coughs and sneezes and follow hand-hygiene protocols.
Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation	Y	Heritage Academy Schools cleans frequently touched surfaces (e.g., door handles, sink handles, drinking fountains, desk tops) within the School and at least daily and between uses, when reasonably feasible. The School follows cleaning and disinfection best practices and procedures, to the extent possible. Heritage Academy Schools ensures that building ventilation systems operate properly, to ensure circulation of outdoor air as much as possible. Each Heritage Academy School has been outfitted with air purification filtration

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		<p>systems during the Summer of 2020. To the extent the schools provides transportation for students, the vehicles used by the schools implement reasonable ventilation strategies.</p>
<p>Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>Schools will require employees and students to stay home for quarantine or isolation when they: (a) feel sick, (b) have tested positive for COVID-19 or are showing COVID-19 symptoms, or (c) have recently had “close contact”* with a person with COVID-19, including any household member, (unless the K-12 exception is met-outlined below). Staff members must notify the School’s designated COVID-19 Point of Contact if they have COVID-19 symptoms.</p> <p>A vaccinated employee or student, or one who has tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days prior to the exposure (“Recent Positive”), may voluntarily provide proof of vaccination or recent positive test. Although vaccinated individuals are not required to quarantine at this time, the CDC recommends that vaccinated individuals exposed to someone who has COVID-19 should get tested 3-5 days after exposure, even without symptoms.</p> <p>*“Close contact” is defined as “any individual who was within 6 feet of a person with COVID 19 for a cumulative total of least 15 minutes over a 24-hour period or had physical contact with a person with COVID 19 starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to test specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated.</p> <p>K-12 Exception: in the K-12 school setting, a student who was within 3-6 feet of an infected student is not considered a close contact if both students were engaged in consistent and correct use of well-fitting masks at all times. This exception does not apply to teachers, staff or other adults in the classroom setting.</p>

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		Heritage Academy Schools strongly encourages parents and caregivers to monitor their children for signs of infectious illness, to immediately inform the school any time their children have close contact with a person with COVID-19, and to instruct their students who are sick or have had close contact with a person with COVID-19 to not attend school. The school nonetheless will instruct employees to watch for signs of possible student illness during the school day.
Diagnostic and screening testing	Y	Heritage Academy Schools partners with the local county health department agencies and private partners to provide information on COVID-19 testing. Heritage Academy Schools conducts daily visual screening practices of students and staff and any symptomatic student/staff member is referred to the front office and sent home.
Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities	Y	Heritage Academy Schools shares information on local organizations to provide opportunities for staff and students to obtain vaccinations.
Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies	Y	Students are not encouraged to wear a face mask if the student has a documented medical or behavioral condition or disability that makes them unable to wear a face covering (e.g., has trouble breathing, severe respiratory impairments, sensory concerns or tactile sensitivity, or is unable to remove the face covering without assistance); or if parents have filed an opt out waiver with the school. Heritage Academy Schools adheres to the IDEA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and will work to meet the needs of every learner in our schools including appropriate accommodations with respect to health and safety policies.
Coordination with State and local health officials	Y	Heritage Academy Schools acts in good faith to comply with applicable law, regulation, and public health guidance.

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?

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Heritage Academy employs a variety of strategies (described in further detail in the following section) to ensure continuity of services to students experiencing disruptions to in-person learning including: access to quality learning experiences, social/emotional supports, and availability of technology services.

Students' Needs:

Academic Needs

Teachers continue to provide instruction and learning experiences for students temporarily out of school because of quarantine/close contact or when COVID positive – remotely, as appropriate.

Additional measures we provide to meet the academic needs of students include:

- Increased support for students during the regular school day (including opportunities for targeted support during small group instruction).
- Frequent administering and analysis of assessments to monitor progress of students, inform instruction and identify students that need additional supports/interventions during and beyond the regular school day.
- Professional Development and onsite coaching and support to better equip teachers to use effective instructional strategies.
- Extended learning opportunities for students including tutoring services available before or after school and Summer School intervention and enrichment (including credit recovery options at grades 9-12).
- Resources (including instructional materials and technology tools) are made available to students to ensure learning from home continues during short term disruptions to in-person learning.

Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs

Heritage Academy Schools provides the following measures to meet the social, emotional and mental health needs of students in this context:

- Teachers routinely check in with students and facilitate lessons or experiences to support students' overall social/emotional well-being. Teachers have participated in Social Emotional Learning professional development across the network over the last 20 months.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Site leadership team members work with Gen Ed and SPED teachers to analyze trends in student data/behaviors – and secure additional supports for teachers and classified staff members. - Additional supports or services are provided or recommended to students identified. Services include virtual counseling support available for students at home due to quarantine or illness - School leadership teams promote the importance of social/emotional and mental health – and provide families with resources and contact information to access additional supports for students as may be necessary. - Mental health/crisis hotline number added to the back of all student IDs.
Other Needs (which may include student health and food services)	We do not provide food or health services, but refer families to local resources as needed.
Staff Needs:	
Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs	<p>Positive and supportive relationships and work environments are vital to the success and overall well-being of our teachers, leaders and classified team members. Site and Regional leaders at Heritage are committed to fully supporting our employees by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creating a sense of belonging at each of our campuses - Embedding opportunities to value, recognize and celebrate the work of all teachers/stakeholders serving students. - Promoting and practicing “self-care” and the Shared Values unique to Heritage Academy - Providing staff with wellness resources and contact information for crisis response & free "telehealth" services
Other Needs	Communications and actions reflected by the Heritage Human Resources Department and Governing Boards include paid sick-leave and accommodations for staff members.

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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

June 12, 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:

Heritage Academy Schools publicizes, in accordance with Open Meeting Law, any board meetings that address matters within the policies identified in this document. Public comment is part of regularly scheduled board meetings, and input will be considered as modifications to the plan are made. Additionally, Heritage Academy Schools regularly host school events for parents and families which provide opportunities to share school information, including health and safety plans. Parents and families are always encouraged to provide feedback as part of these events, through annual surveys, or by meeting with their school leaders.

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

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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; and
 - (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