

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



Entity ID	CTDS	LEA NAME
90138	078549000	CHOICE ACADEMIES 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	N	
Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)	Y	No longer practicing extra spacing. Students continue to move about the day in cohorts. Students bring their own art supplies to art to minimize community use of supplies. Tech labs keyboards are cleaned after every class session. No longer using community pens, pencils, crayons etc within the classrooms.
Handwashing and respiratory etiquette	Y	Procedures of proper hand washing listed on all walls. Handwashing is practiced by all students after recess, before and after lunch. Masks are permitted to be worn by staff and students by choice.
Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation	Y	Air filters have been upgraded to Merv 13. Contracted cleaners clean the facilities nightly. Teachers are provided cleaning wipes to wipe down surfaces before leaving for the day including desks, chairs and door handles.
Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments	Y	Anytime the school is notified of a positive covid 19 case of a student or employee, the classroom families and teachers are informed . The individual (staff or student) should isolate for five days from the date of test notification
Diagnostic and screening testing	N	
Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities	N	
Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies	Y	A registered nurse is employed full time for the schools in addition to a Sped Coordinator, teachers and paraprofessionals to assist our students with disabilities. Information related to the students and their health needs and keeping themselves informed of any changes to the health and safety policies related to Covid 19.
Coordination with State and local health officials	Y	Anytime there is a positive notification of a student or employee, a report is faxed to Maricopa County Dept of Health asap.

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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In conjunction with administration, teachers, support staff and parent partnership the LEA will work to have meetings with the stakeholders (PTO, biweekly staff meetings, daily end of the day recoup meetings with administration) to communicate the needs of the students and the employees to support the overall organization. Communication of processes and procedures that are working and not working to adapt to the many changes works to keep everyone in tune and involved. We all must work together to support the mission of the schools while maintaining the safety of everyone. The safety not only includes physical/logistic safety but also the mental and emotional safety of everyone. We are constantly facing the challenge to adapt to what is occurring within the learning environment, providing resources to support one another and open communication are key to continuing to keep our schools open in person with staff that believe they are supported by parents and administration and parents who trust the administration and staff have the best interest of their children at heart.

Students' Needs:

Academic Needs	All schools have resumed in person learning for both schools. Administration, staff and teachers are all present to provide instruction to all enrolled students. The curriculum continues to be taught from kindergarten through 12 th grade.
Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs	Social, emotional and mental needs are addressed in a variety of ways throughout the day with students interacting with staff and students. Clubs & sports provide extra curricular activities that further encourage a sense of community, team efforts, work on problem solving, working collaboratively within clubs. Recess and lunch times provides opportunity to address conflicts and work and play with one another. Interventions within the classrooms provide smaller groups that give opportunity to discuss and address different struggles and challenges in a safe environment. Specials (art, technology, P.E. and music) are valued time for students to express themselves to balance between instructional time while providing time and alternative ways to socialize and discovery of other cultures through music and art. Partnerships with parents through the parent groups provide space to discuss designed to allow parents and staff to intermingle, dialogue and share ideas and concerns. Staff and parents work together to provide community events to invites members of the community to come together to socialize and have students interact after school. Such community events are important since our school is located in a business district and not within a housing community.
Other Needs (which may include student health and food services)	Food service continues to be provided as a self operative with the assistance of USDA Nutritional Programs. Nutritional meals are offered to both students and staff. Staff wear gloves and maintain clean areas. School is inspected twice per year by county health department.

Staff Needs:

Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs	Staff engage in quarterly lunch appreciation provided by parent groups. Biweekly meetings are conducted by the principal to assist teachers in maintaining balance with the workload, changes of Covid 19 protocols and personal challenges. HR works with administration to provide space for staff to share concerns privately and provide possible services through the health insurance provider. Information is provided to staff any changes made by the city, state, federal or governing board related to the operations of the school.
Other Needs	

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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	July 2021, January 2022, November 2022, May 2023, June 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:	Public governing board meeting to approve revisions and budget, posted and made available for public view and input.

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;

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- (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