

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

Entity ID	CTDS	LEA NAME
4273	07-04-45-000	Fowler Elementary School District #45

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	<p>The Fowler Governing Board approved a universal optional masking policy, effective April 12, 2022. The policy remains in place until further notice.</p>
Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)	Y	<p>Fowler will aim to group students into cohort groups of students that will remain together throughout the school day, when possible.</p> <p>Distancing - To the extent possible as determined by physical space, students will maintain a 3ft. minimum (6 ft. when space permits) of social distance between one another and Fowler employees. Although this may not be feasible at all times, it will be encouraged. Staff are made aware of the mitigation strategies through various means including reminders in writing as well as verbally. The 23-24 FESD Mitigation Plan was revised in June 2022 and the 22-23 FESD Employee Safety Form was updated and reviewed with all employees by August 1, 2022. New employees are trained on the mitigation procedures within the first week of employment, using the FESD Safety Procedures form.</p> <p>Optional restrictions have been implemented in all staff bathrooms limiting the number of individuals able to use the facility at once (delineated with an "in use" sign). Student bathrooms will stay within the stall capacity.</p> <p>Effective August 1, 2022 cafeteria dining areas resumed normal operation. Playground use also resumed normal operation. Sanitation of equipment will occur, at minimum, once daily.</p> <p>Hygiene signage (cover coughs, wash hands, etc.) will remain posted at all school sites to promote healthy practices.</p>
Handwashing and respiratory etiquette	Y	<p>Employees and students shall keep their hands as clean as possible by washing them regularly</p>

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		<p>with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Employees and students shall also be reminded to wash or sanitize their hands at the following times:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● After blowing one’s nose, coughing, or sneezing; ● After using the restroom; ● Before eating or preparing food; and, ● After using shared equipment. <p>Employees and students are encouraged to wash their hands before and after touching their faces. The use of hand sanitizer is provided in every classroom and district space. Reminders are continually offered through weekly bulletins and announcements. The need for practicing proper respiratory etiquette is emphasized at all sites. Respiratory etiquette includes covering one’s coughs with a tissue and throwing the tissue away, sneezing into one’s upper sleeve instead of one’s hands, and washing hands or using hand sanitizer after coughing or sneezing. Signage will be posted in all FESD buildings encouraging these practices.</p>
<p>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>Fowler employees and cleaning staff shall follow the CDC’s Disinfecting Facilities Guide instructions that apply to the item being cleaned. These instructions are detailed below.</p> <p>High Touch Surfaces</p> <p>High-touch surfaces include tables, chairs, shared classroom equipment, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, floors, and sinks. These surfaces must first be cleaned with soap and water, rinsed, as possible and then disinfected with an EPA-registered disinfectant, when possible. High-touch surfaces in vehicles described in our mitigation plan do not require cleaning with soap and water and may be cleaned using the solutions described below or disinfecting wipes containing 70% alcohol. High-touch surfaces that are electronics, and therefore are not suitable for cleaning with soap and water are addressed in Subsection C below. High-touch surfaces will be cleaned at least once daily.</p> <p>Electronics</p> <p>Electronics include touch screens, keyboards, tablets, and remote controls. Devices used by one employee shall be cleaned once daily, and devices used by multiple users shall be cleaned after each user is finished using the device,</p>

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		<p>when possible. If possible, wipeable covers will be placed on electronics. Electronics will be cleaned as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By following the manufacturer’s instructions for cleaning. If unavailable, with alcohol-based wipes or sprays containing at least 70% alcohol. The surface will then be dried thoroughly. <p>Ventilation Transportation: When the weather allows it, windows will be opened to increase ventilation on the bus. All air conditioning units in district buildings will remain retrofitted with ionization units to improve the air quality.</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>Our Registered District Nurses oversee all positive COVID cases, following established CDC protocols. They handle confidential communications with employees and family members. The CDC no longer requires reporting of positive cases (to the county), nor contact tracing. In the event an employee/student is confirmed to have contracted COVID-19, Fowler will take the steps below: If an employee/student contracts a confirmed case of COVID-19, that employee/student shall remain in home isolation according to our updated mitigation plan procedures (July 2022). This generally requires 5 days of isolation (at home) and 5 additional days of masking (if returning to the building). Otherwise, a 10-day isolation period is recommended without a negative test at day 8. Additionally, employees/students who have come into close contact with the infected individual will closely monitor their potential development of symptoms and stay home if they develop any symptoms described in our mitigation plan. If these employees/students develop symptoms, COVID-19 testing is strongly encouraged. These employees/students may return to work/school based on the timeframes described in our mitigation plan.</p>
<p>Diagnostic and screening testing</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>Employees/Students who have a fever or are exhibiting any other symptoms listed in our mitigation plan, will be permitted to return to work/school on-campus under the following circumstances: If a symptomatic employee/student tests positive for COVID-19 (PCR or antigen testing):</p>

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		<p>Return to work/school after they have not had a fever for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medicines), other symptoms have improved, and 5 days have passed since symptoms first appeared. An additional 5 days of masking is also required, including meal times (no eating around others). If a student/employee elects not to mask for the additional 5 days, she/he must remain in isolation for the full 10-day (or have a negative test result at or after day 8).</p> <p>If a symptomatic employee/student tests negative for COVID-19 (PCR or antigen testing): Return to work/school after they have not had a fever for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medicines) and other symptoms have improved.</p> <p>If a symptomatic employee/student has not been tested: Return to school after they have not had a fever for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medicines), other symptoms have improved.</p> <p>If an asymptomatic employee/student tests positive for COVID-19 (PCR or antigen testing): Stay home for 5 days since the test was done. An additional 5 days of masking is required upon return, including meal times. If the employee/student elects not to mask, she/he must remain in isolation for 10-days (or have a negative test at or after day 8).</p> <p>Ill employees/parents of ill children will be encouraged to call their health provider for advice on testing for COVID-19. District nurses will also provide guidance to employees and students.</p> <p>The Fowler Elementary School District will offer over-the-counter COVID-19 tests, as long as they are available. Parental consent is required for all minors.</p>
Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities	Y	Fowler will continue to work with the Maricopa County Public Health Department to provide information to our community members about C-19 vaccination events throughout the 23-24 school year. Vaccinations are not mandatory for students or staff.

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Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies	Y	Special accommodations and compliance with all applicable state, federal, and local laws shall be made for Fowler students with disabilities or those with unique medical needs. Where possible, these students will be encouraged to wear masks and maintain a 3 ft. (6 feet when possible) social distance and employees who interact with these students are informed that wearing masks in their presence is uniquely important, and required. To the extent possible, these students will arrive at school at a separate, staggered start time and maintain a staggered schedule that allows for separation from other students. Virtual or distancing learning options will be readily available for these students. Fowler will also ensure that it protects the privacy of those students at higher risk for severe illness regarding underlying medical conditions.
Coordination with State and local health officials	Y	Our lead registered nurse collaborates with the Maricopa County Department of Public Health for COVID-related issues. Fowler abides by all requirements implemented by agencies with authority to make policy/law impacting public schools.

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?

Fowler will ensure the continuity of services by providing both virtual and in-person learning options for all students. Fowler will facilitate asynchronous work (printed or electronic based on student need) for any student that may require the accommodation during the school year (i.e. illness, isolation/quarantine, etc.). Further, students who are sick are encouraged to stay home without fear of reprisal, consistently educating families on symptoms and criteria to stay home, and reassuring families that there will be no negative impact on school performance and evaluation if their child needs to stay home when sick. All Fowler schools will continue to provide access to all students (virtual and in-person) to the district's Learning Management System, Canvas. Canvas allows students and parents to maintain active participation in the course of their studies, without penalty.

Students' Needs:

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Academic Needs	<p>Principals are reviewing student assessment data from the 2022-2023 SY to determine which students did not make academic progress as measured by formal school, district and state assessments. Additionally, students will be assessed at the start of the 2023-2024 SY to determine which students are not showing progress. Students will receive support in reading and writing through interventions from the site Reading Interventionists, small group targeted instruction during class and after and before school. In addition, all school sites will use evidence-based intervention curriculum to ensure that all students that need interventions are receiving them. The primary intervention areas will focus on ELA and math; however, students will be provided with enrichment and remediation instruction in all areas during their school day. Additionally, students are assessed quarterly throughout the school year to monitor student progress and provide remediation support for students that require it.</p> <p>An academic and enrichment based summer school was held at all campuses for all current K-7th grade students, with a strong focus on AZ learning standards, and Math and Reading for students below grade level. Summer school classes were taught by certified teachers, incorporating the content areas through project-based learning. Each 3rd grade Fowler student who required additional support, as measured by AASA "Move On When Reading" cut scores, was invited to participate in an intervention program. Students received intensive reading remediation during the summer. The MOWR course utilized an evidence-based ELA intervention program (Corrective Reading, Wonders and Amira), delivered by a highly-qualified instructor, in order to ensure access to high-quality reading instruction.</p> <p>Four schools have 21st CCLC funds which will allow for additional extracurricular support for students at those three campuses. Certified teachers will work with students in small groups in reading, and math. All schools will have access to Title I funding for extracurricular and academic courses to support all students.</p>
Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs	<p>Counseling personnel have participated in professional development to support student mental health needs. School leadership teams have developed comprehensive site plans to address the multiple issues that students will need support addressing. Fowler also assembled all school counselors, social workers and a district administrator in June 2022 to support a SEL focus across the district. The team planned out a districtwide focus, which includes articulated K-8 skills to cover during the 23-24 school year. In addition, summer planning took place in July 2022 to develop curriculum for all K-8 students and teachers. The curriculum was provided to all sites as part of our SEL district focus. In addition, quarterly skills to support positive mental health for all K-8 sites are</p>

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	<p>published, communicated and emphasized throughout the 2023-2024 school year.</p> <p>Our district has is in the process of reviewing new materials and resources to support this curriculum. Implementation is expected to begin in the 2023-2024 school year for all school sites (Pre-K-8th).</p>
Other Needs (which may include student health and food services)	<p>The District Lead Registered Nurse oversees the reporting and monitoring of CV19 infections among staff and students. She follows up with families who request assistance with finding testing for CV19, and locating immunization sites. Each site has a nurse or health aide working under the supervision of the District RN to assist with monitoring site specific health statistics.</p> <p>The food services department will continue to make food accessible to all students. Students are encouraged to take advantage of the free breakfast for all students as well as the NSLP program.</p>
Staff Needs:	
Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs	<p>Each school campus is assigned at least one counselor and middle schools have one social worker. When necessary, the counseling team is deployed to assist at the sites to support the emotional and mental well-being of our staff members. If a site experiences a traumatic event the social emotional support staff are available to assist.</p> <p>All District personnel have access to free counseling services through our Employee Assistance Plan which is 100% district paid.</p> <p>All District personnel also have access to a physician using our telehealth provider (Teladoc) which is also 100% district paid.</p> <p>When employees need to miss work to care for family members or because they are ill (but still able to work) they are allowed to work from home if they are able to do so. This allows employees to maintain their income without exhausting their leave time which reduces the stress levels for the employee and their families.</p>
Other Needs	<p>The District Lead Registered Nurse oversees the reporting and monitoring of CV19 infections among staff. She follows up with staff that request assistance with finding testing for CV19, and locating immunization sites. Each site has a nurse or health aide working under the supervision of the District RN to assist with monitoring site specific health statistics.</p> <p>Additionally, health and wellness programs are offered to all district employees. Staff have access to an Employee Assistance Program, which offers counseling, legal advice, and other wellness programs.</p>

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 7/31/2023

Public Input

Describe the process used to seek public input, and how that input was taken into account in the revision of the plan:	<p>The Fowler School District created a Committee to review and revise the 2023-2024 District Mitigation Plan. The committee consists of all LEA schools and departments. In addition, the district previously conducted a family survey to gather parent input on mitigation procedures and practices (i.e., masking, social distancing, extracurricular sports/activities, temperature checks, general safety procedures). Parent/Guardian input is</p>
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encouraged and supported throughout the drafting process of the 2023-2024 mitigation plan. Additionally, district staff input is encouraged through reviewing and revising the plan at the monthly Superintendent Liaison meetings, which are open to all district staff. The district's Mitigation Committee, comprised of certified and classified staff, meets, at minimum, annually to review and revise the district's mitigation and Safe Return to In-Person Instruction plans. Lastly, the Safe Return to In-Person Plan is also posted on our district website with a link for parents to submit online feedback through a Google form.

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—

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- (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