

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



Entity ID	CTDS	LEA NAME
4445	11-02-44-000	J.O. Combs Unified School District No.44

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	Policy aligns with new state laws. Information and signage provided to staff/students/community on correct wearing of masks.
Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)	Yes	Signage encouraging physical distancing placed at all school sites. Cohorting used to the extent possible.
Handwashing and respiratory etiquette	Yes	Following CDC guidelines on handwashing and respiratory etiquette. Multiple opportunities to sanitize and wash hands throughout the day.
Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation	Yes	Frequent cleaning and disinfecting of high touch points. Nightly deep clean. All HVAC units upgraded to meet federal guidelines for safe air exchange in school buildings.
Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments	Yes	Any adult/child who is a close contact of a positive case is able to quarantine. Follow CDC guidelines for definition of close contact and quarantine requirements.
Diagnostic and screening testing	Yes	Policy aligns with new state laws regarding testing/vaccines. Symptomatic adults/children recommended for diagnostic testing
Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities	Yes	The District had a testing/vaccination site located at Combs High School. The site was in partnership with Embry Women's Health center. The District continues to work with our community to inform them of vaccination opportunities.
Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies	Yes	Children in grades (7th-12th) with disabilities will be provided the option of in-person or virtual learning opportunities. In either option the IEP team will meet to review support services. The process to meet their needs will be in-person or virtual depending on the needs of the individual student.
Coordination with State and local health officials	Yes	Ongoing communication and collaboration will continue to take place with state and local health officials regarding best practices, guidelines, case reporting, etc.

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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?

The District provides in-person learning for students and families in K-12th grade. The District will also provide virtual learning for eligible students and families requesting this form of education. Virtual learning will be provided through the District's online school. Eligible students needing specific services as part of their education will be provided these services in-person or virtually.

### Students' Needs:

Academic Needs	Students will be provided access to all courses needed to achieve educational goals. After School programs will be provided to help students with additional help to address loss of opportunity to learn due to the pandemic. Online courses will be offered 9th-12th for students who are credit deficient. The District has purchased 24-hour 365 day online homework help through the PAPER software. The software is designed to provide additional academic support for students.
Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs	The District has hired counselors and social workers at all district schools. A SEL Specialist position was created at the District level. This individual will coordinate with school personnel to implement a SEL curriculum throughout the District. The District is implementing an SEL curriculum for all students. Staff have received professional development on the SEL curriculum.
Other Needs (which may include student health and food services)	The District will not continue free meals for all students during the 2023-2024 school year but will comply with NSLP guidelines.

### Staff Needs:

Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs	The District has a District Wellness Committee, established in 2015, which is committed to the physical and mental health wellness of staff. The committee meets throughout the school year to address a wide range of issues. Special emphasis will be placed this year on the social, emotional and mental health needs of staff. Resources, at the local, state and national level, will be shared with staff members throughout the year. In addition, information on resources to help in these areas will be shared through the District's healthcare benefits plan. Ongoing professional development to staff on social and emotional needs.
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**

<b>Date of Revision</b>	<b>July 12, 2023</b>
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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 District sought input via the provision of surveys to students, staff and community to collect input regarding the original Pandemic Response Plan. A District level committee developed this plan (Summer 2020) and the Governing Board approved the plan. Modifications to the plan were made throughout the year based on evolving federal and state guidance. The
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revised plan will be posted and opened for designated comment periods, in which students, staff and families have the opportunity to provide continued feedback. This feedback will be incorporated into future revisions of the plan which will be presented to the Governing Board, at a public meeting, for approval. This same process will be utilized for subsequent changes to the plan.

**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; 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