

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



Entity ID	CTDS	LEA NAME
10966	078781000	Stepping Stones Academy

**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	Face coverings optional unless required by state, county, or local mandate. Face coverings available in School Office for individuals needing face covering.
Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)	Y	Classes separate cohorts and do not mix with other classes. Staggered times for use of classrooms (i.e. Gym) with cleaning in between classes. Students assigned to desk and remain in same classroom. Teachers move to different classrooms as needed. Classroom furniture removed to allow for more spacing between student desks. Desks arranged in rows and not as groups.
Handwashing and respiratory etiquette	Y	Sinks have signs posted explaining correct handwashing procedures and reminding individuals to wash hands. Students taught correct handwashing procedures and procedures reviewed frequently. Designated handwashing times for each class (i.e. entering classroom, before and after lunch and recess, exiting classroom) and teachers remind and ensure students complete this. Teachers also follow this schedule. Hand sanitizer available in all classrooms and throughout campus.
Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation	Y	Daily campus times and class times for cleaning, sanitizing, disinfecting – This includes hand washing and cleaning “high touch” areas (i.e. door handles, top of desks). Purchase of floor cleaner, contactless thermometers, additional room sanitizers, and magic wand cleaner for keyboards, books, and manipulatives. Purchase of refillable water bottle station and addition of water fountains to classrooms - Outside water fountains unavailable for use Continuation of daily/nightly deep cleaning

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Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments	Y	Continued following of CDC and DHS guidelines and recommendations. Charts explaining procedures available to families in School Office and emailed/sent home quarterly with each student.
Diagnostic and screening testing	Y	Continuation of providing families with diagnostic and screening testing information as provided by DHS. Staff required to get tested if sick or exposed Staff and families (as needed) provided with tests provided by DHS.
Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities	Y	Information provided to staff and families about vaccination sites and schedules via emails and written letters sent home with each child and staff member
Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies	Y	All accommodations in IEP and 504 Plan in place and occurring. Students provided extra support by as needed and included in IEP or 504 Plan. Parent meetings scheduled as needed or requested to determine additional accommodations
Coordination with State and local health officials	Y	Continued coordination with DHS and administrator participates in weekly webinar to learn about new/revised/updates policies and protocols

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?

Continuity of services ensured by administrators following up with staff members to address issues with providing in-person learning and communication with parents. Check-ins with students and staff members to ensure both groups have needed supplies and resources. Meeting with new staff to answer questions and ensure job responsibilities being completed. Additional time for PD focusing on social, mental, and emotional health needs of both students and staff members. Continued check-ins with staff members by administrators for mental, emotional, and social needs and other needed supports.

### Students' Needs:

Academic Needs	All in-person learning with instructions provided to families and staff about policies for quarantining or isolating. Information provided via emails to all families, printed letters/packets sent home with each student, and letters/packets offered to parents when in School Office. Assignments to complete at home provided to students when quarantining or isolating via Google classrooms and/or printed copies picked up by parents or delivered to homes by principal as needed. Teachers available for questions or assistance at scheduled times via email, text, phone calls, or Zoom. Additional staff hired to assist with students needing extra help or interventions.
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Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs	PD provided to staff at before school In-Service and staff developed plans to address the social, emotional, and mental health needs at different grade levels. Increased outside time, especially time with school animals (i.e. pigs, goats, sheep, horse, cow and calf, pony, donkey, dog) and school garden, to support these health needs. Increased focus on these needs and provide weekly lessons within each classroom.
Other Needs (which may include student health and food services)	Continued provisions for needed school uniforms, school supplies, and financial assistance for field trips or extra-curricular activities Continuation of ensuring all students have lunch and snacks Continued monitoring of health needs
<b>Staff Needs:</b>	
Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs	Continued monitoring of staff needs by school administrators with individual staff meetings. Extra time provided for staff to address social, emotional, and mental health with mental/emotional health days approved as needed. PD provided before school to help staff better understand their own social, emotional, and mental health needs – Time provided to discuss issues, individual and small group trainings addressing staff needs Teachers teamed together to complete activities and projects Fun games played throughout year sponsored by administrative team with prizes awarded Administrative team checks in with teachers individually at least once every 10 days
Other Needs	Home tests, PPE supplies, and masks provided to staff as needed

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>To be reviewed at August, 2023 Governing Board Meeting</b>
<b>Public Input</b>	
Describe the process used to seek public input, and how that input was taken into account in the revision of the plan:	Governing Board Agendas posted on school website and public may attend and request to address Board members Letters emailed and sent home to families and other stakeholders requesting input – All input considered and discussed

## 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.

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- (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; 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