

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



Entity ID	CTDS	LEA NAME
4268	070431000	Balsz Elementary School District

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	Balsz School Board Approved: JICA-RB: All persons, including, but not limited to, staff, students, vendors, visitors, and volunteers, shall wear a cloth face covering while on any District property, in any District facility, at any District event, whether indoors or outdoors, and in any District vehicle, including District buses or vehicles rented or leased by the District.
Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)	Yes	Students travel in groups ("cohorts") that stay together all day as much as possible. Each school will develop social distancing routines for traffic in hallways. Teachers will arrange classroom furniture to maximize the distance between students.
Handwashing and respiratory etiquette	Yes	Posters will be displayed reminding students of proper handwashing techniques and respiratory etiquette. Schools monitor and reinforce these behaviors and provide adequate hand washing supplies. Teachers/staff will communicate handwashing and respiratory etiquette expectations to students.
Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation	Yes	The District Maintenance administration team will coordinate implementation of cleaning protocols, including ensuring that sufficient cleaning supplies are available to janitorial staff and, as appropriate, students and staff. Cleaning/disinfecting will take place on all high touch areas at least daily.
Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments	Yes	Contact tracing is conducted by the district Registered Nurse for students and by Human Resources for staff members following established protocol. The district nurse reports to the Maricopa County Department of Public Health. Confirmed positive cases remain at home in isolation in accordance with CDC recommendations. Close contacts are determined and notified of their potential exposure. Employees/students who have come into contact with the infected individual are advised that they should closely monitor their

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		potential development of symptoms and stay home if they develop any symptoms.
Diagnostic and screening testing	Yes	COVID-19 Rapid Test, Binax NOW tests are available in the School Health Office for staff and students.
Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities	Yes	Vaccinations are available at Health Centers within the District Boundaries, information has been shared with families. Balsz is partnering with Phoenix Union School District for vaccines for staff and students.
Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies	Yes	Accommodations are given to our students with disabilities; individual accommodations are given on an individual level, depending on the need of the student. There is an increase in staff working with our students with severe disabilities, medically fragile students, to ensure health and safety standards are met.
Coordination with State and local health officials	Yes	The School Health Office Staff attend training and communicate regularly with the Maricopa County Health Office and State Health Office. Administration has worked with State and local health offices in receiving masks, gloves, cleaning supplies and COVID 19 Tests.

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 high-quality instruction for all learners remains a high priority for the entire Balsz School District. For the 2021-2022 school year we are prepared to support our students and families through full time in person learning across all district campuses. Balsz will ensure the continuity of services by providing both virtual and in-person learning options for all students. Students requiring virtual learning will be serviced through the delivery of online instruction via Balsz Online Academy..

Students' Needs:

Academic Needs	Students' academic needs will be supported through full time in person learning for all students following the traditional Board adopted calendar. Staff will continue to receive training in and support learners through culturally responsive practices. This includes an emphasis on strategically identified practices and standards to meet the needs of all learners with special consideration of students with special needs, culturally and linguistically diverse learners, those from economically disadvantaged households, and students experiencing homelessness. New curriculum and resources will help teachers to deliver instruction through a balanced use of technology that allows for seamless shifts from the traditional classroom to a virtual environment if needed. In the event of unexpected interruptions to full-time in person instruction students will participate in a hybrid or remote model to accommodate appropriate health and safety precautions. District classes will use Canvas as the primary
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	<p>management systems and participate in primarily synchronous instruction to the maximum extent possible. Students and staff will continue to access core adopted instructional resources through digital components.</p>
Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs	<p>Students have continuous access to counselors and psychologists. District behavioral support staff will also provide ongoing support to students demonstrating increased needs. Schools are expanding their commitment to PBIS throughout the schools and teams will work to identify and provide services to students demonstrating additional needs.</p>
Other Needs (which may include student health and food services)	<p>Every health office is staffed by a full-time health position trained in CPR and first aid and is available to their assigned school during the school day. These positions oversee the reporting and monitoring of CV19 infections among staff and students, follow up with families who request assistance with finding testing for CV19, and locating immunization sites. Balsz currently partners with Phoenix Union School District and other local school districts to advertise, support and promote POD within our boundaries. Thanks to our partners in health, <u>any child ages 5 to 11 in the Balsz community</u> can schedule their vaccine at the Mountain Park Health Center Balsz Pediatric Clinic, located at 1300 N 48th Street, by calling (602) 243-7277. www.mountainparkhealth.org</p> <p>Additionally, food stability is essential to our students' ability to meaningfully engage in learning. The BESD nutrition team will continue to provide consistent access to meals for families during in person learning as well as adjusting systems to offer support during unexpected closures, including meal distributions for children 18 and younger.</p>
Staff Needs:	
Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs	<p>Balsz offers all staff the opportunity for social, emotional and mental health services through our insurance programs. Employees not included in our insurance, still have the opportunity to participate. These services can be self-selected through the employee portal online and the informational flyer sent to all employees. This flyer is also posted throughout district buildings.</p> <p>Balsz believes in a systematic integration of mindfulness for both teachers and students. Given the research-supported link between positive emotional classroom climates and academic achievement. Balsz provides training and support on SEL structures and curriculum which works in accordance with other district initiatives in Mindfulness.</p> <p>www.balsz.org/mindfulness</p>
Other Needs	<p>All staff will be trained on implementation of these protocols. Training will include proper use of protective personal equipment (PPE) (if applicable), face coverings, and supplies; cleaning and disinfecting; and other measures.</p>

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Support related to the Covid-19 pandemic was consistently provided to the BESD staff. Examples of support included extended sick leave related to Covid-19 situations (personally or in the care of others), and specific funding for ppe and sanitation needs of employees.

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	Jul 29, 2021
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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 Balsz School District conducted a series of surveys to gather parent, staff and community input on mitigation procedures and practices (i.e., masking, social distancing, extracurricular sports/activities, temperature checks, general safety procedures). Parent/Guardian input is encouraged and supported throughout the drafting process of the 2021- 2022 mitigation plan.
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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.

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- (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; 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