

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



Entity ID	CTDS	LEA NAME
90885	078586000	Ball Charter Schools (Val Vista)

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	Maricopa County Health Department recommendations
Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)	Y	The COVID mitigation plan initially included cohorting, 6 feet of distance and other mitigation policies and is updated bi-annually.
Handwashing and respiratory etiquette	Y	Our school teaches and reinforces proper handwashing technique, avoiding contact with one's eyes, nose, and mouth, and covering coughs and sneezes is recommended. • When using shared materials (ie. Computers, athletic balls, etc.), staff will routinely remind students to not touch their face to prevent the transmission of infectious diseases. • Signage is posted in high visibility areas to remind students and staff of proper techniques for handwashing and covering of coughs and sneezes and other prevention measures. • Our school ensures adequate supplies for teachers and staff to support healthy hygiene behaviors, including soap, tissues, no touch trash cans, face coverings and hands-free hand sanitizing stations. • Sharing student supplies and equipment is not a preferred practice; items which must be shared will be cleaned and disinfected between uses. • The school has minimized the contact with high touch surfaces (e.g., doors, sinks, restroom areas). • Each student's belongings will be separated from others' and in individually labeled containers, cubbies, or desks. • Assigned seating in classrooms will be implemented to assist with student identification. • Where possible, social distancing will be maintained in open areas, such as hallways, stairwells, gyms, playgrounds. • Signage will be posted in appropriate spaces and common areas explaining hygiene practices.
Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation	Y	Rooms will be cleaned nightly including teacher and student desks, chairs, doorknobs and all high contact surfaces; disinfecting all surfaces in each classroom daily will promote good health practices. • Rooms, desks and all high contact areas will be cleansed nightly with a sanitizer

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		therefore, all teachers and students must ensure any items they do not want sprayed must be stored at the end of the day. • Air quality has been enhanced through the use of MERV-13 (or best available) air-filters and will change as scheduled.
Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments	Y	In accordance with state and local laws and regulations, Ball Charter Schools will notify local health officials, staff, and impacted families of any case of COVID-19 on campus while maintaining confidentiality in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). • Additionally, Ball Charter Schools will inform those who have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19 and inform them of the most recent guidance provided by the MCDH with regard to isolation. • The health professional will follow established screening protocols and will consult with public health officials to determine how best to handle students and staff who display or develop COVID-19 symptoms. • An Isolation room has been set up outside the health office for students or staff who may be sick.
Diagnostic and screening testing	Y	Consistent with existing Executive Orders, the use of face coverings remain optional and those who choose to wear one, may do so. Please note that individual choices will be fully respected. • In the event a staff member or student has symptoms the staff or student member will be sent home and CDC guidance will be followed. • Students must stay home if they feel ill or are exhibiting symptoms of respiratory infection. • Parents and guardians must assess their child's health daily prior to heading to school. • At the beginning of each day as students enter the classroom; teachers will informally screen students for respiratory symptoms. • Students will be reminded of proper hygiene, including avoiding touching the eyes, nose, and mouth and covering the mouth when coughing. Students are asked to cover the nose when sneezing and safely discarding tissues in the covered trash can within each classroom
Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities	Y	Communicated to school staff availability of vaccines and locations
Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies	Y	Reasonable accommodations, modifications and assistance will be made for individuals with disabilities and other health care needs when implementing safety protocols on an individual, "as-needed" basis.

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Coordination with State and local health officials	Y	Sites regularly check with the Maricopa County Health Department and the state to update protocols and report any known cases.
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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?

Val Vista Academy will implement summer school, Before and after school workshops to address learning losses and Zones of Regulations to meet social emotional needs as well as Behavior Analyst to assist with strategies to deal with student behaviors.

Students' Needs:

Academic Needs	Summer School and Before and After school workshops for students identified. A Learning Plan is created for students in quarantine due to close contact and daily academic work and teacher contact are made available during this time.
Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs	A behavior Analyst has been hired to train teachers and conduct behavioral assessments when necessary. Zones of Regulation, an evidence-based program, will be implemented school wide.
Other Needs (which may include student health and food services)	PPE and rapid tests made available to staff and students.

Staff Needs:

Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs	Preservice for the FY23 school year and future preservice and ongoing professional development will include development/assistance for staffs' social/emotional and mental health needs. An employee assistance program has been implemented to include in person coaching to staff during the school day.
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**

Date of Revision	August 14, 2023, monthly potential revisions based on monthly board meeting outcomes
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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:	Monthly board meetings include a standing agenda item for COVID issues and parents are invited to speak during public comment.
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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.

(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