

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



Entity ID	CTDS	LEA NAME
4246	070297000	Deer Valley Unified 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	N	Masks are optional in DVUSD. Masks are recommended when symptomatic students enter the health office. Masks are provided to any individual on campus or on a bus who needs one.
Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)	Y	As of SY 2022-23, campuses have returned to normal operations. Outdoor spaces where students can eat that were added during the pandemic continue to be used. Nurse offices are arranged to limit the number of occupants.
Handwashing and respiratory etiquette	Y	Frequent hand washing and/or sanitizing is encouraged at regular intervals throughout the day. At a minimum, this is encouraged at the start and end of day, before and after lunch and snack, before and after transitions/rotations/recess and before and after using the restroom.
Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation	Y	All schools continue to use recommended cleaning procedures. For example, when possible disinfection occurs at the end of each school day by trained cleaning staff members of frequently touched surfaces (e.g. tables, desks, faucets, sinks, light switches, doorknobs, etc. DVUSD uses hospital grade disinfectant registered by the EPA that kills the SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) virus. DVUSD classrooms contain a HEPA air filter for enhanced air quality. Classroom spaces are scheduled to be purged with outside air each morning prior to the school day and outside air introduced throughout the school day
Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments	Y	DVUSD does not perform contact tracing.
Diagnostic and screening testing	Y	Our schools have a limited number of COVID-19 home test kits (e.g. BinaxNow) which can be provided to students of symptomatic

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		students. DVUSD does not do screening testing.
Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities	Y	DVUSD provided District wide vaccination events for all school based staff (public, charter and private) within our District boundaries in 2020-21 and 2021-22. The District continues to host mini-vaccination clinics at one of our campuses throughout the 2022-23 school year and this continues in the 2023-24 school year. A parent must be present with his/her child in order for the student to receive a vaccination.
Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies	Y pre-existing under Section 504 and/or IDEA	If identified and required, students can have reasonable accommodations under Section 504 and/or IDEA. Both are federal mandates and are required under federal law. Consultation and/or direct services provided by medical professionals (school nurses) as identified by 504s or IEPs.
Coordination with State and local health officials	Y	DVUSD participates in the monthly health webinars provided by local health officials (Maricopa County Department of Public Health (MCDPH)). Both District and campus leaders work with MCDPH if and when extreme outbreaks occur.

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?

Deer Valley Unified School District will ensure continuity of quality education services for all students by providing multiple instructional delivery models. This includes in-person instruction at all District brick and mortar campuses and an option for full-time or part-time online instruction to any student who chooses to enroll in our K-12 AOI school, Aspire Online Academy.

Students' Needs:

Academic Needs	Students will have the opportunity to have curricular support using their Canvas courses to stay on track with learning, assignments, and other classroom related tasks while absent. Additional intervention opportunities are provided at all campuses.
Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs	Programming that addresses essential social and academic behaviors and skills has been integrated at all campuses. Resources have been developed for teachers to teach essential social and academic behaviors and skills through targeted lessons. Since the pandemic started, multiple webinars on mental health topics have been offered to parents and will continue to be offered. The District has formed partnerships with behavioral health providers to place mental health support staff on many of our campuses. In addition, various campuses have been awarded a counselor through the Arizona School Safety Grant Program. These staff members work with students to support their mental health needs.

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Other Needs (which may include student health and food services)	Each DVUSD campus is staffed with a nurse and nurse clerks were hired at high schools with the use of COVID relief funds to be able to better serve student populations with a higher frequency or likelihood of being ill during the school day. We continue to work on expanding food service programs for students such as breakfast in the classroom. Additional food pantries and clothing closets are being planned for more campuses.
Staff Needs:	
Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs	Addressing and supporting all staff with their social, emotional and mental health needs is part of a cooperative effort between HR and Payroll/Benefits. In alignment with Priority Area 2 of our DVUSD Strategic Plan, DVUSD has implemented a structure of monthly wellness trainings for all leaders in the system, monthly communications with all staff, the implementation of site based liaisons, and a robust Employee Assistance Program (EAP). DVUSD has taken a proactive approach to emotional, social, and mental health, as well as identified reactive processes for crisis.
Other Needs	DVUSD has developed a division within HR called Employee Relations. The Employee Relations Coordinator deploys appropriate support to employees, based on their specific needs. This could include complaint/mediation management, Employee Leaves, Workers Comp., financial or legal needs, and health related 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	8.25.23
Public Input	
Describe the process used to seek public input, and how that input was taken into account in the revision of the plan:	Since March of 2020, DVUSD utilized Stakeholder groups to provide input into campus procedures. Stakeholder groups included parents, staff, district administrators, local and state health professionals. Parent and staff webinars were provided throughout the school year to seek input. DVUSD will continue to utilize our Communication Council Fireside Chats to regularly communicate with all staff members. District Executive Cabinet members routinely meet with employee association representatives to have two-way communication regarding all issues including the health and safety of staff during and after the pandemic . Finally, a Remain in School email account was established to collect input and share feedback from DVUSD parents. This email account is still active and is checked on a routine basis. Community members are welcome to voice their feedback during the public comment section of board meetings as well.