

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



Entity ID	CTDS	LEA NAME
91277	078401000	Empower College Prep

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	At current levels of COVID incidents in our community, Empower College Prep does not presently recommend all individuals to wear a face mask on campus when within six feet of other individuals on campus.
Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)	Yes	At current levels of COVID incidents in our community, Empower College Prep does not presently recommend staff and students to maintain social distancing (at least six feet apart), when feasible, and will endeavor to employ other measures when maintaining six feet of distance is not feasible. Such efforts may include modified room layouts, physical barriers/guides, and/or closing or staggering use of communal spaces or wearing face masks.
Handwashing and respiratory etiquette	Yes	Empower College Prep will encourage and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or as appropriate, use of hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. The school will support healthy hygiene behaviors by providing adequate supplies, including soap and hand sanitizer.
Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation	Yes	Empower College Prep will clean frequently touched surfaces (e.g., playground equipment, door handles, sink handles, drinking fountains) within the school and on buses (if applicable) at least daily or between uses, when reasonably feasible. The school will follow cleaning and disinfection best practices and procedures, to the extent possible.
Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments	Yes	When a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, the school will communicate with and follow the guidance of local health officials in making decisions regarding appropriate reactive and re-entry mitigation measures, including the extent to which School operations should be temporarily restricted or closed, in whole or in part, and if so, for how long. <i>A. School Notification of Positive Test.</i> The school will encourage staff and students/families to notify School's designated COVID-19 Point of Contact regarding any positive test result for COVID 19 with respect to any student or staff member.

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		<p><b>B. Coordination with Local Health Officials.</b> Upon learning of a positive COVID-19 test result in someone who has been in the School, the School will promptly notify local health officials and seek guidance to determine an appropriate course of action in light of the circumstances. At a minimum, the affected individual will be quarantined from the school on-site environment (including on-site support services or in person instruction) and other responsive actions will be taken, as directed in consultation with local health officials or in compliance with their guidance.</p> <p>Such actions may include, but are not limited to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Short-term limitations on, or restrictions for, in-person learning with respect to a particular cohort, or the school generally.</i></li> <li>2. <i>Enhanced cleaning/disinfection of areas of the school used by the affected individual.</i></li> <li>3. <i>Extended school dismissal/closure.</i></li> </ol> <p><b>C. Communication with Staff, Parents, and Students.</b> Consistent with privacy requirements, including those of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (“FERPA”), and in consultation with local health officials, the school will provide notification to appropriate staff and parents regarding COVID-19 cases in the school.</p> <p>When a student or staff member has been required to stay home from school: (a) following a positive test for COVID-19; (b) after showing symptoms of COVID-19; or (c) after recent close contact with a person with COVID-19, the school will implement the mitigation strategies related to re-entry on the school campus. Such individuals will be permitted to return to School for in person learning, upon compliance with CDC and local health official guidelines.</p>
Diagnostic and screening testing	Yes	Empower College Prep provides information for families to engage in diagnostic testing in the case of any symptoms. The school is not currently participating in universal pool testing. Rapid COVID testing is available for staff and students with symptoms.
Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities	Yes	Empower College Prep is providing information for staff and families to receive vaccinations.
Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies	Yes	Empower College Prep is providing accommodations as needed for each individual student to safely participate in safe in-person learning.
Coordination with State and local health officials	Yes	Empower College Prep’s designated point of contact for COVID-19 related concerns, including reporting positive test results or COVID-19 symptoms, is: Brian Holman, <a href="mailto:brian.holman@empowercollegeprep.org">brian.holman@empowercollegeprep.org</a> , 602-689-0671.

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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?

Empower College Prep has been open and is committed to continuing to provide in-person learning for all students. In addition, the continuity of services will address students' academic needs and students' and staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs.

### Students' Needs:

Academic Needs	Empower College Prep has been open and is committed to continuing to provide in-person learning for all students. Additionally, the school has hired additional teachers and paraprofessionals to provide more targeted instructional support. The school has also revised curriculum to provide more accommodations and differentiation. The school also provides extended day, extended week, and summer school for students.
Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs	The school has hired three social workers and 2 counselors, as well as developed a new SEL curriculum in which students engage regularly.
Other Needs (which may include student health and food services)	<p>The school has a nurse and Family Community Liaison to meet the diverse needs of families.</p> <p><u>Learning Remediation Plan:</u>                      All students in K-8 are universally screened for grade level readiness.                      All students in 9-12 are assessed for readiness for state ACT assessment.</p> <p>The plans are adjusted to ensure rigor matches grade level requirements and state assessments, also scaffolded to support learning. Additional assessments identify specific gaps and needs to remediate in small groups. The individualized remediation is provided through IXL learning and ACT Online Prep. There is an assessment at end of first quarter to monitor progress</p> <p>At the end of the year, the instructional team work on establishing a summer school for students to continue rapid acceleration to close learning gaps.</p>

### Staff Needs:

Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs	The school's benefits include access to services for social, emotional, and mental health needs.
Other Needs	The school's benefits include access to work-life balance resources.

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>2023-07-28</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 management of the risks associated with COVID-19 including those addressed by the components of this plan is discussed at board meetings and will continue to be in future meetings.
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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; 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