

# American Samoa Department Of Education (ASDOE) Outlying Areas State Education Agencies (ARP-OA SEA) Plan For Safe Return To In-Person Instruction And Continuity Of Services Plan



## RATIONALE

*On March 11, 2021 the American Rescue Plan Outlying Area State Education Agencies (ARP-OA SEA) fund was signed into law. The recently passed American Rescue Plan (ARP) Elementary and Secondary School Relief Funds (ESSER III). This award substantial federal resources of 264,826,365.00 to ASDOE to support Local Education Agencies (LEA) with emergency relief funds to address the impact that Covide-19 has had and continues to have on Elementary and Secondary schools, Non-public schools and Early Childhood Education across the nation and its outlying areas. Recent federal guidance clarifies expectations for states and districts, including a requirement that districts and community schools receiving American Rescue Plan funds must publish local “Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plans” by June 24, 2021. Each district and community school should post the plan on its local website.*

## **POLICIES FOR INCORPORATING MITIGATION STRATEGIES**

Describe to what extent the following policies have been adopted to incorporate the following [CDC Mitigation Strategies](#) and provide a description of any policies being implemented:

1. Universal and correct wearing of masks
  - a. ASDOE Handbook follows the CDC’s Guide to Masks, including the use of masks that have two or more layers of washable, breathable fabric, completely cover your nose and mouth, etc.
2. Physical distancing
  - a. All meeting places will be configured to allow a physical distance of at least six

feet of separation. Configuration at a distance of between three and six feet may be allowed with approved contract exceptions and additional precautions such as mandatory face coverings.

3. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
  - a. Hand-washing and hand sanitizing will be encouraged. Students and staff will be provided with 2 hand sanitizers per school year, with additional sanitizers available around the school campus (office, classrooms, etc.).
4. Cleaning and maintaining health facilities
  - a. **Cleaning:** All employees responsible for the cleaning and sanitation of facilities will be trained on proper procedures, supplies, and frequency of cleaning. Training will be offered through the ASDOE and Department of Health through a variety of methods: online video, webinar, and/or in-person, specifically for school maintenance, janitors, and sanitizers.
5. Improving ventilation
  - a. **Ventilation:** LEAs will be responsible to ensure ventilation systems operate properly and increase the supply of fresh outdoor air when possible. American Samoa Department of Health recommendations are also listed in the handbook, including the increase of outdoor air ventilation, use of fans near open windows (when weather permits), etc.
6. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the state and local health departments
  - a. Each school will establish a designated Health room where the individual will be isolated and held in quarantine for the safety of those present at the school.
7. Diagnostic and screening testing
  - a. Symptoms screening shall be conducted for anyone who is showing signs of illness at school. The following steps will be conducted for screening testing:
    - i. Step 1: Check for symptoms of illness, including: fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle/body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion/runny nose, nausea/vomiting, diarrhea
    - ii. Step 2: Check for recent COVID-19 Exposure:
  - b. Recently tested positive for COVID-19, waiting for COVID-19 test results, self-quarantining due to possible exposure, living with someone with Covid-19, been in close contact with someone with COVID-19
  - c. If someone has symptoms at school, the person will be sent home immediately and DOH will be informed.
8. Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff and eligible students
  - a. Vaccinating teachers and school staff can be considered one layer of mitigation and protection for staff and students. However, implementation of layered mitigation strategies will need to continue until we better understand potential transmission among people who received a COVID-19 vaccine and there is more vaccination coverage in the community. As vaccines are not yet approved for use in children under 14 years old, even after teachers and staff are vaccinated, schools need to continue mitigation measures for the foreseeable future, including requiring masks in schools, hand hygiene, ventilation, and physical distancing to the greatest extent possible.
9. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and

safety policies

- a. Children with disabilities will be accommodated based on their specific and individual needs based on their disability.

## **PLAN TO ADDRESS CONTINUITY OF ACADEMIC AND NON-ACADEMIC SERVICES**

Describe how you will address continuity of services for students and staff, where needed, in the following areas:

### **Academic Services**

- SY-2021: ASDOE prepared all school and staff for the continuity of academic and non-academic services through
  - Teacher Orientation
  - Professional development
  - Leadership Training
  - Technology Training
  - Training for new hired Educators and Counselors
  - Newly hired Teacher Aids and School Sanitizers
  - Hybrid-Blended Learning Training
  - G-Suite Application PD's
  - COVID-19 Task Force Training
  - SBA, SAT, ACT, Assessment
  - School Schedules
  - ASDOE Standard & Benchmark Curriculum Alignment
  - Data Collection and additions
  - Community Outreach & Partnership
  - School Graduation Plans
  - Extracurricular Activities & Competitions
  - SPORT & Athletic Competitions extracurricular activities

### **Social Emotional:**

- Principals and counselors will continue to monitor the social-emotional well being of individual students and the student body as a whole. Building-specific protocols alert leaders to intervention needs.
- A task force will consider a district-wide SEL framework/ curriculum and/ or protocols to implement for SY 2021- 22. Building-specific initiatives have advanced site-based learning and planning.
- Meeting the social and emotional needs of students is best accomplished through planning and intentional processes that shortcut issues that might become concerns. Some of these ongoing practices include:
  - Proactive lessons by counselors in remote and in person classrooms (mindfulness, friendships, understanding emotions, etc.)
  - Interviewing new students

- Seeking opportunities to spend time with and observe students in various settings
- Build meaningful relationships with students
- Counselor presence/ availability for potentially distressing events, activities, or lesson material.
- Utilizing Red Flags protocols to identify and address student needs
- Utilizing needs assessments for counselors to gather information from teachers
- Professional learning for staff in understanding the social and emotional attributes of all learners, including specific needs associated with particular grade/ age levels, population subgroups, and student identity/ attributes, and with regard to particularly upsetting ongoing circumstances (ex: pandemic, suicide, loss of student/ staff member, etc.)
- As social and emotional needs are identified, various processes are already in place to address them:
  - Home visits
  - Formal Wellness checks
  - Small group and individual work with school counselors
  - Recommendation for services with community partners

### **Mental Health**

- Site based counseling services from two outside agencies are offered 3-4 times per week. Identified students are referred to administrators or school counselors, who then reach out to parents/guardians/students to offer and assist through the agency referral process to start services.
- Continue practices that support teacher understanding of warning signs and facilitate communication with counselors and principals.
- Continue practices that connect school counselors with students and families in need, and with community partners as warranted.
- Specific district-wide initiatives that address student wellbeing concerns include:
  - Professional learning in SEL
  - Professional discourse and learning with regard to equity
  - Building and District teams to identify and address forms of systemic racism in our schools

### **Health**

- Continue practices to offer vaccination clinics to eligible students and staff just as we have done in the past.
- Continue practices that follow local health department and CDC guidelines for contact tracing, isolation and quarantine.

### **Food**

- Continue practices to offer students and families the opportunities for food distribution in collaboration between local agencies and centers.

## PUBLIC INPUT

- The ARP relies heavily on stakeholder and public input to address the needs of all students in response to COVID-19. Please fill out this [survey](#).
- Additionally you can contact us directly via email: [asdoefederalgrantsoffice@doe.as](mailto:asdoefederalgrantsoffice@doe.as)

## CONTACT INFORMATION FOR ASDOE

- All schools are required to update their school website. The website can include links to all learning resources.
- Schedule for lunch programs, competitions, whole community updates, assessment dates will be available online.
- Click on the official ASDOE website for additional information:
- <https://www.doe.as/>
- Email: [asdoefederalgrantsoffice@doe.as](mailto:asdoefederalgrantsoffice@doe.as)

***Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Service Plan which must be revisited every six months by “ Dec 24, 2021” and is subject to change.***