

LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Updated September 2023

LEA Name: Grow Public Schools (GPS) - Grow Academy Arvin, Grow Academy Shafter

1. The LEA had a plan, as of March 11, 2021, that is already compliant with the ARP statute and will review and, as appropriate, revise it every six months to take into consideration the additional requirements of the Interim Final Requirements (IFR).

[COVID-19 Communications Archive | Grow Public Schools](#)

2. The LEA will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other school and LEA staff, and the extent to which it has adopted policies, and a description of any such policies, on each of the CDC's safety recommendations, including: universal and correct wearing of masks; modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing; handwashing and respiratory etiquette; cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation; contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments; diagnostic and screening testing; efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities; appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and coordination with State and local health officials.

[Describe how the LEA will maintain, or continue to maintain, health and safety policies and procedures. Include a description of any adopted policies and procedures regarding the CDC's safety recommendations \(or available LEA website links to such policies\). Include descriptions of appropriate accommodations adopted and coordination efforts conducted with outside State and local health officials. Please include or describe current public health conditions, applicable State and local rules and restrictions, and other contemporaneous information that informs your decision-making process.](#)

Masks: Unless otherwise directed by local health departments or local educational agencies, students and staff should follow [CDPH masking guidance for the general public](#), as well as masking guidance in the [CDPH COVID-19/K-12-Guidance-2023-24-School-Year](#) and [Get the Most Out of Masking: Tips & Resources](#)

. Child and adult-sized masks will continue to be available at all school and district facilities.

Physical distancing: Physical distancing is no longer a requirement, but may be practiced when appropriate.

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette: Frequent hand washing, including upon entering the classroom, before meals and after using the restroom, is encouraged throughout the day. Respiratory etiquette is also encouraged throughout the day. Hand sanitizers and handwashing stations are available at all sites.

Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities: Staff will follow CDC and CDPH guidelines for cleaning and disinfecting. Only EPA approved products will be used to disinfect.

Contact tracing: The California Department of Public Health has issued new requirements regarding the management of COVID on school campuses for employees. Contact Tracing is no longer required as of March 10th, 2023. Students should follow the protocols listed here if they are experiencing symptoms related to COVID-19. The California Department of Public Health and CalOSHA has issued updated quarantine guidelines effective February 13, 2023. To learn more about the new requirements, click [here](#).

Diagnostic screening and testing: All students, staff and visitors are recommended to self-screen for symptoms prior to entering campus. COVID-19 tests will be readily available for students and staff at school sites and central office. There are also several places in Kern County that offer testing.

Vaccines: GPS recognizes that vaccination is effective at preventing COVID-19, protecting against both transmission and serious illness or death. Vaccinations are free to anyone who would like to receive them.

To learn more about the different vaccinations and testing locations available, go to the Kern County Department of Public Health website: [COVID-19 - Kern County Public Health](#)

To find a vaccination clinic and to schedule an appointment, go to [My Turn - California](#)

Accommodations for students with disabilities: Services for students with

disabilities shall be provided in accordance with their individualized educational plan.

Coordination with state and local health officials: District staff will continue to work closely with all new guidance and regulations that come from state and local health officials. District staff regularly receive information from local health officials to keep the district updated on the most current information.

The district reports information about COVID-19 cases, and provides related information as requested, to the KCDPH and other governmental agencies, including Cal/OSHA, when requested, as required by law.

3. 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.

Describe how the LEA will ensure continuity of services in case isolation, quarantine, or future school closures are required, including how the LEA will meet the needs of students with disabilities and English learners.

The district is committed to providing continuity of services in case of isolation, quarantine or school closure protocols. The district provides an Independent Study program to help students to continue to receive academic and attendance credit while absent from the classroom. The district continues to provide access to counselors and other resources for social/emotional health support.

4. The LEA sought public comments in the development of its plan and took those comments into account in the development of its plan.

Describe the LEA's policy or practice that provided the public with an opportunity to provide comments and feedback and the collection process. Describe how any feedback was incorporated into the development of the plan.

Feedback is collected through in-person and online meetings, and through public comment at Board of Directors meetings. GPS continues to implement its ESSER III Expenditure Plan, which uses federal ARP funds to provide safe in-person learning during the COVID-19 pandemic.

GPS provides the following assurances:

GPS made its plan publicly available no later than 30 days after receiving its ARP ESSER allocation, in June, 2021.

The LEA sought public comment in the development of its plan and took those public comments into account in the development of its plan.

- The LEA will periodically review and, as appropriate revise its plan, at least every six months.
- The LEA will seek public comment in determining whether to revise its plan and, if it determines revisions are necessary, on the revisions it makes to the plan.
- If the LEA revises its plan, it will ensure its revised plan addresses each of the aspects of safety currently recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), or if the CDC has revised its guidance, the updated safety recommendations at the time the LEA is revising its plan.
- The LEA has created its plan in an understandable and uniform format.
- The LEA's plan is, to the extent practicable, written in a language that parents can understand, or if not practicable, orally translated.
- The LEA will, upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability, provide the plan in an alternative format accessible to that parent.

The following person or persons is/are the appropriate contact person for any questions or concerns about the aforementioned plan: Steve McClain, Chief Business Officer, Grow Public Schools, 5080 California Avenue, Suite 100, Bakersfield CA 93309, County of Kern, 661-489-4380.

Please list name(s), title(s), address, county, and contact information for the person or persons responsible for developing, submitting, and amending the LEA plan: Steve McClain, Chief Business Officer, Grow Public Schools, 5080 California Avenue, Suite 100, Bakersfield CA 93309, County of Kern, 661-489-4380.