

Harts Bluff Independent School District

LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Service Pursuant to the Federal American Rescue Plan Act, Section 2001(i)

Introduction and Background

In March 2021 President Biden signed the Federal [American Rescue Plan \(ARP\) Act](#), Public Law 117-2, into law. The ARP Act provides an additional \$122 billion in Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) to States and school districts to help safely reopen, sustain the safe operation of schools, and address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the nation's students. As with the previous ESSER funds available under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, and the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA), the purpose of the additional funding is to support local educational agencies (LEAs) in preparing for and responding to the impacts of COVID-19 on educators, students, and families.

Section 2001(i)(1) of the ARP Act requires each LEA that receives ARP ESSER funds to develop and make publicly available on the LEA's website, no later than 30 days after receiving ARP ESSER funds, a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services for all schools (Safe Return Plan). A Safe Return Plan is required of all fund recipients, including those that have already returned to in-person instruction. Section 2001(i)(2) of the ARP Act further requires that the LEA seek public comment on the Safe Return Plan and take those comments into account in finalization of the Safe Return Plan. Under the interim final requirements published in [Volume 86, No. 76 of the Federal Register](#) by the U.S. Department of Education (USDE), an LEA must periodically, but no less frequently than every six months through September 30, 2023, review and, as appropriate, revise its Safe Return Plan.

This template incorporates the federally-required components of the Safe Return Plan.

Note that Governor Abbott has announced that remote learning will be rescinded, meaning that schools will be required to provide full-day, in-person instruction, as we were prior to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.

Harts Bluff Independent School District

District Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

LEA Name: Harts Bluff ISD

Date (06/09/2021):

Date Reviewed and/or Revised (11/29/2021) (5/19/2022):

1. Maintaining Health and Safety

For each mitigation strategy listed below (A–H), please describe 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 CDC.

A. Universal and correct wearing of masks

On May 20, 2021, the Harts Bluff Board of Trustees put into policy that on June 1, 2021 all COVID-19 protocols will end and face coverings will be optional. The policy goes on to say that the district will remain vigilant with many of the cleaning and disinfecting procedures put in place for the 2020-2021 school year.

B. Physical distancing (e.g., including use of cohorts/podding)

On May 20, 2021, the Harts Bluff Board of Trustees put into policy that on June 1, 2021 all COVID-19 protocols will end and face coverings will be optional. The policy goes on to say that the district will remain vigilant with many of the cleaning and disinfecting procedures put in place for the 2020-2021 school year.

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C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

On May 20, 2021, the Harts Bluff Board of Trustees put into policy that on June 1, 2021 all COVID-19 protocols will end and face coverings will be optional. The policy goes on to say that the district will remain vigilant with many of the cleaning and disinfecting procedures put in place for the 2020-2021 school year.

Harts Bluff ISD will continue to encourage staff and students to wash hands often throughout the school day. Handwashing and personal hygiene are also included in the Pre-k and Kindergarten curriculum.

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

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E. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments

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F. Diagnostic and screening testing

On May 20, 2021, the Harts Bluff Board of Trustees put into policy that on June 1, 2021 all COVID-19 protocols will end and face coverings will be optional. The policy goes on to say that the district will remain vigilant with many of the cleaning and disinfecting procedures put in place for the 2020-2021 school year.

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G. Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible

Harts Bluff ISD works closely with Titus Regional Medical Center to ensure that all eligible educators, other staff, and students have the opportunity for vaccination.

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H. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies

On May 20, 2021, the Harts Bluff Board of Trustees put into policy that on June 1, 2021 all COVID-19 protocols will end and face coverings will be optional. The policy goes on to say that the district will remain vigilant with many of the cleaning and disinfecting procedures put in place for the 2020-2021 school year.

Harts Bluff ISD will continue to work with parents, educators and health care professionals to provide the safest environment for our students with disabilities. The ARD committee will address concerns and IEP recommendations will be made in order to provide safe access to the curriculum and classroom.

2. Ensuring Continuity of Services

A. Describe how the LEA will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address students' academic needs and students' and staff's social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services.

On May 20, 2021, the Harts Bluff Board of Trustees put into policy that on June 1, 2021 all COVID-19 protocols will end and continuity of services will proceed as provided prior to March 2021. This includes, but is not limited to students' academic needs and students' and staff's social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services.

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Additionally, Harts Bluff has partnered with the Flippen Group to provide Capturing Kids Hearts training for all teachers in an effort to provide consistency and meet some of the social, emotional, and mental health needs of students. Harts Bluff has doubled the number of nurses in the district to provide additional services for student health and the district continues to work with the United States Department of Agriculture to ensure that all students have access to free meals throughout the 2021-2022 school year.

3. Public Comment

A. Describe how the LEA sought public comment on its plan, and how it took those public comment into account in the development of its plan.

Note, the ARP requires that LEAs seek public comment for each 6 month review/revision to the plan.

Harts Bluff ISD sought public comment through staff and student email, a parent survey, a properly advertised public hearing on May 20, 2021 and as an information item on the May 20, 2021 Board of Trustees public meeting.

B. Describe how the LEA ensured that the plan is in an understandable and uniform format; is to the extent practicable written in a language that parents can understand or, if not practicable to provide written translations to a parent with limited English proficiency, will be orally translated for such a parent; and upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA, will be provided in an alternative format accessible to that parent.

Harts Bluff ISD provides the Safe Reopening Plan in both English and Spanish. It is available on the district website www.hbisd.net and at the district administration office at 3344 FM 1402 Mount Pleasant, Texas 75455. Parents may request an oral presentation in English or Spanish by contacting the district at 903 577 1146.