

Sitka School District

American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act

Mitigation Plan Template

06/21/2021

Note to Districts

Districts may use the sample template below as a framework for the information to be included in their ARP Act Mitigation Plan. Districts are not required to follow this sample template or framework, but if they include all of the items listed below, they will have incorporated the information required by section 2001(i)(1) of the ARP Act.

Contact Information

District Information

Name of District: Sitka School District

District Point of Contact Name: Frank Hauser/ John Holst

Address (Street, City, State, Zip): 300 Kostrimetinoff St. Sitka, AK 99835

Phone: 907-747-8622 Fax: 907-966-1260 Email: hauserf@sitkaschools.org

Assurance Agreement for ARP Act Mitigation Plan

The district assures either:

- a) It will, within 30 days of receiving ARP ESSER funds, develop and make publicly available on the district's website a mitigation plan for the safe return and/or continuation of in-person instruction and continuity of services as required in section 2001(i)(1) of the ARP and in the U.S. Department of Education's [Interim Final Requirements](#), or
- b) It developed and made publicly available on the district's website such a mitigation plan that meets statutory requirements before the enactment of the ARP Act that meets -federal requirements. (The ARP Act was enacted on March 11, 2021)

The district assures that:

- a) It will periodically review and revise its mitigation plan, as appropriate, no less frequently than every six months for the duration of the ARP ESSER grant period (i.e., through September 30, 2023); and
- b) It will seek public input, and take such input into account, on (1) whether revisions are necessary and, if so, (2) the proposed revisions to the mitigation plan.

Before making the mitigation plan publicly available, the district **must seek public comment on the mitigation plan** and take such comments into account in the development of the plan.

Name of Superintendent: John Holst

Signature: *John Holst*

Date: 06/21/2021

Mitigation Plan

Plan Components

Districts must implement, to the greatest extent practicable, prevention and mitigation policies in line with the most up-to-date guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for the reopening and operation of school facilities to effectively maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff. Describe the extent to which the district adopted policies and a description of such policies on each of the strategies listed below:

1. [Masks](#)

Current Mask Policy: Masks or face coverings are required for all staff and students during the instructional day. Masking is optional for school staff when students are out of the building. The Superintendent has the authority to grant exceptions to this policy.

The district's masking policy will be reviewed and updated as updated guidance from the CDC is available and will be based on the use of other layered mitigations, the community's vaccination rate and the vaccination rate of school staff and students.

2. [Physical distancing \(e.g., including use of cohorts/pods\)](#)

The Sitka School District will follow current CDC guidance regarding physical distancing. Current policy is provide 3 to 6 feet of distance in all buildings and classroom spaces. 6 feet of distancing is preferred and promoted in areas where this can be accomplished. 3 feet of distancing is used in any space where 6 feet is not feasible.

Scheduling of passing period and recess will be conducted in a way that limits the mixing of classes/cohorts. Lunch will be served in settings that allow for physical distancing of students.

3. [Handwashing and respiratory etiquette](#)

Teach and reinforce washing hands among children and staff.

- Sanitation/Hygiene stations provided for every classroom or shared workspace.
- Students, and Staff required to "wash in/wash out" upon entering the building
- and upon entering and leaving respective rooms.
- After using the restroom, students and staff must wash hands with soap and water for 20 seconds. Hand sanitizer does not substitute in this situation.
- Before and after using playground equipment, starting recess, or starting a sports practice or event, students must wash hands or use hand sanitizer.
- Staff and students will be educated that they should wash or sanitize their hands any time they touch their face covering, including putting it on or removing it.
- Ensure soap and water or hand sanitizer are easily accessible near all entry doors, all high traffic areas, in every classroom or other learning space, and anywhere where food or drink is consumed.

4. [Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation](#)

- Use of custodial care plan - Custodial services will include daily cleaning of high touch surfaces.
- Daily/weekly check and fill all stations with sanitizing spray and wipes for classroom use.
- Daily/weekly check and fill hand sanitizer (e.g., library, office, entry ways, cafeteria, kitchen).
- Maintain and clean all cleaning supplies; rags (microfiber), vacuum cleaners & filters, wet mops, and dry mops.
- Hand washing and gloves to be used during cleaning

Ventilation

- Update filters in HVAC system.
- Adjust intake and air replacement cycle to increase uptake of fresh air (as permitted by outside temperatures)
- Investigate and invest in further air purification/disinfection systems for each building during the 2021-22 school year (UV, ionization, etc).

5. [Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments](#)

All staff and buildings have a protocol for isolation and quarantine of for any student or staff that present with a symptom consistent with COVID-19. An isolation room is identified in each building along with appropriate PPE for staff monitoring any student in this area until a parent arrives to take them home.

District office staff and the school nurse will collaborate with the local public health nurse to identify any students or staff that need to quarantine following the identification of a positive case in a school.

A point of contact for the district is identified to coordinate with public health for all contact tracing efforts in each building.

District staff will follow the recommendation of public health for when a student or staff member is cleared from quarantine and can return to in person learning.

6. [Diagnostic and screening testing](#)

The district will offer optional asymptomatic testing for all staff and students for the 2021-22 school year.

[Diagnostic and screening testing \(cont.\)](#)

Any staff or student that presents with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 will not attend school and will receive a negative COVID test prior to returning to in person learning.

Weekly testing will be required for middle school and high school students participating in extra-curricular sports and activities that involve travel outside of Sitka.

7. [Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible](#)

Information on local vaccination clinics will be provided to staff and students

8. [Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies](#)

Individual needs for student with special needs will be met through consultation with their special education case manager, counselor, or principal.

Accommodations will be provided on an individualized basis to meet the need of a student on an IEP or 504 plan to meet current health and safety policies.

Consideration for in person attendance with additional mitigations and safety measure will be considered for high needs special education students if remote learning is required at the district or building level.

Continuity of Services

Describe how the district will ensure continuity of services including, but not limited to, services to address students' academic needs, as well as the social, emotional, mental health, and other needs of students and staff (e.g., student health and food service).

Academic Continuity

- The Sitka School District plans to be open for full day in person instruction in August 2021.
- Remote learning options will be available for student required to quarantine by public health.
- Summer school programming to address learning loss will be available for Summer 2021 – a Kinder Camp will be available for incoming Kindergarten students for the month of June.

Social, Emotional, Mental Health

- Staff check in with co-workers and students regularly regarding changes in routine and unexpected changes in plans or cancellation of events.
- Staffing of counselors at all buildings and the addition of a social worker for the 2021-22 school year at Pacific High School.

- Continuing in-service and training to staff on trauma informed instruction and ways to support students experiencing additional stressors due to the pandemic.

Student Health

District Nurse will continue to check in and monitor student health for COVID and non-COVID health issues.

Food Services

The district will continue to provide food services to all students and no cost meals to identified students that qualify for free and reduced meals.

The district will continue to partner with other local agencies and the Sitka Tribe of Alaska to provide food resource to families with food insecurity.

Periodic Review

Describe how the district will periodically review and revise its mitigation plan, as appropriate, including a description of how the district will seek public input and take such input into account on (1) whether revisions are necessary and, if so, (2) the proposed revisions to the plan. Important Note: The district must review its mitigation plan no less frequently than every six months for the duration of the ARP ESSER grant period (i.e., through September 30, 2023).

- The Sitka School District sent out a stakeholder survey in May of 2021 to gather input on mitigation planning and the allocation of ARP resources. Continued stakeholder input will be gathered on an ongoing basis as revisions and updates are required to mitigation plans.
- Resource allocation and the district mitigation plan will be reviewed at least every six months to align with current CDC guidance and any changing needs within the district