

# **Chugach School District**

## **American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act**

### **Mitigation Plan**

June 16, 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: Chugach School District

District Point of Contact Name: Debbie Treece

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## 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: Mike Hanley

Signature: 

Date: 06/16/21

## 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

Chugach School District will continue to align mask protocols with current CDC guidance and community protocols. Masks are provided at each school site for students, staff, and visitors. Currently masks are required at Whittier Community School upon entry. In the Alaska Native villages of Chenega and Tatitlek, masks are made available but not required in the school. FOCUS Homeschool offices in Valdez, Fairbanks and Anchorage have masks available but are not required.

2. Physical distancing (e.g., including use of cohorts/pods)

Chugach School District encourages current physical/social distancing recommendations of 3 - 6 feet proper spacing to mitigate risks of COVID 19 spread. Whittier continues to use the cohort model to adequately provide physical distancing and family groupings. The Alaska Native villages of Chenega and Tatitlek are isolated small communities with schools of under 20 students PK – 12<sup>th</sup> grade that are not using the cohort model at this time. Appropriate physical distancing is still encouraged.

3. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Chugach students and staff are educated on proper procedures of handwashing and respiratory etiquette that includes controlling coughs and sneezes, remaining home when sick, and proper handwashing and use of hand sanitizers. Chugach School District provides hand sanitizers in all areas of each school and office locations.

4. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

All sites have added air purifiers to improve ventilation and filter viruses and contaminants from the air in key locations (classrooms, common areas, etc.) across Chugach School District, and E-mist sprayers are at each location for disinfection of contact surfaces on a regular basis. All educational facilities are cleaned and maintained to increase mitigation of virus spread.

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

Chugach School District continues to partner with all local health clinics in each community site on Prince William Sound (Whittier, Tatitlek, and Chenega) to provide contact tracing along with

recommendations for isolation and quarantining. When positive COVID-19 cases are determined that have connections to the school, local Clinic personnel immediately communicate with appropriate district administrators about the situation and appropriate measures. Policies and practices align with State, local, and tribal health departments.

6. Diagnostic and screening testing

Chugach School District continues to partner with all local health clinics in each community site on Prince William Sound (Whittier, Tatitlek, and Chenega) to provide diagnostic and screening testing as needed. Clinics are providing priority status to local students, staff and school families for COVID-19 testing at their community facilities.

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

Chugach School District staff and students are encouraged to receive their vaccines as they become eligible.

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

All Chugach School District students with disabilities are provided the proper accommodations in relation to health and safety, and academic needs, and delivery of academic materials for remote learning as needed.

## 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).

During the 2020-21 school year In-Person learning with hybrid and remote models were made available as needed at each Chugach location. Protocols are in place to continue to provide the same continuity of services for the 2021-22 school year with flexibility to move to a more or less restrictive learning setting depending on COVID-19 spread. Online and direct delivery of materials will continue to be offered to all students. Currently, Chugach School District does not participate in the National Food Service program.

Ongoing discussions with local education leaders and health officials will assist with addressing the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of Chugach students and staff. Mental Health support is also being provided through a grant by the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development.

## 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

# American Rescue Plan Act Mitigation Plan



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).

Initial input for this plan occurred with key personnel from each Chugach site at the close of the 20-21 school year, as well as online survey offerings on the Chugach School District webpage and Facebook page. Chugach School District will continue to review and revise the current mitigation plan on a regular basis based upon updated CDC guidance, State recommendations, local needs, and public input. The CSD Mitigation Plan will be reviewed and revised as needed at the start of the 21-22 school year (September 2021) as well as reviewing and updating local Smart Start Plans, and every 6 months during the ARP ESSER grant period (June and December of each year) through September 30, 2023.

Community and Public Input is provided through online input surveys through the Chugach School District website ([www.chugachschooldistrict.com](http://www.chugachschooldistrict.com)) and social media Facebook page, as well as informal community input that occurs with local staff and teachers.