

LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL (#4216) MITIGATION PLAN  
COVID-19 RESPONSE

The Liberty High School Governing Board remains committed to continuing its educational services as an alternative charter school (non-traditional setting) and under our existing school mission and vision since the school's inception in 1997. The school has remained open and in operation through online remote and distance learning, with paper and text educational correspondence options as of spring 2020. This method will continue to be in effect under ADE's Roadmap for Re-Opening Schools-Scenario Three: "All Students Distance Learning from the Start of the School Year, with the Option of Returning to Physical Buildings when Appropriate". Liberty began its 2020-21 school year on July 29, 2020.

**Our Mission:**

Liberty High School is an educational community committed to academic rigor in the core secondary subjects which provides students with small class sizes, individualized attention, credit recovery options and decision making skills needed to freely participate and succeed in a rapidly changing world.

**Our Vision:**

To meet the educational needs of an ever changing and complex student body; to develop, to the greatest extent possible, the innate human potential of all students; to meet the unique needs of a select student body; to act as a liaison between the student and community at large; and to function as a positive change agent in the lives of the children we serve.

The Liberty High School Governing Board will consider re-opening the school facilities for in-person learning under ADE's Scenario 2: Hybrid plan, when:

- ADHS COVID-19 benchmark thresholds are consistent within minimal levels for our county. State levels may be considered due to high traffic in our county, increasing community exposure.
- ESSER grant funding reimbursements and safety supply and equipment supplies have been received in order to carry out safe classroom space environment, hygiene and disinfecting practices; readiness to protect children and employees at higher risk for severe illness.
- Adequate staffing is acquired and can be maintained due to teacher and para-professional shortages in Arizona, especially in our rural setting, and high percentage of teachers with at-risk factors for COVID-19 complications.
- Re-opening orders are consistent with applicable state and local orders: Governor's Office, Tribal Nations, Arizona Department of Health Services, and/or Local Health Departments.

Student support services will be available online and through virtual meetings. Arrangements for in-person services will be considered if they are deemed necessary and cannot be addressed during virtual meetings.

ADE Scenario 1 for traditional setting is not applicable for our alternative/non-traditional charter setting.

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ADE Scenario 4 for intermittent distance learning due to school closure will be considered if an emergency situation arises which necessitates this scenario.

The following mitigation strategies are as referenced in our Emergency Response Plan (ERP) for pandemics and CDC preventative measures for COVID-19.

**Communication**

- Liberty High School will stay informed by visiting the Arizona Department of Health Services web site, [www.azdhs.gov](http://www.azdhs.gov) and by staying in contact with the Gila County Health and San Carlos Tribal Health departments through update emails.
- On-going communication regarding school learning plans, will be provided to our school community through our school website, facebook page, parent mail and email, phone calls and/or texts.
- On-site communication regarding safety precautions for visits to our school office will be posted at the office entrance and on our website and facebook page.
- Information of known COVID-19 cases in our school will be reported to the Gila County Health Department by the attendance coordinator.

**Hygiene and Safe Health Practices**

Liberty High School will have posted procedures for students and staff to slow the spread of COVID-19:

- Stay home if you are sick**, have a fever, or display coronavirus or flu-like symptoms (fever-above 100 F, chills, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste, new loss of smell, sore throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea). If you have had these symptoms, do not return to the school facility until you have received negative COVID-19 test results. Notification must be made to the school office.
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after blowing your nose, coughing, sneezing, using restrooms and touching commonly used objects. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Practice 6 ft. social distancing from other people.
- Face masks are required at school, unless someone has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.
- Continue to keep about 6 feet between yourself and others. The mask is not a substitute for social distancing.
- Always cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow and do not spit. Throw used tissues in the trash.
- Clean AND disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily. This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks.

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**-Do not enter our facility if:**

- 1.You have a fever or you have been sick in the past 72 hours (3 days).
- 2.You have had known COVID-19 exposure in the past 72 hours (3 days).
3. You are awaiting results for COVID-19 tests.
4. You are under quarantine orders from the Health Department.
5. You have traveled outside Arizona or the U.S. in the last 14 days.

-It is highly recommended that those who are at risk for complications to COVID-19, work remotely. People at high risk for complications include those who are pregnant, have asthma, diabetes, underlying heart or lung disease, have cancer, compromised immune systems, neuromuscular disease, or are over the age of 65. If you are unsure of your risk, consult your physician.

Sick-leave for staff and absences for students due to pandemic illness will be excused under appropriate COVID-19 testing. Work and schooling will be accommodated virtually and online when possible. Notification must be made to the school office.

Parents/Guardians:

During the pandemic and when in-person instruction and/or on-site support services resume at the school facility, parents/guardians will monitor their child at home daily using the school symptom check form to make a decision whether the child should attend school for the day. Parents/guardians will also use this form themselves when they must visit the school office for any reason.

Teachers/Students/Parents/Guardians entering the school campus will have to undergo a temperature check to be logged on the symptom check and kept on file in the school office.

**Special Education Considerations**

Under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), a free appropriate public education (FAPE) is available to all children with disabilities. Due to pandemic school or facility closure, Liberty High School will serve the needs of children with disabilities the same as it maintains programs for its general student population. Our online and virtual programs provide students with disabilities with educational benefits commensurate with those provided to the general population. When Liberty cannot provide services to its general student population during a pandemic school closure, it is not required to provide such services to children with disabilities. Liberty will work with parents of students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) to consider the services that will be provided during the school or facility closure. The SPED Director will contact parents of students with an IEP to assess the students' needs and the accommodations/modifications can be made to assist them during the remote/distance learning period. If, however, it proves impossible to provide full and commensurate

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services during the closure, the IEP team must subsequently make an individualized determination of whether compensatory services are required that will enable the student academic progress. Key to this determination is whether the student who did not receive full services continued to make progress during the closure. This individual determination will assess what additional efforts – including, but not limited to, services before or after school, afterschool activities, or extended school days are needed to allow the student to recoup lost time. If the school year will be extended for the general student population, it must be extended for students with disabilities as well.

**Social Services**

Liberty will continue social services through virtual and online programming with local community agencies:

- AZ Youth Partnerships
- Community Bridges
- College prep programs

The Liberty staff will continue to make observations and monitor students via the virtual classroom, emails and phone communications to make notifications to the school director who will in turn make referrals to necessary agencies, i.e., community backpack program, Department of Child Safety, Community Bridges and/or Tribal Warm Line.

**Cleaning and Sanitizing Procedures**

Liberty will maintain the following procedures in all campus facilities:

- Normal routine cleaning with soap and water to lower the risk of spreading COVID-19 infection.
- Use disinfectants to kill germs on surfaces; biocide fogger and alternative disinfectants will be used (for example, 1/3 cup of bleach added to 1 gallon of water, or 70% alcohol solutions). Bleach solutions will be effective for disinfection up to 24 hours.
- Disinfectants and chemicals will be stored in a responsible and appropriate manner according to the label. Bleach or other cleaning and disinfection products together will not be mixed as this can cause fumes that may be very dangerous to breathe in. All disinfectants will be kept out of the reach of children.
- Gloves will always be worn when chemicals are being used for cleaning and disinfecting. Additional personal protective equipment (PPE) may be worn based on the setting and product.
- Social distancing, wearing facial coverings, and following proper prevention hygiene, such as washing hands frequently and using alcohol-based (at least 60% alcohol) hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available; will be practiced.

**Transportation**

Liberty will not be transporting students during the pandemic.

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<b>Food Services</b>
Liberty is an alternative charter school that does not provide a food program.
<b>Continuity of Educational Services</b> – Liberty’s Distance Learning Plan submitted to AZ State Board for Charter Schools on July 23,2020, addresses the Governor’s Executive Order and can be accessed on our website; <a href="http://www.liberty-high.net">www.liberty-high.net</a> .