



Արի Կիրակոս Մինասեան Ազգային Վարժարան
Ari Guiragos Minassian Armenian School

5315 W. McFadden Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92704 Tel: (714) 839 -7831 / Fax: (714) 839 -1036
E-mail: contact@agminassianschool.org · Website: www.agminassianschool.org



Waiver Application Form

Please submit one application for each local educational agency or equivalent. If applying on behalf of a school district please submit one application for elementary schools in the district that are seeking to reopen for in-person instruction. If applying for an independent, private, faith-based, or charter school, please submit an application for each school.

Background Information

Name of Applicant: Board of Regents of Armenian Prelacy Schools

Name of District/School: Ari Guiragos Minassian Armenian School (AGM)

If this is a School District Consolidated Application: No

School Type: Faith-Based School

Number of schools: 1

Enrollment: 78 Students

Superintendent (or equivalent) Name: Board of Regents of Prelacy Armenian Schools/Ms. Sanan Shirinian, Principal.

Address: 5315 W. McFadden Ave. Santa Ana, CA 92704

Number of students and number of classes per grade proposed to be reopened:
AGM Armenian school only has one class per grade level.

K: 15 students

1st: 16 students

2nd: 9 students

3rd: 10 students

4th: 7 students

5th: 14 students

6th: 7 students

Date of Proposed Reopening: October 5th, 2020

Name of Person Completing Application: Ms. Sanan Shirinian

Phone Number: 818-219-0615 (cell), 714-839-7831 (work)

Email: Sshirinian@agminassianschool.org

Signature:

Date: 08/19/2020



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I. Consultation

Please confirm consultation with the following groups:

Labor Organization:

The school staff is not represented by any labor organizations. The AGM administration has had multiple remote and in-person meetings with the entire school staff, as fully described below.

Parent and Community Organizations:

Name of Organization(s) and Date(s) Consulted:

School Board:

The School Board (comprised of 7 school parents from various grade levels), met on July 8th, July 20th, and August 12th. Although COVID-19 safety protocols were on the School Board's meeting agendas since March 2020, these most recent meetings focused on realizing the specific directives and measures outlined in the AGM Reopening and COVID-19 Prevention plan. The School Board and administration reviewed 3 drafts of the Reopening Plan to implement feedback from parents and community members. Some of the updates that were discussed from the initial meeting to the last meeting include budgeting for touchless faucets, increasing the budget for an evening sanitation service, and modifying the parking lot to allow for safe and socially-distant drop-off/pick-up procedures. (more details included in the AGM School Reopening & COVID-19 Prevention Plan).

Church Parish Council:

The School Administration, School Board and local Parish Board of Trustees met on July 8th. Regular communication between the School Principal and Rev. Father occur on a weekly basis. The coordination between the Parish and the School is critical because the school building is located within the general church complex. The ongoing cooperation between the school and the church include the following:

- Parking arrangements
- Janitorial and Sanitation Services
- Budgeting

The school administration and Parish Council agreed that upon reopening, students will not partake in church services to minimize their exposure to spaces beyond their classrooms and outdoor field.



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School Parents:

A parent survey was initially conducted on June 1st to better understand how parents perceived returning to school. This survey included the following questions.

1. If the facilities open on August 17, do you feel comfortable sending your child to school.
2. Do you prefer to continue with distance learning if facilities reopen in August.
3. If facilities reopen, would you elect for your child to wear a mask while at school. (for K-2nd grade students).
4. Do you feel comfortable with a hybrid learning model where students come to school in smaller groups on alternating days.
5. Are you unable to enroll in a hybrid model or online learning due to childcare issues.

The survey received 100% participation from the AGM parent community.

The results of the survey indicated that a majority of parents feel comfortable sending their children back to school if facilities reopen under safe, state-guided health regulations.

Subsequently a school-wide live parent meeting was held via Zoom on July 23, 2020. During this meeting, the AGM School Reopening and COVID-19 Prevention Plan was presented in detail. This consultation offered time for questions and answers regarding the plan, as well as unforeseen concerns. The questions came in via the zoom chat feature, and there was active participation from a majority of parents.

Nearly all parents participated in this meeting, and the session was recorded and emailed to those few who were unable to attend. The School Administration and School Board's assessment of this meeting based on comments, questions and feedback, was that the parent community was supportive and on board with the School Reopening and COVID-19 Prevention Plan.

The Bloomz application is a unique communication tool used by school parents, administration and teachers on a daily basis. This application was an additional platform for consultation with parents and staff. Since March, school parents have been regularly communicating with the administration through Bloomz to discuss distance learning, safety protocols needed to return, and more. Through this app, parents can communicate directly with the principal, and the response time is usually within one hour.

An additional parent survey was distributed on August 13, 2020. The questions once again asked, if facilities reopen would parents opt for returning to campus full time, staying remote, or a hybrid model.

100% of parents responded to the survey.

The overwhelming majority of parents responded with the desire to return full-time or part-time to campus instruction.

Subsequent to these surveys, the AGM leadership team developed a plan to accommodate



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students and families who prefer to continue with distance learning, or a hybrid model of learning. A hybrid-model and distance learning option are being made available for the small proportion of students who will not return to campus.

If no labor organization represents staff at the school, please describe the process for consultation with school staff:

School Staff:

The school staff is comprised of 14 individuals including teachers, security, custodian and administration. Communication and collaboration with this small group occurs on a regular basis via email, phone and particularly our Bloomz communication app.

Zoom meetings were held with school staff on July 7 and July 21st, to discuss the reopening plan. An in-person outdoor meeting was also held with all staff on August 12th. Daily communication, including one on one meetings between staff and principal began on July 27.

While the staff is not represented by any labor organization, the school principal created a forum for them to provide their input and feedback regarding the school reopening plan. Individual and private communication was conducted with each staff member in order to address their willingness to return to campus instruction.

During these consultations, the following collective measures were agreed upon:

- parent & teacher conferences would only occur remotely or outdoors with social-distancing measures.
- staff meetings would occur remotely or outdoors with social-distancing measures.
- staggered break and lunch times for staff.
- implementing hand-washing and hygiene practices into daily lesson planning.

Staff expressed a desire and willingness to return to on-campus instruction under the guidance of the School Reopening & Covid-19 Prevention Plan. Drafts of this plan were provided on the staff page of the Bloomz communication app to allow for input and feedback from the teachers.

Faculty and staff also participated the parent-wide zoom meeting to dialogue with parents directly regarding reopening strategies.



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II. Elementary School Reopening Plans

Please confirm that elementary school reopening plan(s) addressing the following, consistent with guidance from the California Department of Public Health and the local health department, have been published on the website of the local educational agency (or equivalent):

- Cleaning and Disinfection: How shared surfaces will be regularly cleaned and disinfected and how use of shared items will be minimized.
- Cohorting: How students will be kept in small, stable, groups with fixed membership that stay together for all activities (*e.g.*, instruction, lunch, recess) and minimize/avoid contact with other groups or individuals who are not part of the cohort.
- Entrance, Egress, and Movement Within the School: How movement of students, staff, and parents will be managed to avoid close contact and/or mixing of cohorts.
- Face Coverings and Other Essential Protective Gear: How CDPH's face covering requirements will be satisfied and enforced.
- Health Screenings for Students and Staff: How students and staff will be screened for symptoms of COVID-19 and how ill students or staff will be separated from others and sent home immediately.
- Healthy Hygiene Practices: The availability of handwashing stations and hand sanitizer, and how their use will be promoted and incorporated into routines.
- Identification and Tracing of Contacts: Actions that staff will take when there is a confirmed case. Confirm that the school(s) have designated staff persons to support contact tracing, such as creation and submission of lists of exposed students and staff to the local health department and notification of exposed persons. Each school must designate a person for the local health department to contact about COVID-19.
- Physical Distancing: How space and routines will be arranged to allow for physical distancing of students and staff.
- Staff Training and Family Education: How staff will be trained and families will be educated on the application and enforcement of the plan.
- Testing of Students and Staff: How school officials will ensure that students and staff who



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have symptoms of COVID-19 or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 will be rapidly tested and what instructions they will be given while waiting for test results. Describe how staff will be tested periodically to detect asymptomatic infections.

- Triggers for Switching to Distance Learning: The criteria the superintendent will use to determine when to physically close the school and prohibit in-person instruction.
- Communication Plans: How the superintendent will communicate with students, staff, and parents about cases and exposures at the school, consistent with privacy requirements such as FERPA and HIPAA.
- School Website URL where reopening plan and waiver are posted.

Additional Resources:

CDPH and Cal/OSHA Guidance for Schools and School-Based Programs

<https://files.covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-schools.pdf>

California Department of Education Stronger Together: A Guidebook for the Safe Reopening of California's Public Schools

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/strongertogether.asp>

CDPH COVID-19 and Reopening In-Person Learning Framework for K-12 Schools in California, 2020-2021 School Year

[https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/COVID - 19/Schools%20Reopening%20Recommendations.pdf](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/COVID-19/Schools%20Reopening%20Recommendations.pdf)

For Internal Use Only:
Date Received

Health Officer Review

Determination Date