



## 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

As announced in the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE)'s [April 28, 2021 broadcast](#), 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. Additional information on ARP ESSER may be found in the NJDOE's [funding comparison fact sheet](#).

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.

Pursuant to those requirements, **LEAs must submit to the NJDOE and post on their website their Safe Return Plans by June 24, 2021.** The NJDOE intends to make LEA ARP ESSER Fund applications available in EWEG on May 24, 2021 and LEAs will submit their Safe Return Plans to the NJDOE via EWEG. To assist LEAs with the development of their Safe Return Plans, the NJDOE is providing the following template.

This template incorporates the federally-required components of the Safe Return Plan. The questions in the template below will be included in the LEA ARP ESSER Fund application in EWEG. LEAs will submit responses to the questions within the LEA ARP ESSER Fund application in EWEG by June 24, 2021. The NJDOE hopes that this template will allow LEAs to effectively plan for that submission and to easily post the information to their websites as required by the ARP Act.

Note that on May 17, 2021, Governor Murphy [announced](#) that upon the conclusion of the 2020-2021 school year, portions of Executive Order 175 allowing remote learning will be rescinded, meaning that schools will be required to provide full-day, in-person instruction, as they were prior to the

COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. The NJDOE and New Jersey Department of Health will share additional information regarding State requirements or guidance for health and safety protocols for the 2021-2022 school year as it becomes available.

## Template: LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

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LEA Name: Keansburg School District

Date 06/01/2021:

Date Revised (mm/dd/yyyy):

### 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:** School staff & visitors are required to wear face coverings. Students are required to wear face masks unless doing so would inhibit the student's health. Enforcing the use of face coverings may be impractical for young children or individuals with disabilities. Accommodation for students who are unable to wear a face covering will be addressed according to that need and in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations. Exceptions to requirements for face coverings shall be as follows: Doing so would inhibit the individual's health. The individual is in extreme heat outdoors. The individual is in water. A student's documented medical condition, or disability as reflected in an IEP, precludes the use of face covering. The student is under the age of two and could risk suffocation. Eating/drinking. Mask wearing will be enforced to the greatest extent possible, based upon the most recent CDC/NJDOE guidance at the time.

**B. Physical distancing (e.g., including use of cohorts/podding):** Students should keep a safe space between one another. To practice physical distancing, one should stay at least 3-6 feet from other people in indoor spaces. Physical distancing should be practiced in combination with other everyday preventive actions to reduce the spread of COVID-19. If a school/class in the district is not able to maintain this physical distance, additional modifications will be made including but not limited to using physical barriers between desks, turning desks to face the same direction (rather than facing

each other), and/or having students sit on only one side of the table or on opposite ends of the table, spaced apart. Cohorting/podding will be utilized in an event of a widespread. Social distancing will be enforced to the greatest extent possible, based upon the most recent CDC/NJDOE/NJDOE guidance at the time.

**C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette:** Signs will be posted throughout the buildings asking staff and students to cover mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing. Use tissues and throw them away. Wash your hands or use a hand sanitizer every time you touch your mouth or nose. Provide tissues and no-touch receptacles for their disposal. Students will all be provided with instruction on how to properly wash their hands. Staff will participate in online training through GCN. Information will be provided to staff, students, and students' families on [proper use, removal, and washing of face coverings](#). Custodial staff will prepare and maintain hand sanitizing stations with alcohol-based hand sanitizers (at least 60% alcohol). Such stations will be in each classroom (for staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer), at entrances and exits of buildings and near toilets. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette will be enforced to the greatest extent possible, based upon the most recent CDC/NJDOE/NJDOE guidance at the time.

**D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation:** EPA approved disinfectant spray available during the day to wipe down classroom door handles and touch points in-between class periods. A checklist for cleaning classrooms, bathrooms, touch points and procedures for refilling hand sanitizer stations at all entrances and easy access in common areas established. Signs and tape for distance are available to direct traffic flow. Buildings cleaned and disinfected nightly using cleaning tools per product specifications. Office staff wipe down desks and touch points daily and not have visitors. Custodians trained in product specs and wear PPE. Sanitizer sprayers purchased for quicker application of the disinfectant. During the day, bathrooms will be sanitized. Water fountains closed. Maintenance staff will monitor the HVAC systems for proper air flow and replace air filters per manufacturer specs. Adjustments to filter sizes made, dampers tweaked to increase outside air flow, and classroom windows opened to circulate outside air.

**E. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments:** School officials have engaged the expertise of their school nurses on the importance of contact tracing. School nurses have been critical to the development of the district plan. The NJDOE will credit staff with three hours of training upon completion of Johns Hopkins University's COVID-19 Contact Tracing course. The course has been completed by the School Nurses. The district will assist public health officials with contact tracing. Each School Nurse completed the Johns Hopkins University's COVID-19 Contact Tracing course. Staff will be provided information on contact tracing and the protocol the district will follow. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments will be conducted to the greatest extent possible, based upon the most recent CDC/NJDOE guidance at the time.

**F. Diagnostic and screening testing:** Health checks will be conducted safely and respectfully, and in accordance with any applicable privacy laws and regulations. Results will be documented when signs/symptoms of COVID-19 are observed. The screening protocol will take into account students and employees with disabilities and accommodations that may be needed in the screening process for those students and employees. Students and employees with symptoms related to COVID-19 will be safely and respectfully isolated from others. If the school district becomes aware that an individual who has spent time in a school district facility tests positive for COVID-19, district officials will immediately notify local health officials, staff, and families of a confirmed case while maintaining confidentiality. Diagnostic and screening testing will be enforced to the greatest extent possible, based upon the most recent CDC/NJDOE guidance at the time.

**G. Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible:** As per CDC guidelines, school nurses will assist with setting up vaccination appointments for students, family members and staff (if eligible) as needed. Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible will be conducted to the greatest extent possible, based upon the most recent CDC/NJDOE guidance at the time.

**H. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies:** Students with disabilities will have all appropriate accommodations addressed based on their needs in their IEP, which will support their health, as well as safety. This will include consultations with all staff so that all precautions are in place, as well as obtaining any additional necessary supplies or resources required to accommodate their needs. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies will be enforced to the greatest extent possible, based upon the most recent CDC/NJDOE guidance at the time.

## 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. (1000 character limit):** A full continuum of services will be in place to ensure continuity. Collaboration with staff & parents will address that students are being provided with supports that will meet their academic and social emotional needs, with a prime focus on their overall well being. Procedures will be in place to support students through a multi-tiered approach. Counseling, screening and services will be offered. A tiered level approach will be used to address academic, social, and emotional needs. Instruction through the use of a variety of techniques will be implemented to positively support students' mental health and academic growth. Mindfulness activities, specifically through morning meetings will be conducted. The Curriculum team will utilize a collection of data to identify, screen, problem solve, engage, and make decisions to positively promote student success. Through various assessment tools, the district will be able to monitor student progress and use tools to remediate instruction.

### 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 60-day revision to the plan. (1000 character limit):

- **June 14 , 2021** - District Administration presented a brief overview to stakeholders.
- June 22, 2021 - Public comment was sought at that time.
- July 2021 - District Administration will monitor changing guidance and update the community accordingly.
- August, 2021 - District will make necessary changes to the plan based on changing guidance throughout July and August 2021.

**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. (1000 character limit):** Important documents will be provided in both English and Spanish, translated by an employee proficient in both languages. All students have access to Chromebooks and assistive technology, to help families access and understand the plan. People who have questions are encouraged to ask questions in any format available to them: in person, by email, and at Board of Education meetings.