



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

LEA Name: Alpha School

Date 06/15/2021:

Date Revised (06/15/2021):

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

All students and staff are required to wear masks when entering the building. Disposable masks will be placed at each entrance for those who forget. Monitors will make sure all are masked upon entering.

B. Physical distancing (e.g., including use of cohorts/podding)

Our classrooms and student population allow us to house each classroom while maintaining social distance restrictions. Desks are placed apart. Each desk has a clear plastic shield.

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Sanitizer will be placed at strategic locations around the building. All washrooms and classrooms with sinks will be monitored to ensure that there is always soap available. Students will be instructed on proper handwashing etiquette.

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

All rooms except the auditorium have been air conditioned. The ventilations system in the auditorium has been repaired and will be active through the day. Each classroom has ceiling fans that will circulate air. Classrooms are sanitized each evening. Common doors and railing will be sanitized nightly.

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

We will cooperate with the local authorities to contact parents, families and caregivers to determine close contacts and to advise of quarantine status and provide resources for testing and medical care. The Superintendent, School nurse and Assistant Principal are responsible for making these calls.

F. Diagnostic and screening testing

Each classroom will be staffed an adult with an infrared thermometer. Upon entrance students will be checked for temperatures and asked for symptoms. Anyone symptomatic and feverish will be sent to the nurse. The nurse will contact parents for pickup and isolate the child. Staff will self-monitor and report to the nurse daily regarding symptoms and temperature.

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

We partnered with Rite Aide to provide vaccine for staff in April; all who wish to be are vaccinated. We are coordinating with Rite Aide and other LEA's to conduct a voluntary clinic for our eligible students in the Fall.

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

All IEP's will be reviewed to ensure that needs are being met while adhering to health and safety guidelines before school opens. Instructional Aides will have strategies for students who require one-to-one classroom assistance.

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)

The guidance counselor will use the DECCA program to evaluate students' needs in September. Then programming will be created based on the identified needs. Period check-ins will monitor the need for change in services or programming. The guidance counselor will also work with individual student as needed. Student will all continue to receive free lunch to ease the financial burden for the community. Students will have additional learning opportunities throughout the year through an enrichment program focus on skill acquisition. Staff support includes the approval of leaves, when appropriate, providing gloves, desk shields and sanitizer when directed by the State.

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)

The Safe Reopening Template will be given to the Pandemic committee for comment and revisions. The Pandemic Committee is staffed by teachers, BOE members, parents and administrators. There will also be a discussion at the Public BOE meeting on June 15th, 2021. Comments will be recorded and considered before the passing of the plan.

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)

The details of the plan will be communicated through a website posting on the homepage. Instructions will be added in Spanish on how to receive a translated copy. One family in our district Speaks Mandarin and we will work with the translator we use to communicate with them to ensure the family understands. Finally, a video of the Superintendent explaining the plan will be posted on the website in August and shared on our social media platforms.