



## 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: Princeton Public Schools

Date (09/01/2021):

Date Revised (01/20/2022):

### 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

Princeton Public Schools will follow the current guidance from the CDC, New Jersey Department of Health and our local health department in regard to mask wearing. Teachers and staff will continue to model and monitor correct wearing of masks and instruct children as necessary and appropriate.

<https://www.princetonk12.org/district/district-news/news/district-story/~board/district-news/post/proposal-for-re-entry-2021-see-you-in-september-preliminary-plan>

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

Princeton Public Schools will follow the current guidance from the CDC, New Jersey Department of Health and our local health department in regard to physical distancing. Teachers and staff will continue to model and monitor correct physical distancing and instruct children as necessary and appropriate.

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Princeton Public Schools' plan calls for the installation of additional hand sanitizers and the district will follow the current guidance from the CDC, New Jersey Department of Health and our local health department in regard to proper and frequent hand washing. Teachers and staff will continue to model and monitor correct hand washing and respiratory etiquette and instruction child as necessary and appropriate

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

The district is installing new HVAC systems, will continue to schedule regular changing of HVAC filters and the district has upgraded all systems to include Hepa filters.

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

All district nurses have been trained in formal contact tracing, and the district has secured proper insurance so all district nurses can engage in contact tracing and vaccine administration. Additionally, the nurses have collaborated with the local health department in administering Covid tests and vaccines. Each school will continue to have an isolation area for students and adults experiencing symptoms.

F. Diagnostic and screening testing

The district will continue for all staff and students prior to entering the building each day to complete a screening questionnaire. Non staff or student visitors will have their temperature taken prior to entering the building. If an outbreak occurs, and a class or school quarantines, temperature taking will resume for all people entering the building.

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

All district nurses have been trained in the administration of vaccines and Covid tests. The district has taken out extra insurance for this effort. The district has provided release time for the purpose of vaccination for all staff and students will continue to do so. The district will inform all staff, students, and families of local vaccination locations.

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

Children with disabilities are accommodated through special masking plans, plexiglass barriers where needed and private isolation if experiencing symptoms. Instructional assistants are provided with additional PPE where necessary and appropriate. Additionally, medically fragile children are provided with virtual instruction as necessary and appropriate.

## **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 district continues to offer after-school and summer programming to address students' academic needs in addition to initiating problem-based learning in all secondary science classrooms to accommodate different learning needs within the school day. The district is working with community mental health partners to meet the mental health and social needs of our students and our food service continues to provide free lunch to all students as part of the National School Lunch program.

## **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 district engaged in public meetings including Board of Education committee meetings, PTO meetings and district administrative and faculty meetings. Additionally, the district posted the plan on our website and solicited feedback through our communications email.

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)