

Close Printer Friendly

Applicant:

03 0740 CARLSTADT - Bergen

Application:

ARP Safe Return Plan - 00-

Cycle:

Original Application

Project Period:

9/1/2021 - 8/31/2022

ARP Safe Return Plan

SAFE RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION

(1) IN GENERAL - A local educational agency receiving funds under this section shall develop and make publicly available on the local educational agency’s website, not later than 30 days after receiving the allocation of funds described in paragraph (d)(1), a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services.

2) COMMENT PERIOD.—Before making the plan described in paragraph (1) publicly available, the local educational agency shall seek public comment on the plan and take such comments into account in the development of the plan.

Support for Schools: Describe how the LEA will support its schools in safely returning to in-person instruction and sustaining safe operation. This description must include:

For each mitigation strategy listed below, 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.

LEA Response Table

1) Universal and correct wearing of masks

([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

Face coverings for students are currently required at all times when in the school building. However, at teacher discretion, students will be given outdoor "mask breaks" when social distancing is possible. Accommodations for students who are unable to wear a face-covering are addressed according to that student's need and in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations. Exceptions to requirements for face coverings include when doing so would inhibit the person's health, the individual is in extreme heat outdoors, the student's documented medical condition or disability as reflected in an IEP precludes the use of face-covering, or the student is under the age of two. Face coverings are always required for visitors and staff. If a visitor refuses to wear a face-covering, the visitor's entry to the school/district facility may be denied.

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

([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

All instructional and non-instructional rooms in school and district facilities complies with recommended social distancing standards to the maximum extent practicable. This was achieved by ensuring students are seated at least three-six feet apart. When a classroom or non-instructional room was not able to maintain this physical distance, additional modifications were implemented when possible, including having 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 a table, spaced apart appropriately. The district provided physical markings (i.e., tape on floors/sidewalks, signs on walls) to help ensure that staff and students remain socially distanced in lines and at other times. In the event that lunch/snack had to be provided indoors, students maintained social distancing and remained seated.

3) Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

The district promotes behaviors that encourage staff and students to stay home when appropriate, encouraging the practice of hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette; requiring the use of face coverings, and signs and messages in and around school buildings. Handwashing and hand sanitizing are permitted and encouraged throughout the school day. The district has prepared and maintains hand sanitizing stations with alcohol-based hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol). Such stations are located: in each classroom (for staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer); at entrances and exits of buildings; near lunchrooms and toilets; children ages five and younger are supervised when using hand sanitizer; for classrooms that have existing handwashing stations, stations are prepared with soap, water, and alcohol-based hand sanitizers (at least 60% alcohol). Handwashing is required before eating, after using the bathroom, and after blowing their nose, coughing, and/or sneezing.

4) Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

The district consults with contracted busing companies to ensure CDC recommended procedures are followed. We eliminated field trips requiring transportation. Custodial dept. follows the cleaning schedule which includes regular cleaning/disinfecting as well as rotational "deep cleaning" of high touch/high traffic areas. We use Bioesque products from the EPA's acceptable list. We maintain an adequate inventory of cleaning supplies. Staff disinfects frequently during the day for touchpoints, classrooms, isolation areas, lunch tables, and nurses' offices including shared student items. Disinfectant is used throughout the building at the end of each day using an electrostatic sprayer. All outside damper units regularly circulate in outside air at a minimum of 10%. HVAC system is controlled remotely to ensure proper ventilation. We have installed 6 Bipolar Ionization units in the HVAC system for added filtration and improved air quality. Air filters are replaced regularly.

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

([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

Procedures for symptomatic staff and students include students and staff with symptoms related to COVID-19 are safely and respectfully isolated from others. School officials follow Communicable Disease Service guidelines for illness reporting. If the school district becomes aware that an individual who has spent time in a district facility tests positive for COVID-19, officials immediately notify the local health officials, staff and families of a confirmed case while maintaining confidentiality. The procedure the district uses when someone tests positive includes the establishment of an isolation space. Students remain in isolation with continued supervision and care until picked up by an authorized adult. The district follows current Communicable Disease Service guidelines for illness reporting. Re-admittance policies are consistent with Department of Health guidance. The district also engages the expertise of the school nurses on the importance of contact tracing.

6) Diagnostic and screening testing

([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

The school district adopted Board policy 1648 regarding the screening procedures for students and employees upon arrival at school or work location for symptoms and history of exposure. Screening procedures include the following: staff must visually check students for symptoms upon arrival and/or confirm with families that students were free of COVID-19 symptoms; health checks must be conducted safely and respectfully, and in accordance with any applicable privacy laws

and regulations; results must be documented when signs/symptoms of COVID-19 are observed; any screening policy/protocol must take into account students with disabilities and accommodations that may be needed in the screening process for those students. School officials have encouraged parents to be alert for signs of illness in their children and to keep their child home when they are sick.

7) Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible
([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

Most educators and staff members voluntarily made vaccination appointments and were vaccinated. We provided times in town for staff members to receive their vaccination. The district also distributed all health notices, including notices of locations offering vaccinations. Students who are eligible for vaccines are already making their own appointments and getting vaccinated. Beginning on Oct 18, 2021, all staff members must be tested weekly (PCR test) if not vaccinated. At this time, we have very few employees who are unvaccinated.

8) Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies
([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

Reasonable accommodations were provided for individuals that the CDC identified as having a higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 such as medically fragile students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), students with complex disabilities with IEPs or students who require accommodations under a Plan in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (504 Plan). Accommodations were also made for those younger students or individuals with disabilities who could not wear a face covering and addressed according to a student's particular need and in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations. An exception to the requirement for a face covering was also made if a student had a documented medical condition or disability as reflected in an IEP that precluded the use of a face covering.

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Safe Return Plan Updated

Safe Return Plan text and assurances must be agreed to every six months.

Date Plan Updated

Describe how the LEA will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address students' academic needs and students' and staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services. ([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

The district has identified certain needs that will be funded by the CRRSA-ESSER II grant that will provide a continuation of services for students impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. We will provide therapeutic care for identified students who have experienced isolation, trauma, depression and anxiety. This therapeutic care will include individual and family counseling to support students' academic success and mental health needs. The district is also planning to improve elementary science and STEM, English Language Arts and Visual and Performing Arts through learning academies throughout the year. An analysis of student growth will be used to determine areas in need of support to increase student success, with the goals of increased fidelity to the standards and the inclusion of performance-based learning and thematic structures that accelerate, rather than remediate, learning. Social-emotional learning will also be a key factor in student success.

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. ([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

In addition to opportunities for public discussion at this and at subsequent Board of Education meetings, the plan will be posted on the school website and sent out to the local teacher's union, Carlstadt Public School families, and other individuals to give opportunities for public comment.

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. ([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

The School Reopening Plan is published on the district website at www.carlstadt.org, and the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services will be posted there as well, once it is Board approved. For those members of the public whose first language is not English, the website has the ability to translate text into eleven different languages. The text of the Reopening Plan is understandable and follows a clear format, making it easy for people to access the area they wish. Upon request and if necessary, an individual with a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act will be provided information in an alternative format that is accessible for that parent or guardian.

Briefly describe any guidance, professional learning, and technical assistance opportunities the LEA will make available to its schools. ([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

The district will continue to provide learning and technical assistance opportunities throughout the course of the year through formal professional

development sessions, coaching sessions, and individual assistance meetings.

Provide current link to the district's website where the plan is posted.

https://www.carlstadt.org/nj_plan_for_safe_return_to_inperson_instruction

☒ By checking this box and saving the page, the applicant hereby certifies that they will assure that the information contained in the Safe Return to School plans will be updated within this system every 6 months during this grant project period.

Assurances Fully Agreed to By:

Allison Evans