



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.

Randolph Township Schools: Safe Return Plan to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

LEA Name: Randolph Township

Schools Date: 6/20/2023

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.

BOE Policy 1648 (Restart and Recovery Plan) was adopted in September 2020 to address the health and safety requirements noted below. This policy was updated in December 2020 and will be reviewed as guidance is issued by the Governor’s Executive Orders and/or the Department of Health.

A. Universal and correct wearing of masks

The district’s plan for mask wearing will follow the guidance issued by the Governor’s Executive Orders and/or the Department of Health.

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

The district’s plan for physical distancing will follow the guidelines issued by the Governor’s Executive Orders and/or the Department of Health.

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Placement of hand sanitizing stations throughout common areas and classrooms will continue.

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

Custodians will clean key sections when opening the building. When classes begin, high touch areas will be disinfected. High-touch areas will be cleaned as often as possible while school is in session and again after dismissal. High traffic areas will be cleaned while school is in session and again after dismissal. All district classrooms will be disinfected using foggers every night. Any shared objects will be cleaned between uses. Hand sanitizer stations are available throughout each building and will be refilled as needed. Students will be encouraged to wash their hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer throughout the day. All the recommended preventative maintenance, repairs, and upgrades to the HVAC systems are completed on schedule or as needed.

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

The school district will follow the guidance issued by the Governor's Executive Orders and/or the Department of Health regarding contact tracing and quarantines.

F. Diagnostic and screening testing

The district's Nursing Department and Randolph Board of Health continue to make referrals to local facilities.

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

The district's Nursing Department will continue to provide vaccination information to staff and students; appointments will continue to be arranged by request.

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

Related service providers, including behaviorists and occupational therapists, will continue to provide videos and parent trainings for mask wearing for students with sensory deficits. Visuals are provided in classrooms and hallways. All classrooms are outfitted with protective wear and supplies.

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.**

ACADEMIC, SOCIAL, AND BEHAVIORAL SUPPORTS

Interventions will be implemented to ensure continuity of service for students' academic needs, and students' and staff's social, emotional, and mental health. We continue to increase mental health support available to students. Staff's social, emotional, mental health, and other needs will be met through a variety of professional development offerings. Students' academic needs will be met through rigorous instruction, a variety of courses and levels, and a plethora of electives. We are committed to ensuring students are on track to graduate and learning loss due to the pandemic is mitigated. Students in various grades will continue to be assessed using NWEA's MAP assessment to determine proficiency rates of students in comparison to nationally normed data. Interventions to be implemented during the year, including learning acceleration, academies, and tutoring to provide for students in need. All students are eligible for free breakfast/lunch and before/after care will be offered.

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.**

In addition to welcoming public comment at the Board of Education meeting on June 10, 2021, the district also disseminated a survey to all staff and parents to provide them with an opportunity to share their input.

- 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.**

The plan has been posted on the district website and is able to be translated by the end user. Other specific accommodations will be made upon request.

- C. **Briefly describe any guidance, professional learning, and technical assistance opportunities the LEA will make available to its schools.**

The district provides extensive professional learning to all staff through instructional and technology coaches along with other formal district training like Sheltered English Instruction.