



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: Mount Arlington Public Schools

Date (mm/dd/yyyy): June 16, 2021 (original)

Date Revised (mm/dd/yyyy): December 08, 2023 (current revision)

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

In the past, the District complied with all masking executive orders when they were in effect. Currently, masks are not required though they are available for anyone with symptoms. We will continue to provide masks for any staff member or student who requests one.

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

In the past, the District complied with all recommendations regarding distancing however these recommendations are no longer in place. We are therefore not using cohorts or any other physical distancing protocols.

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

The District has and will continue to stress the importance of handwashing and respiratory etiquette through health classes and other classes.

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

The District has a daily cleaning procedure manual for all custodians to follow and we make sure that frequently touched surfaces are cleaned often during the day. We also ensure that HVAC units are operational and that filters are changed on a recommended time schedule. Additionally, HEPA units are available in most rooms.

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

Per health department guidance, strict contact tracing is no longer performed. Both schools have an isolation area for symptomatic students before they are sent home.

F. Diagnostic and screening testing

Though testing is not a requirement, we do have a stock of home tests for families who want them.

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

Staff and families are made aware periodically of vaccine clinics in the area.

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

The District will continue to work with families to meet students' needs and IEPs should they become ill.

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 has and will continue to focus on meeting the academic needs of our students through assessing their skills and providing targeted assistance. We will continue to implement Response to Intervention (RTI) services and will again offer an after school academic assistance program for identified students. We are continuing to infuse social and emotional learning experiences for our students and are using a portion of our federal ESSER funds to pay for a mental health clinician to provide additional supports and training for our students, staff and parents.

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)

Public comment from BOE meetings, a parent survey, parent/superintendent meetings and many parental interactions and conversations surrounding this topic were all considered when making/updating this 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 District will ensure the plan is posted to our website and we will seek additional translations or alternative formats as requested.