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 28, 2023.** 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 28, 2024. 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 (NJDOH) 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: Lyndhurst Public Schools

Date developed: 6/18/21 **Dates Revised: 12/20/21, 7/19/22, 6/6/23, 10/9/23, 6/25/24**

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

As of March 7, 2022, face coverings are optional. The right to wear face coverings based on individual choice will be protected by the district. The plan may be updated in accordance with CDC and state guidance and in consultation with our local health department.

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

Full-time, in-person instruction remains in place for all students. Physical distancing in the classroom and on buses in accordance with CDC and state guidance is still encouraged. The plan may be updated in accordance with CDC and state guidance and in consultation with our local health official.

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

The district provides relevant information to faculty and students regarding handwashing and respiratory etiquette. Students are regularly encouraged to wash hands and/or use hand sanitizer.

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

The district has invested in HVAC repairs and upgrades. The ventilation systems meet recommended safety requirements, and filters are changed regularly. Windows have been left open, when possible, to enhance ventilation. The district's maintenance staff does all of the recommended preventative maintenance on the HVAC systems, air scrubbers, and recommends repairs and upgrades to the systems as needed. The district continues to follow disinfection protocols based on state guidance. As part of the daily work schedules for custodians, when opening the building, key sections will be cleaned first. Restrooms will be cleaned a minimum of two times while school is in session and one time after the building is vacated for the day. High-touch areas will be cleaned as often as possible while school is in session and again after the building is vacated for the day. Each area will be cleaned additional times, as necessary. Parents are encouraged to send students to school with a bottle/container of water. Head custodians will monitor all building needs and act on all requests. The district will limit the use of shared objects when possible. All soap and hand sanitizer stations will be checked and refilled/replaced as needed. Students will be encouraged to wash their hands with soap and water throughout the day. The plan may be updated in accordance with CDC and state guidance and in consultation with our local health official.

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

The District will continue to collaborate with the local health department and engage its school nurses. Contact tracing and isolation/quarantine procedures will be based on the district's numbers. Contact tracing will only be used when needed and recommended by the local health department. The district also routinely communicates with the local recreation department to track cases. Students and staff who test positive will isolate, quarantine and return to school based on the NJDOH quarantine protocols for K-12 Schools.

Updated quarantine procedures as of 10/10/23:

- Staff and students who test positive will remain home for 5 full days after onset of symptoms or if asymptomatic after the positive test (day of symptoms is day 0; if asymptomatic, day the test was performed is day 0). If they have no symptoms or symptoms resolve after 5 days and are fever-free without the use of fever-reducing medicine for 24 hours, they can return to school . It is recommended they wear a mask days 6-10.

F. Diagnostic and screening testing

Parents are strongly encouraged to monitor their children for signs of illness. Students who are sick should not attend school. If any child is exhibiting COVID-like symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19, parents are instructed to inform the school health office immediately. The same protocol applies to employees. Employees should monitor their symptoms and not report to work if they are not feeling well. If an employee tests positive for COVID-19, the employee must inform the school health office or immediate supervisor.The district's Nursing Staff and the Lyndhurst Health Department will continue to make local facilities known to the school community.

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

The district continues to work closely with the NJDOH and our local health department in disseminating information to the community regarding vaccination and booster clinics. Vaccination opportunities will be email blasted out.

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

Consideration and reasonable accommodations will be given to students who are considered medically fragile or present with other significant needs related to their ability or health status, including but not limited to students with IEPs, 504 plans, or IHPs. If a parent makes a request for accommodations based on a serious underlying medical condition, the district will require families to provide medical documentation. Medical information will remain confidential in accordance with all applicable laws. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities are discussed with the IEP team and handled on an individual, case-by-case basis. In accordance with state and federal guidelines, students who are eligible for special education and related services will be provided with a free and appropriate public education (FAPE).

The district will provide appropriate individualized PPE for staff and students as appropriate and necessary.

The plan may be updated in accordance with CDC and state guidance and in consultation with our local health official.

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 Lyndhurst Public Schools will continue to implement interventions that will ensure continuity of service, including services that address students' academic needs, and students' and staff's social, emotional, mental health, and other needs. Our school district continues to increase the number of mental health supports available to our students. Academic needs will be met through rigorous instruction, along with a plethora of elective-type courses in the arts and other areas.Students at all three levels of the school district will use benchmark assessments to establish baselines.Different interventions will be implemented during the year.This will assist students who are in academic need. Memorial was re-opened in 2021-2022 to reduce class size, an additional grade 5 class was opened to reduce class size for the 23/24 school year. This section transitions to the Middle School in the 24/25 school year and is no longer needed.

3. Public Comment

A. Describe how the LEA sought public comment on its plan, and how it took those public comments 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)

In addition to welcoming public comment at the Board of Education meeting on June 29, 2021, the district also disseminated a survey on Friday, June 11, 2021 to all staff and parents to provide them an opportunity to share their input. We also hosted a Community Feedback Forum on June 17, 2021.During the November 30, 2021 board of education meeting, the public was informed of the district's planned use for ARP-ESSER funds. The use of ARP-ESSER funds was also posted on the district website. During the summer of 2022, the community had an opportunity to review the revised Safe Return Plan and ARP-ESSER use of funds. Community feedback was collected through a brief survey, and public comments were welcomed at the August 30, 2022, board meeting. Also, the district will post its plan on the district website for community members to view at their leisure.

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 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.

ARP-ESSER
Allocation and Use Breakdown

Total ARP-ESSER Allocation $2,614,120

ARP-ESSER $2,265,726

Must allocate 20% for learning loss ($453,145)

- Education Consultant (Janis Cameron) provides Tier 3 small group instruction to general education & SE students (2021-2022)
- K-5 leveled readers for classroom libraries to support general education & ELLs (2021-2022)
- Teachers to reduce class size
- Facility uses: Boiler, upgrade air conditioning/HVAC, HVAC filter replacements
- Custodial staff for increased cleaning and disinfecting of school to prevent/reduce COVID transmission
- Support opening of Memorial School
- IT Person
- 6th period teacher coverage
- Sheltered English Instruction Strategies PD (Up the Bar Educational Achievement Consultant) (2023-2024)
- Tablets for ESL students (2023-2024)
- Amplify mCLASS Intervention PD (2023-2024)
- Well-being Festival (2023-2024)
- K-2 afterschool tutoring program (2023-2024)

Accelerated Learning Coaching and Educator Support Grant $223,394

- Math Consultant- Mary Oates (2021-2022, 2022-2023, 2023-2024)
- ELA Consultant – Elaine Bakke (2021-2022, 2022-2023)
- ELA Consultant – SchoolWide (2023-2024)
- ELA and Special Education Consultant: Gravity Goldberg (2023-2024)
- Third party provider BCBA and LDTC provide job-embedded PD, coaching and modeling, and identify academic and behavioral supports for students (2022-2023, 2023-2024)

Evidence-Based Summer Learning and Enrichment Activities Grant $40,000

K-5 Special Education Extended School Year (Summer 2023)

Evidence-Based Comprehensive Beyond the School Day Activities Grant $40,000

- K-5 afterschool program (2021-2022, 2022-2023)
- HS SAT Prep program (2021-2022, 2022-2023)

NJTSS Mental Health Support Staffing $45,000

Part-time middle school counselor (non-tenured track)