



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: White Township Consolidated School District

Date: June 22, 2021 (Original Plan)

Date Revised: December 15, 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.

A. Universal and correct wearing of masks

- The district will follow current guidance from the NJDOH, CDC, and NJDOE.
- The school nurse will teach and reinforce the proper way to wear a mask.

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

- The district will follow current guidance from the NJDOH, CDC and NJDOE.
- Cohorts and podding will not be necessary due to small class sizes and large classrooms.
- Students will be dismissed from the building in grade level bands to minimize traffic at a given time.

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

- Students and staff will continue to be reminded to cover their mouth and nose with a tissue when they cough or sneeze and to throw used tissues in the trash.
- Staff members and the school nurse will demonstrate and model proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette.
- Visual signs and posters will continue to be displayed throughout the school building to promote proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette.
- Each classroom will have hand sanitizer to ensure students and staff wash hands frequently.

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

- Each classroom will be disinfected daily.

- Recirculated air will have a fresh air component and windows will be opened as applicable.
 - A schedule has been developed for routine cleaning and disinfection.
 - Hand sanitizer will be made available in all classrooms.
 - EPA approved disposable wipes will be available to all staff to clean commonly used surfaces such as keyboards, desks, etc. before use.
 - The district will ensure adequate supplies to support cleaning and disinfection practices. Additional cleaning supplies and equipment have been purchased.
- E. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments
- The school nurse will continue to work with the WCDOH to ensure that current guidance in regards to contact tracing, isolation and quarantine are being followed within our district.
- F. Diagnostic and screening testing
- The district will follow current guidance from the NJDOH, CDC and NJDOE.
 - Parents are encouraged to be alert to signs of illness in their child(ren), and to keep their child(ren) home if they are sick. Parents are required to screen their child(ren) before placing them on a bus or driving them to school.
 - Staff will visually check students for symptoms upon arrival (which may include temperature checks), and will continue to conduct visual scans for symptoms throughout the day.
- G. Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible
- Currently, the majority of our district's staff is vaccinated.
 - The district will continue to provide staff with information on where and how to get vaccinated locally if they so choose.
 - Information will also be made available to parents regarding vaccination opportunities for students.
- H. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies
- All children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies will be provided the appropriate accommodations as identified in their IEP or Section 504 Accommodation Plan.
 - Consultations will take place with the CSA, school nurse, CST, parent/guardian and Section 504 coordinator, as appropriate, to ensure that all necessary accommodations are being provided for children with disabilities.

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 will provide a Summer Academy for interested students. Additionally, the district will provide before and after school opportunities for students to receive remediation in the areas of Language Arts and Mathematics.
- The district will administer formative assessments, and will use data gained from these assessments to provide students with remediation and enrichment.
- The district will implement a character education program to support students' SEL. Staff will receive professional development regarding SEL.
- Furthermore, the guidance counselor will conduct check-ins with students as needed. Child study team members will also be available to assist any student who may need social-emotional assistance.
- Lunch will be provided to students in the cafeteria.

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)

- The district held a Special Board of Education meeting on June 22, 2021 for the purposes of presenting the district's original Safe Reopening Plan and soliciting public comment. For each revision to the original plan, the district has included the revised plan as an agenda item for a public Board meeting.

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 utilized the NJDOE template to create its Safe Reopening Plan. The Safe Reopening Plan is posted on the district's website. If a parent or community member has questions regarding the district's Safe Reopening Plan, then they should contact the main office at 908-475-4773.