



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.

LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

LEA Name: **Manasquan Public School District**

Date (mm/dd/yyyy): **June 15, 2021**

Date Revised (mm/dd/yyyy):

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 universal and correct wearing of masks is currently required by all students and staff when inside our school buildings, unless eating, drinking, participating in a rigorous athletic activity, or doing so would cause a health risk to the wearer. Re-usable masks were issued to all students and staff in the district. Disposable masks are available for any student, staff member or visitor who does not have one.

Masks are not required to be worn at any time students and staff are outside and can maintain a social distance of 6-feet. Staff members have been encouraged to hold class and activities outdoors, weather permitting, to allow students breaks from wearing face coverings.

Although the district believes that decisions related to face coverings are best made locally, by the Board of Education, we will maintain all mandatory mask and face covering requirements in place by the State of New Jersey and the New Jersey Department of Education while operating our school district.

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

The district plans to return to a pre-pandemic, traditional schedule beginning in September 2021 which will not include "cohorting," or "podding," of students. Physical distance between students, in particular when seated in classrooms for extended periods of time, will be maximized to whatever extent possible, given room size and enrollment.

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette will be reinforced with direct instruction, signage and access to appropriate facilities. Direct instruction on handwashing and respiratory etiquette will be provided to appropriate grade levels.

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

The district will continue to clean the facility, with a focus on the disinfection of high touch areas. Air filters will be changed regularly and air purifiers will be provided in rooms with no windows.

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

In the event a student with a positive case of COVID-19 is identified, the Monmouth County Department of Health and the New Jersey Department of Education, by way of the Monmouth County Executive County Superintendent will be notified. Contact tracing will be undertaken by the school nurse or other staff member to identify any other students or members of the school community who meet the exclusion criteria at the time of exposure.

F. Diagnostic and screening testing

Members of the school community will be asked to self-screen before attending school every day. They will be encouraged to self-exclude themselves from school if they are presenting with any symptoms consistent with a COVID-19 infection including fever/chills, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle/body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion/runny nose, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.

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

Vaccines are now readily available for all staff and any students ages 12 and up. The school district will honor any absences as excused for staff and students experiencing post-vaccination symptoms preventing them from attending school on a given day.

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

Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities will be in place for all students with regards to any health and safety policies in place.

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 designed a comprehensive summer program to address learning loss at all grade and ability levels. The program is open to all students, with targeted sub-programs for ELL and Special Education Students.

The District has added supports to meet the students' and staff's emotional, mental and other health needs, including the addition of a new counselor and enrollment in the seamless summer option food service program to continue providing free lunch to all students. Additionally, a committee has been convened to meet this summer to design social emotional support programs for implementation in the 21-22 school year.

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)

The district allowed for public comment at its regular public Board of Education meeting on June 15, 2021. Any input that was offered was considered for implementation by the team responsible for the development of the Safe Reopening 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)

We used the template provided by the NJDOE to ensure that our re-opening plan is in an understandable and uniform format. It will be translated, upon request, to other languages as applicable.