



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**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.

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

LEA Name: Jackson School District

Date (06/23/2021):

Date Revised (11/23/2021):

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- Masking of students, staff, parents, and visitors will be in accordance with the Governor's Executive Orders and announcements and guidance from the NJDOE, NJDOH, and OCHD. The district is equipped with face masks and face shields for anyone requesting such PPE. Proper wearing of masks has been taught and will continue to be taught if such a requirement is in place in September. The policy will be revised based on the guidelines. All options that are permitted requiring masking will be explored, including the consideration of both the physical and mental health of our students and staff.

B. Physical distancing (e.g., including use of cohorts/podding)- The Jackson Township Schools will continue to socially distance students and staff to the greatest extent possible in classrooms, cafeterias, etc. Preschool, elementary and self-contained special education classrooms will remain cohorted. Middle and high school classes will change each class period. Desks will be cleaned between classes. Seating charts will be in place in each classroom to allow for ease of contact tracing. Cohorting will be used for lunch time in preschool through grade eight. American Rescue Plan funds will be used to hire staff that will assist in reducing class size in classrooms that have high numbers of students due to the district's significant budget cuts from the impact of the S2 Funding Formula Bill.

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

- Reinforcing hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette for students, staff, parents, and visitors will be in place. All homeroom teachers must teach and reinforce hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and increase monitoring to ensure adherence among students and staff. If soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol will be used.
- School administration must encourage all staff and students to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue. Hands will be washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- If hand sanitizer is necessary to use with younger students, it will be closely monitored by a staff member.
- Procedures will be in place for materials being shared with students and will be cleaned as necessary during and after each school day.

- Desks will be cleaned between class periods at the middle and high school level using approved spray disinfectant and paper towels.

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

- All indoor facilities have adequate ventilation, including operational heating and ventilation systems where appropriate. Recirculated air has a fresh air component, windows will be opened, if practical, if air conditioning is not provided, and filter(s) for A/C units will be maintained and changed according to manufacturer recommendations.
- Cleaning products should not be used near children, and staff should ensure that there is adequate ventilation when using these products to prevent children or themselves from inhaling fumes.
- We are following the recommendations of the CDC and NJ Department of Health regarding ventilation and sanitation. Our Facilities Department updated cleaning protocols and HVAC maintenance and filter schedules. Our HVAC systems are designed according to the standards of the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) to provide proper ventilation and exchange of air. This includes the introduction of "make up air," which i

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

- The Jackson School District is prepared to continue contact tracing should it be required.
- Each school has an isolation space and a protocol in place for contract tracing. School nurses along with the nurse coordinator and assistant superintendent of operations will continue to train and offer support in this area should it be necessary.
- The procedures followed for the 2020-21 school year and will continue to be followed for 2021-22 if required by the NJDOE, NJDOH or OCHD.
- The District will collaborate with the Ocean County Department of Health to contact trace for positive cases of COVID-19. Quarantine/isolation recommendations and guidelines may be changed per the recommendation of the CDC and NJDOH.

F. Diagnostic and screening testing

The school district will adhere to Board Policy 1648 regarding the screening procedures for students and employees upon arrival at school or work location for symptoms and history exposure.

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

The district has provided multiple opportunities for our staff to receive vaccinations. Through partnerships with local organizations we were able to offer the following to our entire staff:

- March 16, 2021 - Informed staff of availability at Atlanticare AC Megasite for vaccinations
- March 17, 2021 - Provided opportunities for district employees to be vaccinated at ChemEd in Lakewood through a partnership
- March 23, 2021 - Provided opportunities for district employees to be vaccinated at CentraState Medical Center in Freehold through a partnership.
- March 27, 2021 - Provided opportunities for district employees to be vaccinated at Central Regional HS through a partnership
- April 16, 2021 - Notified all staff of a district vaccination availability day at RWJ Barnabas Arena in Toms River through a partnership
- April 20, 2021 - Provided all staff with the link to the Ocean County Health Department vaccination site
- June 16, 2021 - Provided all parents and staff with links and reminders about free vaccines and testing through New Jersey COVID Information Hub
- July 13 and August 3, 2021- Collaboration with the Ocean County Health Department to provide vaccines to students ages 12-16 and anyone at the Jackson Liberty High School from 2 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Additionally, the Jackson School District Website provides a page of up to date information and resources in regards to locations of vaccinations.

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

Mask wearing can be difficult for certain children with disabilities, therefore accommodations will be provided according to the student's particular need and in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

- Our self-contained special education classroom students have been in school every day and will remain a priority in all circumstances for in-person learning.
- Alternative personal protective equipment will be provided, such as face shields and plexiglass barriers and/or additional distancing.
- Staff are offered additional protective equipment such as a face shields, face coverings and plexiglass when caring for students who are unable to utilize a facial mask.
- Visual cues and picture schedules can assist in creating a class procedure or schedule for hygiene measures such as hand washing.
- Clear face coverings are available for students who rely on speech reading.

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 Jackson School District will be offering before and after school programs for students in academic areas as well as enrichment.
- Other programs offered will be in interest based and allow students to participate in activities they enjoy, such as esports, fishing clubs and intramurals.
- Staff training will be ongoing throughout the year in areas of math, literacy, SEL, and ELL instruction. Intervention teachers and new teachers hired will reduce class sizes and be a mitigating measure in maintaining healthy schools.
- Breakfast and lunch continues to be provided for all students daily.

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)

- Administrative input on our return to school plan is maintained on a continuous basis at monthly administration meetings.
- Our DEAC committee meets on a monthly basis and has provided input on the school year.
- We have public comment sessions at our Board of Education Meeting. Comments from parents pertaining to the school reopening plan are reviewed with the Board and administrative team.
- The district meets with the JEA monthly and discusses all aspects of the return to school plan.
- A parent survey was sent out in November asking for parent input on the types of programs we should offer students beyond the school day.
- All of these inputs are taken into account with the return to school plan and any updates.

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 presented a Parent/Community friendly slide presentation to share the plan in an understandable and uniform format. The slide presentation shares all items pertaining to our school reopening for the 2021-2022 school year.
- The presentation was translated into Spanish and both versions are posted to the district website
- The superintendent will continue to provide monthly updates to the community via video and/or written communication, which are emailed to families and staff and posted on the district website.