



## 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: East Amwell Township School District

Date: 5/25/21

Date Revised: 12/13/22

## 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

Continue to follow the Health Department, and CDC guidelines as well as the State Executive Orders.

- The East Amwell Township School District applies a mask optional policy at the current time. The district may look to the County Department of Health for guidance should the need for masks arise.

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

- The East Amwell Township School District is no longer operating a cohort or hybrid schedule.

### C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Students will be encouraged to wash their hands according to the following CDC guidelines. Frequent hand washing and hand sanitizing will occur throughout the school day for all staff and students.

- **Before, during, and after** preparing food
- **Before** eating food
- **After** using the toilet
- **After** blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing

Follow these five steps every time.

1. **Wet** your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), turn off the tap, and apply soap.
2. **Lather** your hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails.
3. **Scrub** your hands for at least 20 seconds. Need a timer? Hum the “Happy Birthday” song from beginning to end twice.

4. **Rinse** your hands well under clean, running water.
5. **Dry** your hands using a clean towel or air dry them.

According to the CDC, covering coughs and sneezes and keeping hands clean can help prevent the spread of serious respiratory illness. Students will be taught and reminded to:

- Cover their nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing;
- Throw used tissues in the trash;
- If a tissue is not available, cough sneeze into one's elbow, not hands

#### **D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation**

- Facilities and Cleaning: As we did not see much evidence that COVID-19 was transmitted through contact with shared surfaces, we will be prepared to employ enhanced cleaning protocols, as needed. The district will ensure the safety and health of all students and staff by implementing the following practices on an as needed basis throughout the year:
  - Facilities staff will review and receive retraining on cleaning and enhanced sanitation practices and safety protocols, when necessary.
  - Conducting daily cleaning of classrooms, restrooms, cafeterias, kitchens, and hallways.
  - Conducting periodic and/or necessitated deep cleaning using enhanced protocols if illness is observed in specific classrooms.
  - Supplying hand soap, disinfecting wipes, and hand sanitizing gel in classrooms, main entrances, and high use areas. In areas where hand washing may not be available, sanitizing gel will be available.
  - Supplying masks, gloves, face shields, plexiglass barriers, and additional PPE as requested by staff.
  - Cafeteria tables/seats/chairs will be cleaned and sanitized between lunch periods.

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

- Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments: Based on the NJDOH recommendations the East Amwell Township School will transition away from a case-investigation response model to a routine disease control model. This model focuses more on responding to clusters of cases, outbreaks, and evidence of ongoing transmission in schools, and less on individual case investigation and contact tracing.

#### **F. Diagnostic and screening testing**

- The East Amwell Township School District will provide resources to parents, students and staff regarding testing for COVID-19, as needed.

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

- The East Amwell Township School District collected vaccination information when required by Executive Order 253. The District has shared information with staff regarding ways to access the COVID-19 vaccine. The district provided access to the flu vaccine onsite in the fall of 2022.

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

- The East Amwell Township School District will develop plans to ensure students with disabilities receive appropriate accommodations with respect to health and safety needs.

## **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)**

### **Academic Support**

Staff members will review the data results, from student's baseline assessments, to determine which students need supplemental academic supports. Teachers will use differentiation within the classroom. During the Summers of 2022 and 2023 identified students will be afforded the opportunity to attend a summer tutorial program to address their academic needs in mathematics and English Language Arts.

### **Social Supports**

The counselor and additional mental health providers will visit classrooms to provide SEL support to students. Students will also be able to meet individually with a counselor should the need arise.

### **Behavioral Supports**

The school behaviorist will work with students who require extra behavioral support. The behaviorist works with staff members to provide professional development on how to implement the needed behavior systems for the students. They also visit classrooms to provide additional support as needed.

### **Multi-tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)**

The MTSS committee will meet as needed throughout the year to discuss any student academic and behavioral concerns.

### **Wraparound Supports**

The school counselor, social worker, and psychologist will provide information to parents whose children may need academic, behavioral, and social-emotional needs for students who need interventions both inside and outside of the school environment.

### **Athletics/Co-Curricular**

After school co-curricular and athletic activities are available for student participation, to strengthen social skills and connection to peers, teach teamwork and a healthy lifestyle.

## **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 original plan was available for review prior to approval in May 2021. The May 2021 Safe Return plan was reviewed and updated in September 2021, March 2022 and December 2022. Each revision is a collaboration between parents, staff and administrators, and discussed at board meetings.

**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 was submitted to the Board of Education, parents, and staff as well as being posted on the school website which is ADA compatible. The school website allows for translation into several languages.