



## 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**

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**LEA Name:** East Greenwich Township School District

**Date (mm/dd/yyyy):** June 8, 2021

**Date Revised (mm/dd/yyyy):** July 21, 2021 (See italics.)

**August 25, 2021**

**September 22, 2021**

**March 16, 2022**

**August 17, 2022**

### **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 – ~~Universal and correct wearing of masks will be required in accordance with relevant Executive Orders signed by the Governor of New Jersey and/or legislation as well as in accordance with current requirements/recommendations from the New Jersey Department of Health and the New Jersey Department of Education.~~

*Due to the expiration of Executive Order 175, mask-wearing will continue to be optional on campus unless there is an executive order requiring masks or a significant change in local health conditions. Due to a federal order, masks continue to be required on buses.*

In accordance with Executive Order 251, masks are required for all individuals in indoor school settings with the following exceptions: } When doing so would inhibit the individual's health, such as when the individual is exposed to extreme heat indoors; } When the individual has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance; } When a student's documented medical condition or disability, as reflected in an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Educational Plan pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, precludes use of a face covering; } When the individual is under two (2) years of age; } When the individual is engaged in activity that cannot physically be performed while wearing a mask, such as eating or drinking, or playing a musical instrument that would be obstructed by a face covering; } When the individual is engaged in high-intensity aerobic or anaerobic activity; } When a student is participating in high-intensity physical activities during a physical education class in a well-ventilated location and able to maintain a physical distance of six feet from all other individuals; or } When wearing a face covering creates an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task.

Mask-wearing is optional for staff and students.

- B. Physical distancing (e.g., including use of cohorts/podding) – ~~Physical distancing requirements/recommendations from the New Jersey Department of Health and the New Jersey Department of Education will be followed to the degree possible for five full days of in-person learning. The use of cohorts/podding will be implemented where feasible.~~

Physical distancing will be implemented where feasible.

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette – Handwashing and respiratory etiquette posters are posted in learning spaces and common spaces. Hand sanitizer stations will be available in learning spaces and common spaces.

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation- The custodial/maintenance staff will perform daily cleaning of all learning spaces and common spaces. More frequent cleaning is provided on frequently touched surfaces, such as door handles. The district will continue to use electrostatic sprayers to disinfect classroom surfaces. A custodial/maintenance position is added to accommodate more frequent cleaning and sanitizing.

Bottle filling stations have been purchased and will be installed.

The HVAC system is serviced regularly through a maintenance contract with CM3. Airflow has been increased by opening outside dampers to increase the percentage of fresh air inside the buildings, and the system is purged nightly. Air purifiers are in place in learning spaces and office spaces.

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

Contract tracing will be conducted in accordance with relevant Executive Orders signed by the Governor of New Jersey and/or legislation as well as in accordance with current requirements/recommendations from the New Jersey Department of Health and the New Jersey Department of Education. Every effort will be made to minimize the need to quarantine individuals from the school setting.

F. Diagnostic and screening testing- Screening be conducted in accordance with relevant Executive Orders signed by the Governor of New Jersey and/or legislation as well as in accordance with current requirements/recommendations from the New Jersey Department of Health and the New Jersey Department of Education.

G. Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible- We have shared information on available vaccine sites to our employees. We partnered with Shop Rite of Mullica Hill to provide vaccinations to our staff, and we also partnered with the Gloucester County

Department of Health to secure access to vaccination appointments for our staff. Parents were notified of a vaccination opportunity for students ages 12 and up at our regional high school.

- H. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies- Accommodations for children with disabilities who were unable to comply with or utilize or health and safety policies will be addressed based upon applicable regulations and laws.

## 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) Cont
- Students' social and emotional needs will continue to be addressed by the school counselors, school psychologists, nurses and behaviorist. A comprehensive mental health specialist position was added for the 2021-2022 school year to provide additional supports for students. Services are delivered to all students through whole group lessons. Interventions are provided through small group and 1:1 sessions. The district will design and implement a tiered system of mental health supports and services for all students.
- These supports will continue in the 2022-2023 school year.
- Academic needs will be addressed by using data to focus instruction and monitor students' progress. All staff provided feedback for curricula and assessment revisions. This feedback, along with spring 2021 data will be used to make instructional adjustments and plan for September 2021. Benchmark assessments and screening tools, such as Link It! and Aimsweb, will be employed to identify and monitor students' academic strengths and weaknesses. Through professional learning communities, staff will work together to adjust pacing based on students' needs and identify intervention and enrichment strategies and materials to support students' learning. Work will continue with the New Jersey Tiered System of Supports grant in K-3. A basic skills math position was added for the 2021-2022 school year.



- These supports will continue in the 2022-2023 school year. Based on student data, a basic skills reading position was added for the 2022-2023 school year, and interventions will target 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students.

### 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 posted the plan on our website: [here](#). The plan was listed as an agenda item for the June 16, 2021, July 21, 2021 and August 25, 2021 board meetings. The plan was listed as an agenda item for our August 17, 2022 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 plan is completed in the template provided by the NJDOE, and it is available to all members of the school community on our website: [here](#).