
SAFE RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION

(1) IN GENERAL - A local educational agency receiving funds under this section shall develop and make publicly available on the local educational agency's website, not later than 30 days after receiving the allocation of funds described in paragraph (d)(1), a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services.

2) COMMENT PERIOD. Before making the plan described in paragraph (1) publicly available, the local educational agency shall seek public comment on the plan and take such comments into account in the development of the plan.

Support for Schools: Describe how the LEA will support its schools in safely returning to in-person instruction and sustaining safe operation. This description must include:

For each mitigation strategy listed below, 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.

LEA Response Table

1) Universal and correct wearing of masks

([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

For the 2023-2024 school year, the wearing of masks is optional for students or staff that choose to wear a mask. No student or staff member will be penalized for going beyond the requirements for their own personal use.
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2) Physical distancing (e.g., including use of cohorts/podding)

([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

For the 2023-2024 school year, the school district has returned to the normal school day format in existence prior to March 13, 2020 with no requirement for physical distancing.

3) Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

The school district will continue to ensure that adequate handwashing facilities are available and operational throughout the district for use by students, staff and visitors. Hand sanitizer stations will continue as deemed necessary throughout the school district. Normal operational reminders regarding respiratory etiquette will continue throughout the school year. Students and staff will continue to be encouraged to stay home when sick.

4) Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation
([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

The school district will continue to clean and disinfect the school facilities with the most sustainable effective EPA approved cleaning/disinfection products available for the task. The school district will continue to maintain its ventilation systems, including filter replacement schedule, to maximize available fresh air supplies within the buildings. The school district will continue to investigate promising technologies for improvement and will continue to invest in updating HVAC equipment. The district has replaced all roof top mounted HVAC, fresh air supplies and exhaust fans with the newest technology available since the start of 2020.

5) Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments
([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

With the expiration of the Executive Orders the school district will follow any statutory requirements regarding contact tracing or quarantining that are in effect during the 2023-2024 school year.

6) Diagnostic and screening testing
([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

The school district will continue to direct staff and parents of students toward local health providers for any health screening needs.

7) Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible
([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

The school district provides optional flu vaccinations for staff onsite. For all other vaccination needs, the district will continue to direct staff and parents of students to local health providers.

8) Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies
([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

The District will continue to provide appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities who are medically fragile students and/or students with physical or health impairments. The District frequently communicates with individual families of students with significant medical risk factors to determine if additional precautions or unique measures are necessary prior to a student's safe return to school in-person.

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Safe Return Plan Updated

Safe Return Plan text and assurances must be agreed to every six months.

Date Plan Updated

Describe how the LEA will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address students academic needs and students and staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services. ([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

The District's commitment to meeting the needs of all students, including those with disabilities, English language learners, and those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, has led to an expansion of the targeted supports provided to bridge educational disparities. Revisions to the curriculum have closed learning gaps while ensuring that students achieve mastery of the NJSLs. The faculty has actively participated in a range of professional development activities aimed at implementing effective formative assessment techniques to identify and address areas needing remediation. Additionally, in response to the ongoing impacts of the pandemic, the District has heightened its focus on student mental health by appointing a second mental health interventionist. This emphasis on building relationships and nurturing positive connections within the school community lays a solid foundation for academic progress and fosters student engagement, resulting in improved daily attendance.

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. ([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

The District consistently seeks ongoing input from all stakeholder. Parent and student feedback, combined with staff input, continues to play a crucial role in shaping the plan.

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. ([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

The District aimed to communicate the plan in a manner that minimizes the use of educational terminology or legal references, ensuring its comprehension by a broad audience. Translations of the plan are available to community members as necessary or upon request. Moreover, individuals with disabilities who require alternative formats to access the written plan will be provided with the plan in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) upon request.

Briefly describe any guidance, professional learning, and technical assistance opportunities the LEA will make available to its schools. ([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

The District is committed to offering a variety of resources and opportunities to support the professional growth of its faculty and enhance their ability to effectively meet the diverse needs of students. These opportunities encompass ongoing training sessions covering instructional strategies, assessment practices, data analysis, differentiated instruction, and classroom management. Additionally, the District will continue to expand the educational resources necessary to implement best practices aligned with the District's PDP. Furthermore, technical assistance will be readily accessible to assist faculty in effectively utilizing educational technology tools and platforms. Additionally, the District's commitment to providing comprehensive student support through academic tutoring, mentoring, mental health intervention, and meaningful engagement beyond the school day is driven by the overarching goal of fostering continuous student growth and development.

Provide current link to the district's website where the plan is posted.

<https://www.srsd.net/Board/ARPSafeReturn>

By checking this box and saving the page, the applicant hereby certifies that they will assure that the information contained in the Safe Return to School plans will be updated within this system every 6 months during this grant project period.

Assurances Fully Agreed to By:

Craig Henry

Assurances

American Rescue Plan of 2021

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ARP- ESSER)

- By checking this box and saving the page, the applicant hereby certifies that he/she has read, understood and will comply with the assurances listed below that will apply to any subsequent application amendments of all federal programs in which the LEA participates.

The Local Educational Agency (LEA) hereby assures the New Jersey Department of Education that:

1. The LEA, as a recipient of funds under the ARP understands the general assurances agreed to in the GMS system also apply to the ARP funds.
2. The LEA, as a recipient of federal funds under the ARP will determine the most important educational needs as a result of COVID-19, propose a timeline for providing services and assistance to students and staff, determine the extent to which the LEA intends to use funds awarded under the ARP to promote the authorized purposes and uses, and determine how the LEA intends to assess and address student learning loss resulting from the disruption in educational services. This information should be documented by the LEA and be available upon request by the NJDOE;
3. The LEA will ensure that funds awarded under the ARP are used for activities allowable under section 2001. All activities and expenditures must be reasonable, necessary, allocable under section 2001 and meet the purpose of the ARP, to prepare for, prevent and respond to COVID-19. Further, the LEA, as a recipient of funds under section 2001 of the ARP, will reserve not less than twenty percent (20%) of such funds to address learning loss through the implementation of evidence-based interventions, such as summer learning or summer enrichment, extended day, comprehensive afterschool programs, or extended school year programs, and ensure that such interventions respond to the students academic, social, and emotional needs and address the disproportionate impact of the coronavirus on the student subgroups described in section 1111(b)(2)(B)(xi) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 USC 6311(b)(2)(B)(xi), students experiencing homelessness, and children in foster care;
4. The LEA, as a recipient of funds under section 2001 of the ARP agrees to develop and comply with the

requirements for a safe return to in-person instruction as required in section 2001(e) of the ARP;

5. The LEA will use such fiscal control and fund accounting procedures as will ensure proper disbursement of, and accounting for, Federal funds paid to the LEA under the ARP. LEA will utilize Grants Management System (EWEG) to budget and report financial expenditures relating to ESSER funds provided under the ARP. Further, upon request by NJDOE, the LEA will provide documentation to support claims for expenditures, including expenditure ledgers, invoices, receipts and documentation to support purchases and proof of services received;
6. The LEA will adopt and use proper methods of administering funds received under the ARP Act, including:
 - A. The enforcement of any obligations imposed by law on agencies, institutions, organizations, and other recipients responsible for carrying out each federal award; and
 - B. The correction of deficiencies in operations that are identified through audits, monitoring, or evaluation.
7. The LEA will ensure that any and all internet connectivity purchases are in compliance with the Child Internet Protection Act (CIPA);
8. The LEA, as a recipient of funds under the ARP will comply with the provisions of all applicable acts, regulations and assurances, including the New Jersey School Code, the New Jersey Administrative Code, orders and guidance from the New Jersey State Department of Education, NJDOE State Board of Education, and the following provisions of Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) 34 CFR parts 76, 77, 81, 82, 84, 97, 98, and 99; the OMB Guidelines to Agencies on Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement) in 2 CFR part 180, as adopted and amended as regulations of the Department in 2 CFR part 3485; and the Uniform Guidance in 2 CFR part 200, as adopted and amended as regulations of the Department in 2 CFR part 3474.

Assurances Fully Agreed to By:

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