



## 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: Glassboro Public School District**

**Date 06/02/2021**

**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 (MD)**

- Mask wearing will be mandatory by students and staff members indoors and on school busses.
- Students who are seen by a school nurse and with concern for communicable illness may be masked in the nurse's office while waiting for parents to pick students up from school.
- Mask-wearing will be practiced in accordance with the latest CDC/NJDOH/NJDOE guidelines.

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

- Schools in the district will continue to allow for physical distancing when possible, ensuring that student desks are separated and facing the same direction.
- Additional spacing, furniture, and seating may be provided during lunches to maintain appropriate physical distancing.
- Physical barriers, such as plexiglass, may continue to be used in classrooms and other spaces where applicable.
- There will be a minimum of sharing any equipment, tools, or manipulatives that are typically shared. Items that are shared will be sanitized properly between each use.
- Physical distancing will be practiced according to the latest CDC/NJDOH/NJDOE guidelines whenever possible.

#### **C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette (MD)**

- Staff members and students should sanitize hands upon entry into the school building.
- Younger students will be reminded to wash hands after using the bathroom.
- Staff members and students will sanitize hands before and after eating meals and snacks.

- Staff members and students should wash their hands or use hand sanitizer after touching common surfaces such as door handles, desks, tables, printers, and classroom equipment, tools, or manipulatives.
- Sanitizing pumps and stations will be provided and maintained throughout buildings, including each classroom, the cafeteria, offices, the library, the gymnasium, entrances, and exits.

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation All facilities will continue to be disinfected, including but not limited to high-touch areas such as doorknobs, telephones, bathrooms, and cafeterias.

- Teachers will be provided with sanitizing wipes for as-needed use, as well as alcohol based hand sanitizer located throughout the buildings.
- Misters will be deployed if needed due to any type of breakout.
- Indoor facilities will have adequate ventilation, including open windows when practical; AC units will be maintained and filters changed according to manufacturer recommendations.
- Additional HEPA units will be installed in all cafeterias to assist in the removal of particulate pollutants during lunch times.

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

- School officials will engage the expertise of their school nurses and that of the Gloucester County Department of Health in the facilitation of contact tracing, isolation, and quarantine. Screening data will be collected, analyzed, and reported as needed according to the county, state, CDC guidelines.

F. Diagnostic and screening testing

- Staff will continue to self-screen prior to daily arrival.
- Staff members and students will be reminded to remain home if ill.
- Students demonstrating any symptoms will be sent to the school nurse for assessment.
- Parents and staff will complete the “Pledge” at the beginning of each marking period and agree to keep sick children home from school.
- School nurses will direct staff members and students for testing, as needed, based on symptom presentation.
- Staff who are unable to provide proof of vaccination must undergo regular testing as mandated by Executive Order 252

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

- Students and staff members have been provided with the opportunity to be vaccinated during our vaccination clinic held at Glassboro High School as well as clinics held at Rowan University.

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

- In order to maintain optimal health for students and staff in our schools, we will continue our practice of regular handwashing and hand sanitizing throughout the school day. Students with documented health concerns will be addressed through nursing plans and/or appropriate accommodations within the IEP. Any exemptions from district policy will be noted in student IEP with appropriate modifications.

## 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 Glassboro Public School District is committed to providing a safe, supportive, and equitable environment for all students through a variety of programs and services. Through the use of ESSER II funds, school counseling staff will be available to address the academic and social emotional needs of students. Broadband enhancements across all buildings, digital licenses for learning software, digital copies of texts and materials, learning management systems, and ClearTouch interactive panels will facilitate academic growth for all students, regardless of the medium (virtual or in-person). High School CTE programs, such as Culinary Arts and Music Technology, will provide hands-on opportunities for students that were not viable during the pandemic.

Food services will be provided at each building for the full duration of the school day. If the need arises, meals can shift to delivery via school bus or distribution from a central location, as they were during the pandemic.

## 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)

The district posted the LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Service on its website in both English and Spanish in advance of the Board Meeting on June 17, 2021. At that meeting, the Superintendent conducted a presentation outlining the plan and public comment was sought from attendees; The Board Meeting was presented in ASL as well. Any revisions will similarly be posted on the website in English and Spanish and presented at Board of Education meetings in ASL. The June 17, 2021 BOE meeting was advertised as required. Additionally, our website has accessibility features for those with visual impairments.

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 will be provided in English and Spanish. Staff, students, parents, and stakeholders have the ability to ask questions via email, telephone, and through Board of Education meetings. Additionally, our website has accessibility features for those with visual impairments.

