

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

Mansfield Township School District “Safe Return Plan” June 2021

Date (06/04/2021)

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

- Mansfield Township School District will follow the guidance of the New Jersey Department Of Health (NJDOH), New Jersey Department Of Education (NJDOE) and Warren County Health Department (WCHD) on mask protocols. Masks will be optional for students and staff starting in the 2021-2022 school year.
- Should students, faculty and staff members choose to wear masks, they may do so without fear of being teased, bullied, and/or harassed. Behaviors of this nature will be addressed accordingly via Board of Education Policy on Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying.
- Signage will be placed in classrooms, hallways, office areas and common areas promoting prescribed hygiene, hand washing, face covering and social distancing procedures, per required guidelines.

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

- Mansfield Township School District will follow the guidance of the New Jersey Department Of Health (NJDOH), New Jersey Department Of Education (NJDOE) and Warren County Health Department (WCHD) on social distancing protocols.
- Social distancing markings and directional guides will be placed on the walls and floors.
- One way hallways and stairwells will be clearly marked to ensure social distancing throughout the buildings.

- Social distance will be maintained, during arrival and dismissal, to the best extent possible.
- The use of common areas will be limited to times when social distancing can be maintained and when students are supervised, as required from the most up-to-date information by the NJDOH, NJDOE and WCHD.

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

- Wall mounted, automatic hand sanitizing stations will be placed in each room.
- Disinfectant wipes and additional supplies of hand-sanitizer will be available in every classroom, office area and common area.
- Classroom/office windows can be opened to provide additional fresh air flow to those areas. .

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

- Shared workspaces, labs and other shared equipment will be sanitized/cleaned daily utilizing electro-static spray guns and EPA COVID-19 approved sanitizing solutions.
 - Wall mounted, automatic hand sanitizing stations will be placed in each room.
 - Disinfectant wipes and additional supplies of hand-sanitizer will be available in every classroom, office area and common area.
 - Classroom/office windows can be opened to provide additional fresh air flow to those areas.
 - Routine cleaning schedules will be enhanced to ensure the sanitizing and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces, objects, items, etc.
 - All cleaning/sanitizing products will meet prescribed CDC and EPA guidelines for effectiveness in battling COVID-19. .
 - Restrooms will be cleaned and disinfected throughout the day. .
 - Electrostatic cleaning guns will be used to disinfect classrooms, restrooms, hallways, doorknobs, handrails, and offices.
 - Hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms, offices and specific locations in hallways..
 - Approved disposable wipes will be placed in each classroom and available to staff for the cleaning of keyboards and other frequently touched surfaces and objects.
 - The district will ensure adequate supplies of cleaning materials are available to support enhanced cleaning practices and protocols.
 - Water fountains will be shut down. Students will be encouraged to bring their own water or water will be provided to them throughout the day.

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

- All school district administrators, school safety specialists, counselors, and any other staff deemed appropriate by the school district will be provided information regarding the role of contact tracing in keeping school communities safe from the contagious disease.

- Mansfield Township School District will collaborate with the local health department and engage their school nurses to develop contact tracing policies and procedures, as well as educate the broader school community on the importance of contact tracing.
- As per the county superintendent's office, Warren County Health Department will conduct contact tracing.

F. Diagnostic and screening testing

- The district collaborated with community agencies, WCHD, and County Superintendent's Office in providing information on FREE COVID tests to all members of the community.
- Daily COVID form for students and faculty will remain in place until or when the guidance changes.
- Nursing staff will continue to follow established protocols from the NJDOH and WCHD until and when such guidance is revised or lifted.

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

- The district provided faculty and staff with the opportunity to be vaccinated. As a result approximately 90% of faculty and staff are fully vaccinated.

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

- Plexi-glass desk barriers were provided for students, faculty and staff.
- Faculty and staff were fitted with full face plexi-glass shields.
- Students unable to wear masks due to health conditions or other required accommodations were provided specific safety features to ensure a safe learning environment.

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 Mansfield Township School District will offer summer programs as well as, Before and After School Programming in the 2021-2022 school year, for all students to address learning loss. The district will utilize an in-person learning model to support students. The curriculum and instruction will be differentiated for each individual student's needs. .

Mansfield Township School District will continue to provide the free meal program over the summer to all students/families.

Social Emotional support for students, families, faculty & staff will continue to be provided through collaborative efforts with our on-site school counselors, online and in-person Mindfulness Programs & increased in-person, peer to peer and teacher to student interaction. Classroom schedules provide additional time for academic and SEL supports.

Academic Component of Plan

- Our plan for the 2021-2022 school year is to continue full in-person, full day, lunch served opening of school.
- For the summer of 2021, Mansfield Township School District will offer additional programming to address student learning loss.
- Summer School programs will run from June 28 - July 30, Monday through Thursday from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
- During the 2021-2022 school year additional programming will be offered in the morning for thirty minutes Monday through Thursday.

Social/Emotional Learning Component of Plan

- Continued Mindfulness Assemblies.
- Support continued co-curricular club activities;
- Continue counseling programs and peer groups

Food Service Component of Plan

- Mansfield Township School District will continue to provide meals to all students/families, at no charge, as a continuation of our Reopening Plan from the 2020-2021 school year.