



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: Clearview Regional High School District

Date (mm/dd/yyyy): 06/18/2021

Date Revised (mm/dd/yyyy): n/a

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

Due to the state’s vaccination rate, the availability of vaccines throughout the state, the number of staff members who have been vaccinated, the availability of vaccines to students in our grade configuration, the status of the executive order, and overall health in our region, the district does not plan on requiring masks for students, staff, or visitors. Masks have been purchased over the past year and we will have an ample supply available if students or staff prefer to wear a mask. We will assess the current health environment with the Department of Health and may consider suggesting that high-risk individuals and others who are exhibiting the typical flu or allergy-like symptoms to wear a mask.

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

Due to the state’s vaccination rate, the availability of vaccines throughout the state, the number of staff members who have been vaccinated, the availability of vaccines to students in our grade configuration, the status of the executive order, and overall health in our region, we will not be using cohorts or requiring social distancing to start our school year. We will continue to align the desks facing in the same direction rather than facing each other. Based upon the region’s current health status in September, we will consider utilizing the plastic barriers on the cafeteria tables.

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

The Board promotes behaviors that reduce the spread of COVID-19 such as encouraging staff and students to stay home when appropriate; encouraging the practice of hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette; and will maintain signs and messages in and around school buildings. The schools will prepare and maintain hand sanitizing stations with alcohol-based hand sanitizers (at least 60% alcohol). Such stations should be in each classroom (for staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer), at entrances and exits of buildings, near lunchrooms and toilets, and for classrooms that have existing handwashing stations – the stations will have soap, water, and alcohol-based hand sanitizers (at least 60% alcohol). Students are required to wash hands for at least twenty seconds at regular intervals during the school day and always before eating, after using the bathroom, and after blowing their nose, coughing, and/or sneezing. All protocols will be applicable during any extra-curricular activities.

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

We will continue to adhere to existing required facilities cleaning practices and procedures, and any new specific requirements of the local health department as they arise. Locker room use may be minimized to mitigate risk and prohibit students and staff from confined spaces with limited ventilation and/or areas with large amounts of high contact surfaces.

During the School Day:

Main and designated student entrances

- All designated entrance door handles will be cleaned, then either hand sprayed or electrostatically sprayed
- Main entrance door handles will be cleaned, then either hand sprayed or electrostatically sprayed periodically

Hallway doors and railings

- Stairwell door handles will be cleaned, then either hand sprayed or electrostatically sprayed
- Stairwell railings will be cleaned, then either hand sprayed or electrostatically sprayed

Bathrooms

- Bathrooms will need to be shut down periodically during the day (between periods), All fixtures and surfaces will be cleaned -Hand spray or electrostatically spray

Drinking fountains

- Periodically throughout the school day a custodian will clean and sanitize the drinking fountains

Classrooms

- Spot cleaning desks, chairs, door handles, light switches, telephones and all other high touch surfaces

Offices

- Spot cleaning all high touch surfaces

Daily/Nightly:Classroom Cleaning

- All surfaces will be cleaned and wiped dry
- Trash cans emptied
- All surfaces will be either hand sprayed or electrostatically sprayed

Offices

- All surfaces will be cleaned and wiped dry with Renown # 6 neutral disinfectant or # 0 peroxide cleaner
- Trash cans emptied
- All carpets will be vacuumed (HEPA filtered)
- All surfaces will then be either hand sprayed or electrostatically sprayed

Hallway doors and railings

- Stairwell door handles will be cleaned and either hand sprayed or electrostatically sprayed
- Stairwell railings wiped will be cleaned and wiped dry and either hand sprayed or electrostatically sprayed

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

Students and staff with symptoms related to COVID-19 must be safely and respectfully isolated from others. School officials will follow current Communicable Disease Service guidance for illness reporting. If the school district becomes aware that an individual who has spent time in a district facility tests positive for COVID-19, officials must immediately notify local health officials, staff, and families of a confirmed case while maintaining confidentiality. The certified school nurses have been identified as the contact tracer for the district in conjunction with the School Safety Specialist. They have completed the Johns Hopkins University's COVID-19 Contact Tracing course to provide background and knowledge on the process, procedures, and expectation prior to the start of the school year. Policies and procedures established for contact tracing will be followed.

F. Diagnostic and screening testing

Screening:

The parents will still be asked to complete a daily at-home self-check to determine if their child is exhibiting any symptoms. The parents will be advised to keep their student at home and the parent should notify the school that their child will be absent. We will continue to provide flexibility in regards to student attendance requirements. The staff will continue to use the self-assessment each day as part of their daily 'sign-in' procedure.

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

Our district employed an aggressive approach to the pursuit of getting staff members and students vaccinated. The district secured vaccines for two at-risk groups (staff with health conditions and staff over 65) early in the vaccine process. The district also worked in concert with the county mega-site to get the balance of the staff vaccinated. The district also hosted a student vaccination day in conjunction with the local hospital. The district also provided the community with information regarding local vaccination sites and availability.

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

Reasonable accommodations will be provided for individuals that the CDC identifies as having a higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19, including individuals with disabilities or serious underlying medical conditions.

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 school district's plan to support academic, social, and behavioral needs includes a comprehensive plan to support the SEL of students and staff, including: self-care for students and staff, ongoing professional development for staff, administrators, and parents as well as ongoing weekly and monthly check-ins during the school year, revised health curriculum to include mental health as revised in the NJSLS, supplemental curricular and student resources for health teachers and school counselors, and ongoing school counseling services and behavioral supports services through counselors, partner agencies, and administrators. We plan on participating in the recent expansion of free-reduced meal regulations that will substantially expand access of meals to all 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)

During the past few months the highly publicized modifications to the Governor's executive orders and the various news stories throughout the region substantially highlighted the ongoing changes in schools for both the 2020-21 and the 2021-22 school years. The district communicated its plans in writing for the upcoming school year through the district mass communication system. We received feedback from parents in the

form of emails and phone calls. We also communicated our plans with the staff. On June 21, 2021, there was an item on the Board agenda that provided an opportunity for the public to comment on the plans for safely reopening our schools in September. The 'Safe Return Plan' was not posted to the district's website until after the public 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)

This plan is communicated in the normal sections (*District News or Quick Links*) of all three of the district's website pages (District, Middle School, High School). It is in standard format, with the same level of language that is utilized in all district communication throughout the year. All questions and concerns will be addressed either orally (calls or face to face meetings) or in writing (email) if there are any questions. If necessary, we will utilize the district's resources (504 Coordinator, Interpreters, etc.) to address questions.