



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.

Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

LEA Name: Green Brook Township Public Schools

Date (mm/dd/yyyy): 06/09/2021

Date Revised (mm/dd/yyyy): 9/21/2023

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

The District will follow current CDC, NJDOE, and NJDOH guidelines, as well as any relevant legislation or executive orders signed by the Governor of New Jersey regarding the universal and correct wearing of masks in schools. When those guidelines conflict, the District will follow the guidelines set forth by the NJDOH unless directed otherwise by the local public health official.

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

The District will follow current CDC, NJDOE, and NJDOH guidelines, as well as any relevant legislation or executive orders signed by the Governor of New Jersey regarding physical distancing.

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

The District will follow current CDC, NJDOE, and NJDOH guidelines, as well as any relevant legislation or executive orders signed by the Governor of New Jersey regarding hand washing and respiratory etiquette. In addition, opportunities for hand hygiene will be built into each student's daily routine.

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

The District will follow current CDC, NJDOE, and NJDOH guidelines, as well as any relevant legislation or executive orders signed by the Governor of New

Jersey regarding cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation. School nurses and custodians will implement existing district protocols to enhance cleaning of facilities when illness levels require.

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

The District will follow current CDC, NJDOE, and NJDOH guidelines, as well as any relevant legislation or executive orders signed by the Governor of New Jersey regarding contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with state and local health officials. This includes the continuation of existing protocols for engaging the local health official each time there is a positive COVID-19 case affecting a student or staff member to coordinate a response.

F. Diagnostic and screening testing

The District will follow current CDC, NJDOE, and NJDOH guidelines, as well as any relevant legislation or executive orders signed by the Governor of New Jersey regarding diagnostic and screening testing. The District will continue to enforce health screening protocols and restrict symptomatic individuals from attending school and/or work.

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

The District will follow current CDC, NJDOE, and NJDOH guidelines, as well as any relevant legislation or executive orders signed by the Governor of New Jersey regarding efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible. The District continues to work with the County Health Department to get eligible students and interested staff vaccinated. The District and town have been vaccination sites.

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

The District will follow current CDC, NJDOE, and NJDOH guidelines, as well as any relevant legislation or executive orders signed by the Governor of New Jersey regarding appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies. This includes addressing individual student needs through IEPs, 504 Plans, individual medical plans, and other existing mechanisms as needed to ensure access to educational services for all eligible students.

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 district has been open for in-person instruction since September 2020.

The district offers STEAM Summer Camp Program for selected students during the summer.

Supplemental afterschool programs in English Language Arts and Mathematics will again be offered at the elementary and middle school levels.

The district remains focused on mental health concerns and will coordinate programs through the School Counseling Department. Professional development focused on SEW will be provided.

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 plan is published on the District's website. The opening of the school year was presented and discussion took place by the BOE and the public.

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 District's parent communication tool provides ADA compliance including screen reader support, keyboard-only support, alt text for images, high contrast, zoom, large fonts, and voice over capabilities. The District's plan will be communicated using this tool.

C. Briefly describe any guidance professional learning and technical assistance opportunities the LEA will make available to its schools.

District is providing Social Emotional Wellness training to the entire staff.