



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: West Windsor – Plainsboro Regional School District

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

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

WW-P will continue to follow the mask guidance based upon CDC, NJDOH, local health officials, and Executive Orders. Currently, all students and staff are required to wear masks indoors. Outside masking is contingent upon social distancing and outdoor temperatures.

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

WW-P has and will continue to maintain the recommended social distancing requirements set forward by the NJDOH and NJDOE.

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

WW-P will continue to require handwashing and educate on proper respiratory etiquette.

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

WW-P will continue to adhere to high frequency cleaning protocols and social distancing. HVAC upgrades and the utilization of air filtration and bipolar ionizers are occurring throughout the District.

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

In partnership with the West Windsor Health Department and Middlesex County Department of Health (two county school system with different structures), WW-P will continue to contact trace and quarantine impacted students and staff. Our protocols will be informed by guidance from the NJDOH, NJDOE, and CDC.

F. Diagnostic and screening testing

Diagnostic and screening testing will be required based upon CDC, NJDOH, and local health department rules and regulations. The District has entered in an agreement with a medical testing lab to assist families and staff without insurance access free COVID testing when needed.

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

The District has worked to support and assist our staff in accessing vaccine appointments. Currently over 85 percent of our staff is fully vaccinated. We have also held a vaccination clinic for over 700 students. WW-P will continue to support students and families in acquiring vaccinations as younger age groups become vaccine eligible.

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

WW-P has worked to ensure in-person programming for students with disabilities since the reopening of our schools in Sept. 2020. Health and safety guidelines are clearly enacted and followed to support the health and wellness of students and staff. Parental choice and students' medical needs guide our programming and accommodations.

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)

WW-P will continue to ensure the continuity of services through ensuring all students receive access to academic tools, resources and instructional materials. Remediation/advancement opportunities will be reviewed for students. Student health will be a primary focus with mental health and social and emotional learning. Professional development is required and ongoing for staff. To support student health, the District will continue to update our ventilation systems (potential projects include chiller, cooling tower, rooftops and heat pumps, HVAC unit ventilators, and unit ventilator repairs.) Additionally, the District has extended food service at no cost for all students throughout the 21-22 school year. Staffing may be required to manage lunch safely. Technology needs will be evaluated to support the academic program (devices, hotspots, access points, etc.). Special Education programming and tuition services will be determined based upon the ARPA requirements.

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)

WW-P will solicit public comment on our “LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-person Instruction and Continuity of Service” by posting the plan on our District website for community review and feedback via a Google form. Notification to parents will be made in our building newsletters. Further, we will have a presentation at our June 22 BOE meeting with a BOE resolution vote for the submission of our plan. Public comment is also allowed at the BOE meeting. Submission in EWEG will occur by June 24 as required.

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 written report will be provided on our District website in a format that is accessible via an e-reader. Our District website can be translated through Google Translate. The document will be available for public feedback on the district website as well as presented publically at the June 22 in-person Board of Education meeting. The video of this meeting will also be available with closed captioning on the District's YouTube channel.