



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: Washington Township School District – Warren County

Date (mm/dd/yyyy): 06/21/2021

Date Revised (mm/dd/yyyy): 1/31/21

A. 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 Washington Township School District will follow the guidance of the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH), New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) and the Warren County Health Department on mask protocols.

As of June 21, 2021 (per Executive Order 242), students, staff and visitors must wear face masks when in the buildings and students are present, regardless of vaccination status. Staff members will monitor students to ensure they are correctly wearing masks during the school day. (All district classrooms are airconditioned.)

While students and staff are outside, mask breaks are to be provided.

Should indoor mask requirements be lifted, students and staff would have the option of wearing a mask as they feel is appropriate.

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

- The Washington Township School District will follow the guidance of the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH), New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) and the Warren County Health Department on social distancing protocols.
- As of June 21, 2021, a minimum of three (3) feet of physical distancing between students should be maintained in the classrooms.
- When students are in common area (hallways, cafeteria, media center, etc.), three (3) feet of physical distancing should be maintained between students.
- Staff members will monitor students to ensure physical distancing requirements are met as practicable.
- In the Fall of 2021, the Washington Township School District will not be using the cohort model as part of the reopening process for scheduling.
- All students will attend school, in-person, five days a week, following a full day schedule.

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette:

- The Washington Township School District will continue to provide each classroom and workspace with hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes for students and staff use. Automated hand sanitizing stations will be located in the hallways of each building.
- Handwashing etiquette will be posted and reinforced with students.
- Staff will reinforce with the students the socially and hygienical appropriate method for sneezing and coughing.

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation:

- Cleaning and disinfection will occur daily according to established schedules in each building. All school areas are cleaned and disinfected nightly with the EPA certified COVID-19 cleaning products such as, but not limited to Brutab Disinfectant & Sanitizer. Throughout the day, high touch surfaces are regularly cleaned and disinfected.
- Electrostatic sprayers will continue to be utilized for all areas as identified in our original reopening plan.
- Each classroom and work area will have hand sanitizer stations and disinfecting wipes available for student and staff use.
- Classrooms and workspace windows can be opened to provide additional fresh area circulation.
- Ion-filtration systems will be utilized in the nurses' offices.
- All cleaning / sanitizing products meet prescribed CDC and EPA guidelines for effectiveness in battling COVID-19.
- HVAC system filters are routinely inspected and replaced.

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

- Washington Township School District complies and follows the New Jersey Department of Health in regard to quarantine and isolation.
- The Washington Township School District provides the Warren County Department of Health with information to conduct contact tracing.

F. Diagnostic and screening testing:

- The Washington Township School District routinely provided staff and family members with information regarding COVID-19 testing sites and vaccinations via mass notification systems.
- Students and staff complete daily health screening questionnaires.
- Students and/or staff members experiencing COVID-19 like symptoms are not allowed in the building or are sent home as soon as possible.
- The district follows guidelines provided by the NJDOH, NJDOE and Warren County Health Department regarding reentry to the building for COVID related illnesses.

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

- The Washington Township School District will assist the New Jersey Department of Health in their efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students by sending any information to families and faculty.

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

- The Washington Township School District will provide appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities, as needed. Our Child Study Team, in conjunction with administration and teachers, will develop these accommodations based on testing results and/or a medical diagnosis from a doctor.
- Additional personal protective equipment is available to staff and / or students with disabilities (plexi-glass shields, face shields, gowns, gloves).

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)

Students in the Washington Township School District will continue to attend school, 5 days per week, full-time as they have done since September 2, 2020.

Students who demonstrate a gap in academic areas based on district assessments will have tiered interventions in place through our Response to Intervention (RTI) process. Qualifying students will also have the ability to attend an Extended School Year Program in July 2021. During this program, students' academic needs will be targeted and remediated through a variety of research-based programs. Remediation and enrichment programs will be available to students before and/or after school. The district will continue to provide students with breakfast and lunch free of charge through the USDA program. Washington Township School District will continue to provide students with services to support the social emotional needs including, but not limited to, school counseling services, social emotional learning curriculum, and mindfulness activities. Before and After School Child Care programs will be available to families beginning in September 2021 (cost to be paid by families).

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 Washington Township School District allows for public comment on the Safe Reopening Plan during Board of Education meetings (June 14, 2021). Updates to the plan can be discussed and amendments made at additional Board of Education meetings.

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)

Washington Township School District will have the ability to translate the document into languages other than English upon request. In addition, the plan can be orally translated upon request by reaching out directly to the school. Washington Township School District will adjust the document to meet the needs of any community member, to ensure their full understanding of the Safe Reopening Plan.