



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: North Arlington School District

Date: (06/15/2021)

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: **The appropriate use of face coverings is currently required at all times when in the school building, unless doing so would inhibit the individual’s health. It is necessary to acknowledge that enforcing the use of face coverings may be impractical for young children and/or individuals with disabilities. At the teacher’s discretion, “mask breaks” are provided when social distancing can be maintained. Further guidance regarding universal and correct wearing of masks is referenced in our Fall 2020 Restart and Recovery Plan to Reopen Schools: A.1.a.(1)(d), A.1.b.(2) & (3), A.1.c.(1) & (2), A.1.d.(2), and A.1.e.(4); (5); (6) & (7). Additionally, appendices A, B, C, D and E of the Fall 2020 plan address this topic. We will continue to update the Safe Return Plan in accordance with guidance from Governor Murphy, the New Jersey Department of Health, and the New Jersey Department of Education.**

B. Physical distancing (e.g., including use of cohorts/podding): **All rooms in our district facilities comply with recommended social distancing standards to the maximum extent practicable. Physical guides are also in place, which reinforce social distancing and traffic flow. Physical barriers have been installed and additional entry/exit points have been established to balance distancing and security protocols. As stated by Governor Murphy,**

Executive Order #175, which allowed school districts to provide remote instruction during the 20-21 academic year, will no longer be in effect for the 21-22 school year. We will continue to follow guidance from Governor Murphy, the New Jersey Department of Health, and the New Jersey Department of Education. Further guidance regarding physical distancing is referenced in our Fall 2020 Restart and Recovery Plan to Reopen Schools under sections A.1.b.(1); (2); (3). & (4), A 1. D. (2) & (3), A.1.e. (2) (a) & (c) (iv), A.1.h. (1)(a) & (d), A.1.i.(1)(b) & (3), and A.1.j.(1). Additionally, appendices B, D, E, H, I and J of the Fall 2020 plan address this topic.

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette: **The district promotes behaviors that reduce the spread of COVID-19, such as encouraging the practice of hand hygiene. Signage is posted throughout the facilities in the North Arlington School District and hand sanitizing stations, which contain at least 60% alcohol, are placed in each classroom in addition to common areas throughout each building. Students wash hands for at least 20 seconds at regular intervals, including before eating, after using the bathroom, and after blowing their nose/coughing/sneezing. Further guidance regarding hand washing and respiratory etiquette is referenced in our Fall 2020 Restart and Recovery Plan to Reopen Schools under sections A.1.a.(1)(d), A.1.b.(7) & (8), A.1.h.(1)(e), A.1.i.(1)(d), and A.1.j.(1). Additionally, appendices A, B, H, I, and J of the Fall 2020 plan address this topic.**

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation: **All classrooms and high traffic areas are currently equipped with hand sanitizer dispensers. Throughout the buildings, copy machines and school-based printers have latex gloves next to them as well as disinfectant wipes to wipe the machines after usage. Throughout the day, bathrooms are cleaned and sprayed down using Bioesque. All rooms, districtwide, are fogged daily using the Bioesque, an EPA approved disinfectant spray. In addition, all air units have been upgraded to run on MERV13 filters. They have also been treated and cleaned with EVAP Fresh. Further guidance regarding cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation, is referenced in our Fall 2020 Restart and Recovery Plan to Reopen Schools under sections A.1.c.(3), A.1.g, A.1.h.(1)(a) & (c), A.1.i.(1)(e) & (g)(i), A.1.i.(2), and A.1.i.(3). Additionally, appendices C, G, H, and I of the Fall 2020 plan address this topic.**

E. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments: **The North Arlington School District collaborates with the local health department in regard to necessary reporting, contact tracing, and quarantine guidelines. Individuals displaying symptoms consistent with COVID-19 are safely and respectfully isolated from others. Re-admittance policies are consistent with New Jersey Department of Health guidance. Although New Jersey's travel advisory is no longer in effect, we continue to follow guidance issued by the NJDOH, specifically regarding recommendations related to self-quarantining. Further guidance regarding contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine is referenced in our Fall 2020 Restart and Recovery Plan to Reopen Schools under sections A.1.e., A.1. f, and B.2. g. Additionally, appendices E, F, and M of the Fall 2020 plan address this topic.**

F. Diagnostic and screening testing: **Currently, we are utilizing temperature checks for all students and staff. As recommended by the New Jersey Department of Health, at all levels of community transmission, the North Arlington School District works with the local health department to identify rapid viral testing options in the community for the testing of symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals who were exposed to someone with COVID-19. Further guidance regarding diagnostic and screening testing is referenced in our Fall 2020 Restart and Recovery Plan to Reopen Schools under sections A.1.d. (1) and A.1.e. Additionally, appendices D and E of the Fall 2020 plan address this topic. We will continue to follow all protocols set forth by Governor Murphy, the New Jersey Department of Health, and the New Jersey Department of Education.**

G. Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible: **Any information on vaccines is disseminated via the Parent Portal to our school community. In addition, each notification we receive from the Bergen County Superintendent's Office is shared with our school community.**

H. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies: **The NJDOE acknowledges that enforcing the use of face coverings may be impractical for young children or individuals with disabilities. Additionally, screening protocols for individuals presenting symptoms take into account students and employees with disabilities and accommodations that may be needed in the screening process for those students and employees. Further guidance regarding appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities is referenced in our Fall 2020 Restart and Recovery Plan to Reopen Schools under sections A.1.a.(1)(e), A.1.b.(2)(a), A.1.c.(1) & (2), A.1.e.(1)(d), A.1.e.(5), A.1.e.(6)(d), A.2 and B.1.d. Additionally, appendices A, B, C, E, K, and L of the Fall 2020 plan address this topic.**

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): In order to support the social emotional state of our educators, the district will: **Professional development related to mental health will be provided to district staff. In coordination with CarePlus, our district will contract a licensed full-time K-12 counselor for the 2021-2022 school year. A new position was also created for a Student Assistance Coordinator to provide counseling related to substance abuse and overall mental health, providing individualized support regarding social and emotional well-being. Under the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) National School Lunch Program Seamless Summer Option (SSO), free school meals were provided to all students during the 2020-2021 school year, which will continue throughout the 2021-2022 school year. Additionally, NASD will be utilizing a one-time waiver under the After School Snack Program (ASSP) to provide students with daily after-school snacks during the 2021-022 school year.**

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 districtwide Restart and Recovery Committee has met to review the Safe Return Plan. At the June 15, 2021 Board of Education meeting, the Board will present the plan and seek public comment during the hearing of citizens to address any concerns regarding the Safe Return Plan.**

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 Superintendent of Schools has regularly shared information with the school community in their native languages and will continue to do so. Information regarding reopening is published on the district website at www.navikings.org. For those members of the public whose first language is not English, the website has the ability to translate text and documents into multiple languages. Upon request and if necessary, an individual with a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) will be provided information in an alternative format that is accessible for that parent or guardian. Our district website is ADA compliant.**

Restart and Recovery Plan to Reopen Schools
(Fall 2020)

<https://www.navikings.org/domain/1240>