

- # 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.

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

## Warren County Special Services School District “Safe Return Plan” June 2021

Date (06/10/2021)

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 Warren County Special Services School District (WCSSSD) will follow the guidance of the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH), New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) and Warren County Health Department (WCHD) on mask protocols.
- Should indoor mask requirements be lifted, students, faculty and staff members choosing to wear a mask may do so without fear of being teased, bullied, and/or harassed.
- Signage will be placed in classrooms, hallways, office areas and common areas promoting prescribed hygiene, hand washing, face covering and social distancing procedures, per required guidelines.
- Infographics will be posted in school spaces and provided to all individuals showing appropriate face covering protocols, per guidance and as required.

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

- The Warren County Special Services School District (WCSSSD) will follow the guidance of the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH), New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) and Warren County Health Department (WCHD) on social distancing protocols.
- Social distancing markings and directional guides will be placed on the walls and floors, as appropriate.
- Social distance will be maintained by following the established protocols of the receiving district where WCSSSD activities are occurring.

- 

### **C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette**

- Wall mounted, automatic hand sanitizing stations will be placed in appropriate areas.
- Disinfectant wipes and additional supplies of hand-sanitizer will be available in every office area and common area.
- Facility windows can be opened to provide additional fresh air flow to those areas.
- Air purifiers may be purchased for specific areas.

### **D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation**

- Shared workspaces, buses and other shared equipment will be sanitized/cleaned daily utilizing electro-static spray guns and EPA COVID-19 approved sanitizing solutions.
- Wall mounted, automatic hand sanitizing stations will be placed in appropriate areas.
- Disinfectant wipes and additional supplies of hand-sanitizer will be available in every area.
- Classroom/office windows can be opened to provide additional fresh air flow to those areas.
- Air purifiers will be purchased for specific areas as indicated.
- Routine cleaning schedules will be enhanced to ensure the sanitizing and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces, objects, items, etc.
- All cleaning/sanitizing products will meet prescribed CDC and EPA guidelines for effectiveness in battling COVID-19.
- A limited number of restrooms will be open to ensure effective monitoring and maintaining of facilities.
- Restroom doors will be propped open.
- Restrooms will be cleaned and disinfected on a regular basis.
- Electrostatic cleaning guns will be used to disinfect classrooms, restrooms, busses, hallways, doorknobs, handrails, and offices as indicated.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in all offices as prescribed by medical professionals.
- Approved disposable wipes will be placed in each area and available to staff for the cleaning of keyboards and other frequently touched surfaces and objects.
- The district will ensure adequate supplies of cleaning materials are available to support enhanced cleaning practices and protocols.
- Water fountains will be shut down.

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

- All school district personnel deemed appropriate by WCSSSD will be provided information regarding the role of contact tracing in keeping school communities safe from the contagious disease.
- WCSSSD will collaborate with the local health department and engage their designated employees to develop contact tracing policies and procedures.
- As per the county superintendent's office, Warren County Health Department will conduct contact tracing.

- 

#### **F. Diagnostic and screening testing**

- Appropriate staff will continue to follow established protocols from the NJDOH and WCHD until and when such guidance is revised, updated or lifted.

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

- The district will encourage vaccination for all staff and students as appropriate and recommended by the NJDOH and the Warren County Health Department.
- Communication will be distributed to all impacted employees and students as needed regarding the opportunity available for individuals in approved age ranges for vaccination appointments at a local pharmacy or government run clinic. Location and appointment instructions will be provided as part of the communication.

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

- WCSSSD will work with host districts to ensure the safety of all students with disabilities, following guidance from the NJDOH and the Warren County Health Department, and in compliance with student IEP's
- Staff have access to full face plexi-glass shields, if required.
- Individuals unable to wear masks will be provided specific safety features to ensure a safe learning environment.

## **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):

#### **Academic Component of Plan**

- The Warren County Special Services School District (WCSSSD) will follow the protocols and procedures of the applicable host district with regard to academics and the delivery of instruction.

#### **Social/Emotional Learning Component of Plan**

- The Warren County Special Services School District (WCSSSD) will follow the protocols and procedures of the applicable host district with regard to support for Social Emotional Learning.
- Social Emotional support for individuals and staff will be provided through collaborative efforts with our host partners and other health providers consortia.

#### **Food Service Component of Plan**

- The Warren County Special Services School District (WCSSSD) will continue to provide meals to all students/families through the procedures and policies of the host district.

- 
- Satellite locations for pick up and home delivery of meals will be provided as needed and designated by the host district.