



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

LEA Name: Alloway Township School District

Date: 06/07/21

Date Revised:

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

Board Policy: NA

District Protocols:

The Alloway Township District will adhere to the **most conservative** elements of local, state, and federal guidelines regarding our protocols for universal and correct mask-wearing.

- Students and staff will be required to wear their masks only if required by executive order.
- Students and staff will be required to wear their masks when outdoors only if required by executive order.
- Staff and students will be permitted to remove their masks (if required) outdoors when there is a health and safety concern.
- Students and staff will be permitted to remove their mask (if required) when eating.
- Staff members will be permitted to remove their mask (if required) when alone in a classroom or office.

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

Board Policy: 5141.3

District Protocols:

- Students and staff will maintain appropriate social distancing only if required by executive order.
- Classroom desks will be arranged to ensure appropriate social distancing only if required by executive order.
- Social distancing, if required, will be arranged to ensure that all students are able to attend school on all days.
- The district will adhere to the most conservative elements of local, state and federal guidelines regarding protocols for social distancing.
- Appropriate signage will be placed around the school to remind students and staff of the appropriate social distancing guidelines (if required).

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Board Policy: 5141.3

District Protocols:

- Students and staff will be encouraged to wash their hands regularly
- Students and staff will be encouraged to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer every time they touch their mouth or nose.
- Hand sanitizers will be located throughout the school building.
- Students and staff will be reminded to cover their mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing.
- Students and staff will be encouraged to wash their hands; before eating, before touching their face, after using the restroom and after blowing their nose, coughing or sneezing.

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

Board Policy: 3510

District Protocols:

- Classroom will be thoroughly cleaned daily.
- All high contact points such as door handles, chairs arms, etc., will be disinfected twice a day.
- Electrostatic sprayers will be used daily in all common areas to include lockers, bathrooms and hallways.
- All classrooms will be provided with general cleaning supplies for the purpose of cleaning personal spaces.

- Hand sanitizer will be easily accessible in each classroom and in common areas.
- The maintenance staff will continually examine all HVAC units to ensure proper operation.
- Filter for all HVAC units will be changed regularly.
- HVAC units not working properly will be considered for possible replacement.

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

Board Policy: 5141.2

District Protocols:

- The school nurse will be responsible for investigating all COVID related contact tracing incidences.
- The school nurse will determine which students need to quarantine as per CDC guidelines.
- The school nurse will inform the school principal who will send out the necessary communication to parents.
- The school nurse will inform the Salem County Health Department of the contract tracing results.
- The district will follow all CDC guidelines regarding any additional testing that may be required.

F. Diagnostic and screening testing

Board Policy: 5141.3

District Protocols:

- All staff will confirm, through the daily attendance process in Oncourse, that they are symptom free.
- Parents will be asked to monitor their child's health prior to coming to school to ensure that they are not exhibiting any symptoms.
- Classroom teachers will continue to monitor student's health and they will report any concerns to the school nurse.
- The school nurse will continue to monitor the health of all students and staff and will report any concerns to the school principal.
- The school nurse will maintain records of all staff members and students who are vaccinated.
- The district will continue to follow all CDC guidance regarding protections and quarantine procedures.

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

Board Policy: NA

District Protocols:

- The district will continue to provide staff and parents information regarding vaccination sites in Salem County.

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

Board Policy: 6171

District Protocols:

- Within the standards of IDEA, the district will ensure the delivery of special education and related services.
- The district will provide Extended School Year (ESY) services for students with disabilities.
- The district will adhere to the Joint statement of Education and Civil Rights concerning equitable education.
- The district will continue to provide clear communication to parents of the procedures for student referrals and evaluations to determine the eligibility for special education and related services or a 504 Plan as required by Federal and State law.

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.

The district will ensure continuity of services for all sub-groups and will work to address learning gaps in all grade levels. The district will plan, design and implement K-8 Extended Learning opportunities to provide struggling students with small-group and virtual instruction. The district will implement a tiered intervention model of school based mental health supports and services in order to provide a positive impact for all students in all sub-groups. The district will also continue to enhance Social/Emotional Learning for all students with programs focus on students mental health which are embedded into the support systems established for all students.

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.

The district will continue to provide the public multiple opportunities to comment on the district Safe Return Plan. This plan was posted for public review on June 7, 2021 on the district's website. Notice was sent to all members of the public informing them of this posting and welcoming comment. The plan will also be reviewed monthly by the board of education at their public meeting in order to provide members of the public to offer comment. The School Safety Team, comprised of teaching staff, support staff and administration will also meet regularly to discuss the plan and to recommend any changes for consideration.

- 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 will ensure that the Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services is accessible to all members of our school community. The plan will be posted on the District Website at www.allowayschool.org. The website has a translation feature, enabling all members of our community to access the document in their native language. Copies of this plan will also be provided to any parent who does not have internet access.