



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: Allamuchy Township School District

Date (mm/dd/yyyy): 05/25/2021

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

Mask wearing will be optional for both students and staff. As the pandemic is consistently changing, we will make decisions and adapt based on the best interest of the students and staff.

If necessary, students and staff will bring masks from home and can be reusable or disposable. The school district will maintain a supply of extra youth and adult sized masks at all times.

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

While either indoors or out, students and staff will maintain proper distancing protocols. Student seats will maintain a minimum of three feet distance from one another. While outside, students will continue to keep three feet of distance, unless students must come closer in vicinity during an organized activity but will not maintain that closer distance for more than 15 cumulative minutes in a 24-hour period.

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Students and staff will be required to wash or sanitize hands upon entry of the building. Handwashing/sanitizing stations will be readily available to support the increase of use. Before entering or leaving a classroom, students must wash or sanitize hands. Before and after use of objects, manipulative, equipment, students will wash or sanitize hands. Before and after utilizing the playground, students will wash or sanitize hands.

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

The district has developed a schedule for increased, routine cleaning and disinfection as outlined in the district's policy.

- Cleaning products will be utilized in accordance with the directions on the label.
- Frequently touched surfaces will be routinely cleaned and disinfected.
 - Examples of frequently touched areas in schools:
 - Classroom desks and chairs
 - Lunchroom tables and chairs
 - Door handles and push plates
 - Handrails
 - Kitchens and bathrooms
 - Light switches
 - Handles on equipment (e.g. athletic equipment)
 - Buttons on vending machines and elevators
 - Shared telephones
 - Shared desktops
 - Shared computer keyboards and mice
- Bathrooms will be sanitized daily or between use as much as possible, using protocols outlined by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
- The district will have all communal bathroom doors propped open to limit contact.
- Hand sanitizer will be made available at the entrance to each building as in each classroom, bathroom and office. There will also be hand sanitizers found throughout the hallways.
- A schedule for routine cleaning and disinfecting of furniture has been developed.
- Cleaning supply buckets will be available to all staff to clean commonly used surfaces.
- The district will ensure adequate supplies to support cleaning and disinfection practices.
- Where deemed necessary, additional training will be provided to the custodial staff.

Ventilation

- Filters are dated and changed on a monthly basis and have been upgraded from merv 8 to merv 10. We did not upgrade to 13s because they restrict airflow and can run the risk of causing the units to freeze up.
- Classrooms are equipped with a fresh air component and or have moving air exchange whether that be in the form of a fan or window. Any classrooms that are having issues are tended to as soon as possible to meet the requirements.

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

- The school district is responsible for keeping accurate attendance for both buses and academic sessions. These records will be submitted to the Health Department upon request for Contact Tracing.
- Contact Tracing procedures will begin through the Warren County Health Department.

F. Diagnostic and screening testing

Screening Process Guidelines:

- Allamuchy Township School District has adopted a screening process policy for students and staff upon their arrival to school each day. The policy does include accommodations for students with disabilities.
 - Temperatures will be taken and recorded when a fever (currently greater than or equal to 100.4 °F; this may change based upon CDC guidelines) is present
 - The parent will be mindful of the following:
 - Fever
 - Cough or shortness of breath
 - Sore throat
 - Trouble Breathing
 - Vomiting or Diarrhea
 - Chills
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Muscle pain
 - Headache
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea

- Was there close Contact with Anyone Diagnosed with COVID-19 in the Past 14 Days?
- Has anyone in the household had any of the above listed symptoms?
- Have you or any family members traveled internationally or to a state on the NJ restricted travel area in the last 14 days?

Desk shields will be utilized in all offices and common areas.

- Desk shields will be utilized in individualized sessions with specialists, therapists, and counselors.

Proper PPE will be provided to staff members as necessary. PPE equipment such as gloves and face coverings have been ordered in abundance for distribution to faculty, staff, and students.

Systematic Protocols

- If a staff member or student becomes symptomatic during the school day, they will be Safely and respectfully isolated from others.
- If the district becomes aware that an individual has spent time in the building and tests positive for COVID 19, the district will immediately notify the Warren County Health Department and the Warren County Department of Education and the family of the confirmed case while maintaining confidentiality.

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

The Allamuchy Township School District will assist staff and eligible students in receiving vaccinations. The District will attempt to assist in the scheduling of vaccination appointments and will possibly have the vaccine available to staff through a clinic held at the school.

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

Allamuchy Township School District will continue to meet our obligations to students with disabilities or ESL students to the greatest extent possible. The district will have:

- Procedures to address the return to school of medically fragile students and students with physical or health impairments who may require accommodations and modifications as part of an IEP or 504.

Allamuchy Township School District has adopted a screening process policy for students and staff upon their arrival to school each day. The policy does include accommodations for students with disabilities.

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)

The Covid-19 Pandemic has caused schools to drastically change their lesson delivery. Remote education, hybrid instruction, quarantine, etc. have interrupted our typical school year. This may have caused a gap in learning.

In addition, the 19-20 and 20-21 did not have our students participating in standardized tests. Because of this, our district has utilized a variety of other assessment methods to determine our students' academic levels. It has been determined that the best way to reach all of our students' needs and close the gap is to provide a summer program intended to assist students in mastering their grade-appropriate standards.

This program will provide small-group, targeted intervention that will allow students to continue on with their education from where they left off. This in addition to our typical summer program that is offered to students identified as in need of intervention.

We also plan to extend our intervention programs that occur during the school year. We will be doubling the number of meetings available for student to hone skills necessary to close the gap.

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 Pandemic Committee convenes on a regular basis. In addition, monthly public board of education agendas include Health Related School Preparedness updates, which allows for board member and public comment. Frequent communications regarding the health status are relayed to parents. In addition, updates to our plan due to changes in guidelines will also be discussed with the pandemic committee and then shared with the community.

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 Health Related School Preparedness Plan will be posted on the district website as soon as there is Board approval. On-going communications from the Allamuchy Township School District Administrative Teams will also continue to be posted on the district website. Administration is available to answer questions and meet with parents. In addition, a community forum was held to answer any and all questions pertaining to the pandemic. We will continue to host these types of meetings on an as-needed basis.