



## 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

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LEA Name: Clinton Glen Gardner School District

Date: 06/17/2021

Date Revised : 06/23/2021 & 7/14/2021 & 8/10/2021

### 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

Per Governor's [Executive Order 251](#), starting on August 9, 2021, it is **mandatory that face masks be worn indoors in all district and school buildings by all students, employees, parents/visitors, no matter your vaccination status**. Exceptions include the following as noted in the Order:

- a. When doing so would inhibit the individual's health, such as when the individual is exposed to extreme heat indoors;
- b. When the individual has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face masks without assistance;
- c. When a student's documented medical condition or disability, as reflected in an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Educational Plan pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, precludes use of a face mask;
- d. When the individual is under two (2) years of age;
- e. When the individual is engaged in activity that cannot physically be performed while wearing a mask, such as eating or drinking, or playing a musical instrument that would be obstructed by a face mask;
- f. When the individual is engaged in high-intensity aerobic or anaerobic activity;
- g. When a student is participating in high-intensity physical activities during a physical education class in a well-ventilated location and able to maintain a physical distance of six feet from all other individuals; or
- h. When wearing a face mask creates an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task

**Masks are also required for all individuals while on a school bus no matter your vaccination status** as they are still required on public transportation and this requirement is also noted in the New Jersey Department of Education's recent "[The Road Forward](#)" document.

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

3' distancing will be in place to the greatest extent practicable. During periods of high community transmission other prevention measures may be implemented. No cohort or podding at this point in time.

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds If soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol can be used (for staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer). } Encourage students and staff to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue if not wearing a mask. } Used tissues should be thrown in the trash and hand hygiene as outlined above should be performed immediately. } Maintain adequate supplies including soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol (for staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer), paper towels, tissues, and no touch trash cans. } Hand hygiene should take place: } Upon arrival at school. } Before and after meals and snacks. } After going to the bathroom. } Before leaving for the day. } After blowing nose, sneezing, or coughing into tissue. } When hands are visibly soiled.

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

All classrooms have MERV rated filters. All classrooms have HEPA filtration units. All classrooms have box fans to help exhaust .

Daily cleaning and disinfecting surfaces and objects that are touched often, such as desks, countertops, doorknobs, computer keyboards, hands-on learning items, faucet handles, phones, and toys. If a person exhibits COVID-19 compatible symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19 within 24 hours of being in the school building, school staff will clean and disinfect the spaces occupied by the person. Once the area has been appropriately disinfected, it can be re-opened for use.

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

Contact tracing is a strategy used to determine the source of an infection and how it is spreading. Finding people who are close contacts of a person who has tested positive for COVID-19, and therefore at higher risk of becoming infected themselves, can help prevent further spread of the virus. School staff should identify school-based close contacts of positive COVID-19 cases in the school. As with any other communicable disease outbreak, schools will assist in identifying the close contacts within the school and communicating this information back to the LHD. With guidance from the LHD, schools will be responsible for notifying parents and staff of the close contact exposure and exclusion requirements while maintaining confidentiality. The LHD contact tracing team will notify and interview the close contacts identified by the school and reinforce the exclusion requirements. Per the CDC, close contact is defined as being within 6 feet of someone with suspected or known COVID-19 for 15 or more minutes during a 24-hour period. In certain

situations, it may be difficult to determine whether individuals have met this criterion and an entire cohort, classroom, or other group may need to be considered exposed. These situations should occur rarely if schools are adhering to physical distancing recommendations

#### F. Diagnostic and screening testing

Parents/caregivers will be strongly encouraged to monitor their children for signs of illness every day as they are the front line for assessing illness in their children. Students who are sick should not attend school. We will educate parents about the importance of monitoring symptoms and keeping children home while ill. We will provide reminders to staff and families to check for symptoms before leaving for school. We will provide clear and accessible directions to parents/caregivers and students for reporting symptoms and reasons for absences.

Parents should not send students to school when sick. For school settings, NJDOH recommends that students with the following symptoms be promptly isolated from others and excluded from school: } At least two of the following symptoms: fever (measure or subjective), chills, rigors (shivers), myalgia (muscle aches), headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion, or runny nose; OR } At least one of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new olfactory disorder, or new taste disorder. 10 For students with chronic illness, only new symptoms or symptoms worse than baseline should be used to fulfill symptom-based exclusion criteria.

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

Clinton Glen Gardner School District will follow all CDC and local guidance regarding efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible by providing information and resources to parents and staff.

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

Clinton Glen Gardner School District will follow all CDC and local guidance regarding appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety practices.

## 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)

We have a summer enrichment program, extended school year and are hiring another mental health professional. Summer food resources have been provided.

## 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 Clinton Glen Gardner School held public comment on the ARP on June 9, 2021. Plan updated after release of The Road Forward and shared with stakeholders.

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)

Clinton Public School will provide the written plan and the presentation to the public via the school website. Accommodations were available for any who needed them.