

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: Lyndhurst Public Schools

Date: 6/18/21

Date Revised (12/20/2021):

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

The district's plan for mask wearing will follow the guidance issued by the Governor's Executive Orders and/or the Department of Health.

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

The district's plan for physical distancing will follow the guidelines issued by the Governor's Executive Orders and/or the Department of Health.

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

The district provides relevant information (signs/education opportunities) to faculty and students regarding handwashing and respiratory etiquette. Placement of hand sanitizing stations throughout common areas and classrooms will continue.

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

As part of the daily work schedules for custodians, when opening the building, key sections will be cleaned first. When classes begin, custodians will disinfect all classroom door knobs, bottle filling stations and bathroom fixtures. Restrooms will be cleaned a minimum of two times while school is in session and one time after the building is vacated for the day. High-touch areas will be cleaned as often as possible while school is in session and again after the building is vacated for the day. High traffic areas such as entrances and lobbies will be cleaned once while school is in session and again after dismissal. Each area will be cleaned additional times, as necessary. Water fountains will be closed, yet bottle filling stations and/or water will remain available. Parents are encouraged to send students to school with a bottle/container of water. Head custodians will monitor all building needs and act on all requests. All district classrooms/offices will be disinfected using electrostatic sprayers every night. The district will limit the use of shared objects when possible. Any shared objects including desks and technology will be cleaned as needed. Hand sanitizer stations will be available in classrooms and in common areas throughout each building. All soap and hand sanitizer stations will be checked and refilled/replaced as needed. Students will be encouraged to wash their hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer throughout the day. Signage has also been posted throughout the buildings to encourage hand washing. The district's maintenance staff

does all of the recommended preventative maintenance on the HVAC systems, air scrubbers, and recommends repairs and upgrades to the systems as needed.

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

The school district will follow the guidance issued by the Governor's Executive Orders and/or the Department of Health regarding contract tracing and quarantines. Communication also occurs daily/weekly with the Lyndhurst Health Department. The district also routinely communicates with the local recreation department to track cases.

F. Diagnostic and screening testing

The district's Nursing Staff and the Lyndhurst Health Department will continue to make local facilities known to the school community. Screening procedures include the following: staff must visually check students for symptoms upon arrival and/or confirm with families that students were free of COVID-19 symptoms; health checks must be conducted safely and respectfully, and in accordance with any applicable privacy laws and regulations; results must be documented when signs/symptoms of COVID-19 are observed; any screening policy/protocol must take into account students with disabilities and accommodations that may be needed in the screening process for those students. School officials have encouraged parents to be alert for signs of the illness in their children and to keep their child home when they are sick.

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

The district will continue to provide vaccination information to staff and students. Most educators and staff members are vaccinated. In conjunction with the Bergen County Board of Health, staff members who were not yet vaccinated participated in a random drawing to receive the Johnson & Johnson vaccine in Paramus. Each time a random computerized selection was held, people were given the appointments to be vaccinated. Eventually there were no more volunteers for the drawing since all who requested to participate were vaccinated. The district also distributed all health notices, including notices of locations offering vaccinations. Information was also sent to students/families.

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

Teaching staff, child study team, paraprofessionals, and related service providers; including behaviorists and occupational therapists, will continue to provide presentations, videos, and student/parent/staff training for mask wearing for students with sensory deficits (if masks are still required). Visuals will continue to be provided in classrooms and hallways. All classrooms are outfitted with other relevant protective wear and supplies deemed necessary on an individual and classroom basis.

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 Lyndhurst Public Schools will continue to implement interventions that will ensure continuity of service, including services that address students' academic needs, and students' and staff's social, emotional, mental health, and other needs. Our school district continues to increase the number of mental health supports available to our students. Staff's social, emotional, mental health, and other needs will be met through a variety of professional development opportunities offered throughout the year. Academic needs will be met through rigorous instruction, a variety of courses and levels to select from, along with a plethora of elective-type courses in the arts and other areas. The district is aware of and is committed to ensuring students are on track to graduate and that learning loss as a result of the pandemic is mitigated. The district will therefore be offering after-school and lunch tutoring programs for identified students. Students at all three levels of the school district will use benchmark assessments to establish baselines. This will give district personnel the ability to determine proficiency rates of students in comparison to state/nationally normed data. Different interventions will be implemented during the year, including learning acceleration academies, intervention opportunities, and other forms of group tutoring. This will assist students who are in academic need. Memorial School was re-opened to reduce class size for our K-2 population. All students are eligible for free breakfast and lunch for the 2021-2022 school year. Before and after care will be offered for our elementary students.

3. Public Comment

A. Describe how the LEA sought public comment on its plan, and how it took those public comments 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)

In addition to welcoming public comment at the Board of Education meeting on June 24, 2021, the district also disseminated a survey on Friday, June 11, 2021 to all staff and parents to provide them an opportunity to share their input. We also hosted a Community Feedback Forum on June 17, 2021.

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 plan has been posted on the district website and is able to be translated by the end user. Other specific accommodations will be made upon request.