



## 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.

## Franklin Borough School Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

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LEA Name: Franklin Borough School

Date 06/18/2012:

Date Revised : 6/24/2021

### 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:

All students and staff wear masks both inside the school and outside on school grounds. Masks signs are displayed throughout the building and on each entryway. The signs state the needs for wearing masks and depict the correct way to wear them. Franklin School will continue to follow guidance from state and local agencies and adhere to all protocols in school year 2021-2022.

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

Students and staff follow social distancing guidelines that follow the recommendations from CDS and Board of Health. Students in 2020-2021 school year were in cohorts that maintained social distancing guidelines depending on the size of the room. Social distancing signs are displayed throughout the building on walls and floors. In our cohort model, students do not have classes with another cohort. Franklin School will continue to follow guidance from state and local agencies and adhere to all protocols in school year 2021-2022.

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Students and staff wash hands or sanitize upon entering the building. Hand washing stations are installed throughout the school and sanitizing stations are in every classroom as well as in every entryway. Franklin School will continue to follow guidance from state and local agencies and adhere to all protocols in school year 2021-2022.

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

Custodians sanitize the building each night after students and staff dismiss. Each teacher has access to sanitizer and is responsible for sanitizing their area when they leave a classroom or common area. Classroom doors are left open, air conditioners are installed in every room and ventilators are monitored to ensure proper ventilation. Franklin School will continue to follow guidance from state and local agencies and adhere to all cleaning protocols in school year 2021-2022.

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

All contact tracing is maintained through the school health office and local Department of Health. Current guidelines are followed according to CDC and Board of Health for isolation and quarantining. Franklin School will continue to follow contact tracing and quarantine guidance from state and local agencies and adhere to all protocols in school year 2021-2022.

F. Diagnostic and screening testing

The School nurse completes all initial symptom screening. Further screening and testing is done at student's or staff's primary health provider.

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

District provided staff vaccination information at local centers and worked with our county office to provide access to those still in need of a vaccination. The district will continue to provide staff with the latest health information.

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

Accommodations are followed for students with disabilities according to their IEP and / or IHP.

## 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.

Franklin School will continue to follow guidance from state and local agencies and adhere to all protocols in school year 2021-2022. In addition to taking the steps to protect students' and educators' physical health, the district will consider the impact on both educators and students. The district administration will oversee staff, curriculum and instruction in order to ensure continuity of services. Students will be provided with needed intervention services throughout the summer and continuing in the 2021-2022 school year. The staff will be provided with essential professional development and social emotional support and build staff capacity to deliver highly effective instruction. Social emotional learning will be embedded in the instructional day for students and the Social Worker, School Counselor, School Psychologist and School Nurse will monitor students for health needs.

### 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 district posted a draft of the Safe Reopening Plan on our website and notified parents/guardians. A survey was included so that the community could provide comments on “Maintaining Health and Safety” and “Ensuring Continuity of Services.” The public comment was primarily opinions regarding mitigation strategies. This is an indication to our district to include more community education on policies and guidelines so that parents/guardians are better informed in regards to what the district is permitted to do regarding mitigation strategies.

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)

Franklin Borough School ensures that all communication to families is understandable both in language and format. Persons requiring accommodations are provided an alternative format.