



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: Washington Borough School District

Date: 06/14/2021

Date Revised : 12/13/2021

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 Washington Borough School District will adhere to guidance provided by the NJDOH, NJDOE, and the WCDOH with regard to mask protocol. If masks are required, staff and students at heightened risk for severe illness will be provided reasonable modifications and accommodations and/or additional PPEs. Accommodations for students unable to wear a face covering will be addressed according to student need in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. Signage will be placed in classrooms, hallways, office areas, and common areas promoting prescribed hygiene, hand washing, face coverings, and social distancing procedures as per provided guidelines. Currently, Policy #1648 Restart and Recovery Plan, #1648.02 Remote Learning Options for Families, and #1648.03 Restart and Recovery Full Time Remote Instruction reflect district mitigation strategies.

B. Physical distancing (e.g., including use of cohorts/podding): The district will adhere to guidance provided by the NJDOH, the NJDOE, and the WCDOH related to social distancing protocol. The district will continue to promote physical distancing strategies to positively impact the wellness of staff and students. The use of signage will continue to be used by the district. Instruction of expectations will be provided. The design of classrooms will align with

district standards of established distancing protocol. Movement of classes within the buildings will be monitored to ensure elements of distancing are successfully accomplished. Designated grade level entrances and exits will be predetermined to promote social distancing of students. Visitors to the buildings will be monitored for the safety of the learning community. Policy #1648 Restart and Recovery Plan, #1648.02 Remote Learning Options for Families, and #1648.03 Restart and Recovery Full Time Remote Instruction reflect district mitigation strategies.

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette: The district will adhere to guidance provided by the NJDOH, the NJDOE, and the WCDOH. The district will utilize signage and the school nurses will provide information and lesson intervention in the classroom setting. Hand sanitizing stations will be provided and all classrooms will be equipped with additional hand sanitizer and materials. Free standing air purifiers will be in use. Students and staff will be encouraged to follow CDC hand washing recommendations including washing with soap and water for at least twenty seconds. If soap and water are not readily available staff and students will use alcohol-based hand sanitizer with sixty percent alcohol. Hand sanitizers will be stored away and out of reach of children under the age of six and will only be used with adult supervision. Policy #1648 Restart and Recovery Plan, #1648.02 Remote Learning Options for Families, and #1648.03 Restart and Recovery Full Time Remote Instruction reflect district mitigation strategies.

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation: The district will adhere to guidance provided by the NJDOH, NJDOE, and WCDOH. Custodians will clean surfaces and frequently touched objects. Areas of exposure will be subjected to deep cleaning procedures. Custodians will follow manufacturer instructions for cleaning procedures of EPA approved products. Doors will be open and sanitizer will be available throughout the

buildings. Custodial schedules for cleaning will be developed. Windows will be open and filters will be changed regularly. Electrostatic cleaning materials will be used and the district will work with transportation service providers to ensure adherence to guidelines. CRRSA-ESSER II funds will be used to remove and replace existing windows with a double paned system at the Taylor Street. Policy #1648 Restart and Recovery Plan, #1648.02 Remote Learning Options for Families, and #1648.03 Restart and Recovery Full Time Remote Instruction reflect district mitigation strategies.

E. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments: The district will adhere to current WCDOH and CDC guidelines. Upon confirmation of a positive diagnosis the district will assist families in working with authorities to complete contact tracing protocol. The district will notify personnel from the WCDOH and the NJDOE upon confirmation of a positive diagnosis within the school community. The district will notify parents of exposed individuals. Nursing personnel will provide support to parents in navigating contact tracing protocol performed by the WCDOH. Isolation rooms will be utilized for further screening for individuals experiencing symptoms. Individuals becoming symptomatic during the school day will be safely and respectfully isolated from others. Policy #1648 Restart and Recovery Plan, #1648.02 Remote Learning Options for Families, and #1648.03 Restart and Recovery Full Time Remote Instruction reflect district mitigation strategies.

F. Diagnostic and screening testing: In collaboration with the NJDOH and WCDOH and local officials the district will align protocol and procedures to ensure the overall health of students and staff and the district's learning community. Information released by the CDC will be provided to parents and staff related to self-screening for symptoms. The district will continue to employ the use of isolation rooms to be utilized for further screening by the school nurse for students and staff experiencing Covid-like symptoms while school is in session. Individuals becoming symptomatic during the school day will be safely and respectfully isolated from others. Nursing personnel of the district will align screening standards with current CDC guidelines and update as necessary. The nursing staff of the district will continue to follow established protocol from the NJDOH and the WCDOH and implement changes when warranted.

G. Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible: The district will continue to collaborate with community partners to promote and advertise vaccination opportunities and availability to the district's learning community. The rapid dissemination of information will occur through multiple modes of communication including routine communication to parents, postings on the district's website, and use of the district's automated notification system. Literature from the WCDOH and the CDC will be forwarded to parents in a timely manner.

H. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies: Accommodations and modifications will be based upon the ability and need of individual students. Students in self-contained classes will receive direct instruction on the district's health and safety guidelines to ensure proper mask attire, social distancing, and hygiene protocol and expectations are followed. Collaborative student-focused meetings hosted by members of the CST will be conducted with staff to ensure student success in meeting health related goals and progress toward mastery of adult living skills. Individualized parent education informational sessions will support the district's diverse learning community. All students will be able to access accelerated learning/learning loss programs to support the district's RTI criteria and protocol. Policy #1648 Restart and Recovery Plan, #1648.02 Remote Learning Options for Families, and #1648.03 Restart and Recovery Full Time Remote Instruction reflect district mitigation strategies.

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): Pending guidance from the NJDOH and NJDOE, the district will return to full day, in-person instruction. RTI tiered level of support data collection will provide needed information for the development of enrichment programming. Data collected will drive individualized and small group programming and extended learning beyond the regular school day. Analysis of the collected data will assist in the identification of the disproportionate impact throughout subgroups. The district's tiered system of mental health awareness and support programming will be provided by certified staff. PD will empower staff to meet the needs of digital literacy, support social and emotional needs of the learning community, and support equitable access to learning and instructional technology. Meals for all families of students of the district will be provided throughout 2021-2022 academic year.

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): Google Forms were utilized to create a survey of parent feedback regarding several indicators of the district's Safe Return Plan. Collaborative efforts of the district's Reopening Plan Committee and Safe Return Committee have assisted in the development of protocol and procedures related to the health and wellness plans for the district's entire learning community. As updates are provided, public comment with regard to the district's Safe Return Plan will be accepted via email (nassryj@washboro.org). Feedback and communication with staff, Administration, and parents will continue to support reflective practices of the district.

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 Safe Return Plan will be posted on the district's webpage. District initiatives focused on strengthening communication with all stakeholders has resulted in the addition of multiple modes of communication including Class Dojo with enhanced translator capabilities and options. In addition, bilingual staff members have proven resourceful in supporting verbal communication to parents with limited English proficiency. Personal individualized accommodations will be provided to parents as circumstances warrant to provide equitable access to the district's Safe Return Plan.