



## 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**

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**LEA Name: Hasbrouck Heights Public Schools**

**Date (06/07/2021):**

**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**

Face coverings for students are currently required at all times when in the school building. However, at teacher discretion, students will be given “mask breaks” when social distancing is possible. It is also necessary to acknowledge that enforcing the use of face coverings might be impractical for young children or individuals with disabilities.

Accommodations for students who are unable to wear a face covering are addressed according to that student’s need and in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations. Exceptions to requirements for face coverings include when doing so would inhibit the person’s health, the individual is in extreme heat outdoors, the individual is in water, the student’s documented medical condition or disability as reflected in an IEP precludes the use of face covering, or the student is under the age of two and could risk suffocation. Face coverings are always required for visitors and staff in the building unless they are two years of age.

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

All instructional and non-instructional rooms in school and district facilities comply with recommended social distancing standards to the maximum extent practical. When a classroom or non-instructional room is not able to maintain this physical distance, additional modifications were implemented when possible, including having physical barriers between desks, turning desks to face the same direction (rather than facing each other), and/or having students sit on only one side of a table, spaced apart appropriately. Schools in the district provide physical markings (i.e., tape on

floors/sidewalks, signs on walls) to help ensure that staff and students remain socially distanced in lines and at other times. Hall monitors are stationed near restrooms to enforce social distancing in the bathroom and in the hallway. The district's plan adhered to all applicable social distancing requirements and hygiene protocols during any extra-curricular activity.

**C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette**

The district promotes behaviors that reduce the spread of COVID-19 such as encouraging staff and students to stay home when appropriate; encouraging the practice of hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette; requiring the use of face coverings; and signs and messages in and around school buildings. Each school prepares and maintains hand sanitizing stations with alcohol-based hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol). Such stations are located: in each classroom; at entrances and exits of buildings; and toilets; Children ages five and younger are supervised when using hand sanitizer. School officials developed a school-wide plan where students are required to wash hands for at least twenty seconds at regular intervals during the school day and always before eating, after using the bathroom, and after blowing their nose, coughing, and/or sneezing (or washing with an alcohol-based sanitizer of at least 60% alcohol).

**D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation**

Drivers and bus aides wear face coverings and use hand sanitizer when entering the bus for the first time. Drivers and aides continue to use hand sanitizer as warranted. Signs are posted on the bus reminding students that face coverings must be worn. When possible, students are seated individually in every other row. The district uses 3M 40A disinfectant cleaner RCT EPA approved from the EPA's list of acceptable products. Transportation for NJSIAA events follows the guidelines outlined by that governing body. The district adheres to Hasbrouck Heights maintenance Department cleaning procedures. The district has a preventative maintenance plan in place for all equipment. It is updated to include additional tasks for more frequent cleaning of the interior of HVAC materials. The district follows the manufacturer's recommendations. High touch areas of HVAC and other building service systems are disinfected regularly. The district added MERV 13 filters.

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

Procedures for symptomatic staff and students include students and staff with symptoms related to COVID-19 are safely and respectfully isolated from others. School officials follow Communicable Disease Service guidelines for illness reporting. If the school district becomes aware of an individual who tests positive for COVID-19, local health officials, staff

and families of a confirmed case are notified. The procedure the district uses when someone tests positive includes the establishment of an isolation space. Students remain in isolation with continued supervision and care until picked up by an authorized adult. The district follows current Communicable Disease Service guidelines for illness reporting. An adequate amount of PPE is available. Re-admittance policies are consistent with Department of Health guidance. The district also engages the expertise of the school nurses on the importance of contact tracing. Each school has a Pandemic Response Team.

**F. Diagnostic and screening testing**

The school district adopted a policy of taking all student and staff temperatures upon entering or reentering a building. Screening procedures for students and employees upon arrival at school or work location for symptoms and history of exposure. Screening procedures include the following: staff must visually check students for symptoms upon arrival (which may include temperature checks). 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.

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

Most educators and staff members voluntarily made vaccination appointments and 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, staff 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. Students who are eligible for vaccines are already making their own appointments and getting vaccinated.

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

Reasonable accommodations are provided for individuals that the CDC identifies as having a higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 such as medically fragile students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), students with complex disabilities with IEPs or students who require accommodations under a Plan in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (504 Plan). Accommodations are also made for those younger students or individuals with disabilities who can not wear a face covering and will be addressed according to a student's particular need and in

accordance with all applicable laws and regulations. An exception to the requirement for a face covering is made if a student has a documented medical condition or disability as reflected in an IEP that precludes the use of a face covering.

## **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 district will utilize basic skills instructors at all three levels. Summer programs are planned in ELA and math during summer 2021 at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. For the middle school, an audit of the curriculum and revisions of the ELA curricula will increase student success, with the goals of increased fidelity to the standards and the inclusion of performance-based learning and thematic structures that accelerate, rather than remediate, learning. The district is also budgeting to purchase IXL math support programs for the elementary, middle, and high school levels. The district will be working with Conquer Math to provide professional development for our staff. The district is planning to provide therapeutic care for identified students; including individual and family counseling. The district is budgeting for SEL training for professional staff and to develop a plan for addressing the emotional fallout of the trauma of COVID-19.

## **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)

The Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services template will be approved by the Hasbrouck Heights Board of Education at the June 17, 2021 Board meeting. This is a public meeting of this governing body. In addition to opportunities for public discussion at this and at subsequent Board of Education meetings, the ReOpening Committee will review this template and the ARP Mandatory Subgrant Award for revisions as required by the ARP Mandatory Subgrant Award. Public comment will be solicited as required by the subgrant award.

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 School ReOpening Plan is published on the district website at [www.hhschools.org](http://www.hhschools.org), and the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services will be posted there as well, once it is Board approved. For those members of the public whose first language is not English, the website has the ability to translate text into several different languages. The text of the ReOpening Plan is understandable and follows a clear format, making it easy for people to access the area they wish. Upon request and if necessary, an individual with a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act will be provided information in an alternative format that is accessible for that parent or guardian.