

Keyport Public Schools

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Service Pursuant to the Federal American Rescue Plan Act, Section 2001(i)

Date: June 24, 2021

Revision Dates: 9/22/21, 1/3/22

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.

The following plan incorporates the federally-required components of the Safe Return Plan. The questions in the plan 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.

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.

Maintaining Health and Safety

1. 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 mask:** (1000 character limit)

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- If the CDC and NJDOE mandates the use of masks for staff and student, the following protocols will be followed:
 - Face masks will be provided to staff and students as needed.
 - School staff and visitors, when appropriate, would be required to wear facing coverings unless doing so would inhibit individuals’ health or specific situations such as when a student is in extreme heat, outdoors, etc.
 - Students will wear a face mask when social distancing cannot be maintained, unless doing so would inhibit the student’s health.
 - Accommodation for students who are unable to wear a face covering will be addressed according to that student's need and in accordance with district procedures, applicable laws and regulations.
 - Signs will be posted throughout the building to demonstrate the proper use of face coverings.
- On August 9, 2021 Executive Order 251 issued by Governor Murphy was put into effect. The order requires masks to be worn in schools. There are exemptions outlined on page 4 of the document.

b. Physical distancing (e.g., including use of cohorts/podding) (1000 character limit)

- If the CDC and NJDOE mandates include social distancing for staff and student, the following protocols will be followed:
 - Schools will allow for social distancing within the classroom to the maximum extent practicable.
 - If KCS or KHS is not able to maintain this physical distance, additional modifications will be considered.
 - All instructional and non-instructional rooms in schools and district facilities will comply with social distancing standards to the maximum extent practicable.
 - The district will adhere to all applicable social distancing requirements and hygiene protocols during any extra-curricular activities.
 - Signs will be posted throughout the building to stress social distancing.

c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette (1000 character limit)

Handwashing

- Signs will be posted throughout the building on proper handwashing technique posted in bathrooms and next to all sinks district wide.
- Hand sanitizing stations with alcohol-based hand sanitizers will be located: in each classroom; at the entrances and exits of buildings; near entrances to the main offices; near lunchrooms; and near bathrooms.

Respiratory Etiquette

- If masks and social distancing are required by the NJDOE, individual student plexiglass shields will be provided for each desk when students cannot wear masks and/or social distance.
- Individual student desk shields will be provided upon the request of the parent or student.
- Students will be reminded of respiratory etiquette.

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d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation (1000 character limit)

Ventilation

- Indoor facilities will have adequate ventilation to provide the code-required amount of ventilation air.
- All HVAC systems are now on a web-based HVAC control system, which allows the District to schedule the occupied and unoccupied times for the building. This would allow the District to easily program in a purge cycle 2 hours prior to and after the occupied schedule in order to flush the building with ventilation air.

Cleaning and maintaining health facilities

- School officials must continue to adhere to existing required facilities cleaning practices and procedures, and any new specific requirements of the local health department as they arise.
- The district will continue to follow KPS current cleaning protocols.
- Custodial staff have been informed on PPE use and proper protocols.

e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments (1000 character limit)

- KPS officials have engaged the expertise of the school nurses on the importance of contract tracing.
- A staff liaison(s) shall be designated by the Superintendent or designee and shall be responsible for providing notifications and carrying out other components that could help ensure notifications are carried out in a prompt and responsible manner.
- In the event of a positive COVID-19 test, local health departments, working in coordination with school districts, will conduct contact tracing to determine whether or not an individual has been in close contact with a student and advise any affected individuals, via trained contact tracers, to self-quarantine.
- All applicable federal and state requirements regarding privacy of educational records (e.g. FERPA) will be adhered to.
- Please see Appendix A for student quarantine protocols as they pertain to instruction.

f. Diagnostic and screening testing (1000 character limit)

Screening Procedures for Students and Staff

- The school district will adhere to daily screening procedures for students and employees upon arrival at school or work location for symptoms and history of exposure.

Protocols for Symptomatic Students and Staff

- The district will encourage parents to keep their child home when they are sick.
- Suspected COVID cases will be determined by state criteria.
- Students and staff with symptoms related to COVID-19 must be safely and respectfully isolated. Students should remain in isolation with supervision and care until picked up by an authorized adult.
- State Isolation and Quarantine guidelines will be followed.

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- If the school district becomes aware that a COVID-19 positive individual has spent time in a district facility during the contagious period, the district will follow the Contact Tracing procedures.

g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible (1000 character limit)

The district has partnered and worked collaboratively with the VNACJ Community Health Center, Keyport First Aid, and the Monmouth County Health Department to provide vaccines for any employee district wide that wanted to receive the vaccination. The VNA located in Keyport is available to provide vaccinations and COVID testing when needed. We will continue to communicate with the local health department to assess the need for students to receive vaccinations when available and appropriate by age. This information will be provided on our district website.

h. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies (1000 character limit)

The IEP/504 team reviewed each Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) as hybrid and remote learning was being implemented to assure that goals and objectives could be obtained and address the issues brought on by the pandemic. We will continue to monitor progress in each student's goals and objectives in the 21-22 academic year and we will continue to make any accommodations needed to ensure their health and safety.

- Staff members and students are to wear face masks except under the following circumstances:
 - If a student's documented medical condition, or disability as reflected in an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP/504), precludes the use of a mask.
 - Any screening policy/protocol must take into account students with disabilities and accommodations that may be needed during the screening process.

Ensuring Continuity of Services

1. 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 will provide free lunch to students.
- We will continue to utilize our multi-tiered system of support for academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs.
- We will utilize formative assessments and use the data to address student's individual learning gaps and needs.
- We are providing all students in grades K-9 with a Summer Enrichment Academy to address learning loss
- We are providing a Summer JumpStart for our students entering kindergarten
- Our district created a Summer Lab Week for students in grades 1-12 in the areas of STEM, Visual and Performing Arts, and Reading.
- We will provide learning loss after school opportunities.

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- We will continue to focus on our district wide goals that address Math, ELA, and Social and Emotional Learning.
- Professional Development and follow-up activities will take place for the KPS staff to address their social and emotional well-being.

Public Comment

1. **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 public will have the opportunity to comment on the plan via Google Form and Pandemic Response Team Meeting. Prior to the meeting a draft of the proposed plan will be shared with the community. Input from the public will be taken into consideration by the board of education and district administration and, if warranted, changes will be made in the draft plan.

2. **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 Keyport Public Schools Safe Reopening Plan will be shared via the website as a Google Document. The district will provide the plan to non-English speaking families through a translated text.

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Appendix A Student Quarantine Process (Orange)

[**COVID-19 Public Health Recommendations for Local Health Departments for K-12 Schools Updated December 30, 2021**](#)

<p>In the cases of Very High (Red) and High (Orange) <u>transmission</u>, if a student is sent home from school with symptoms of COVID 19 identified by either the parent or the district, or is identified as a close contact.</p>			
<p>Prior to obtaining medical clearance from a physician to return to school, students will receive remote learning opportunities through Google Classroom. In addition, students will join the RRU Learning Acceleration Program virtually after school hours for additional support in completing posted assignments. Upon receiving test results...</p>			
Close contact/Testing Status	Quarantine	Instruction	Attendance
<p>Close Contact of a positive case or showing compatible symptoms of COVID-19</p>	<p>A close contact of a positive case or an individual exhibiting compatible symptoms must quarantine a period of 7 days if a negative test is taken on day 5. If testing is not available, a close contact to a positive case will quarantine for 10 days from last exposure. For individuals with compatible symptoms, medical clearance is required to return to school. If medical clearance cannot be obtained, they must quarantine for a period of 10 days.</p>	<p>Synchronous in all classes</p>	<p>Student attendance will be coded "Home Instruction."</p>
<p>With a positive test</p>	<p>Students that test positive for COVID-19 will isolate themselves at home. Students must isolate for 10 days from symptom onset (or 10 days from the collection of the positive test if asymptomatic). Students can then return to school if they are symptom free.</p>	<p>Synchronous in all classes</p>	
<p>** Quarantine timeline is subject to change based on community transmission rates and activity levels.**</p>			