



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.

LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

LEA Name: Tewksbury Township Schools

Date (06/23/2021):

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

Tewksbury Township Schools will follow the most relevant information from the CDC, NJ Department of Health, or local Health Department guidance regarding use of and correct wearing of masks, should they be required. This is indicated in the following sections of the Board approved 2020 Fall Return to School Plan: A.1.a.(1)(d), A.1.b.(2) & (3), A.1.c.(1) & (2), A.1.d.(2), A.1.e.(4);(5);(6); & (7), Revisions to this plan have been made to reflect changes in NJ Executive orders.

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

Tewksbury Township Schools will follow the most relevant information from the CDC, NJ Department of Health, or local Health Department guidance regarding physical distancing, should it be required. This is indicated in the following sections of the Board approved 2020 Fall Return to School Plan: A.1.b.(1); (2); (3); & (4), A.1.d.(2) & (3), A.1.e.(2)(a) & (c)(iv), A.1.h.(1)(a) & (d), A.1.i.(1)(b) & (3), A.1.j.(1). Revisions to this plan have been made to reflect changes in NJ Executive orders and instructional needs of cohorts.

C. Hand washing and respiratory etiquette

Tewksbury Township Schools will follow CDC, NJ Department of Health, and local Health Department guidance regarding hand washing and respiratory etiquette as indicated in the following sections of the Board approved 2020 Fall Return to School Plan A.1.a.(1)(d), A.1.b.(7) & (8), A.1.h.(1)(e), A.1.i.(1)(d), A.1.j.(1). Revisions to this plan have been made to reflect changes in NJ Executive orders.

- D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation** Tewksbury Township Schools will follow the most relevant information from the CDC, NJ Department of Health, or local Health Department guidance regarding maintaining healthy facilities, including improved ventilation. This is indicated in the following sections of the Board approved 2020 Fall Return to School Plan: A.1.c.(3), A.1.g., A.1.h.(1)(a) & (c), A.1.i.(1)(e) & (g)(i), A.1.i.(2), A.1.i.(3) Revisions to this plan have been made to reflect changes in NJ Executive orders.
- E. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments** Tewksbury Township Schools will follow the most relevant information from the CDC, NJ Department of Health, or local Health Department guidance regarding Contact Tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine. This is indicated in the following sections of the Board approved 2020 Fall Return to School Plan: A.1.e., A.1.f., B.2.g. Revisions to this plan have been made to reflect changes in NJ Executive orders.
- F. Diagnostic and screening testing** Tewksbury Township Schools will follow the most relevant information from the CDC, NJ Department of Health, or local Health Department guidance regarding Contract Tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine. This is indicated in the following sections of the Board approved 2020 Fall Return to School Plan: A.1.e, A.1.f, B.2g. Revisions to this plan have been made to reflect changes in NJ Executive orders.
- G. Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible** Tewksbury Township Schools will follow the most relevant information from the CDC, NJ Department of Health, or Health Department guidance regarding efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students by providing information and resources to staff and parents. The school district will work with staff who need to take time off to receive vaccinations.
- H. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies** Tewksbury Township Schools will follow the most relevant information from the CDC, NJ Department of Health, or local Health Department guidance regarding appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies as indicated in the following sections of the Board approved 2020 Fall Return to School Plan: A.1.a.(1)(e), A.1.b.(2)(a), A.1.c.(1) & (2), A.1.e.(1)(d), A.1.e.(5), A.1.e.(6)(d), A.2., B.1.d. Revisions to this plan have been made to reflect changes in NJ Executive orders.

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)

Tewksbury Township Schools will ensure continuity of services as indicated in the following sections of the Board approved 2020 Fall Return to School Plan: Section A.2 and Appendix K. Students academic needs will be addressed through data driven decisions for mitigation of learning loss based on benchmark assessments from the 2020-2021 school year as well as the 2021-2022 school year. Social emotional health of staff and students will be continue to be addressed through ongoing Professional Development, SEL activities, and supports during the 2021-2022 school year. Student health needs will be supported through the district health office with information and resources shared with staff, students, and parents.

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)

Tewksbury Township Schools presented information about the Safe Return to School Plan at the June 2, 2021 public Board meeting followed by a period for public comment. A presentation on the Safe Return Plan was shared at the public Board of Education meeting on June 16, 2021 followed by a period for public comment. Any revisions to the plan will be followed by a public presentation at a Board of Education meeting allowing for public comment regarding the plan. Revisions to the initial 2020 Return to School Plan were made to indicate changes where executive orders have been revised.

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)

This Safe Return to School Plan as well as revisions to the initial 2020 Return to School plan for the 2021-2022 school year will be posted on the school website. The plan will include the Strauss Esmay template & format and easy to read tables with revisions in red. After the public presentation at the June 16, 2021 Board of Education meeting and after Board of Education approval, Tewksbury Schools will provide the written plan and the presentation to the public via the school website.