



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: Warren County Technical School District

Date (mm/dd/yyyy): 06/02/2021

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
 - a. Masks will be required for staff and students in school and on school-related transportation in accordance with CDC guidelines and NJDOE guidance.
 - b. Shields or desk dividers may be used by teachers and students during instruction as an added precaution.
 - c. If masks are required, mask breaks will be permitted as long as students maintain safe distancing.

- B. Physical distancing (e.g., including use of cohorts/podding)
 - a. Students will be seated three feet apart in all classroom settings while masked.
 - b. Six feet of distance is required when masks are removed (i.e.- during meals, select physical education activities)
 - c. Shared workspaces and materials will be sanitized/cleaned at the conclusion of each classroom session.
 - d. Outdoor learning will be encouraged, if appropriate.

- C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
 - a. Students and staff will use CDC/DOH-approved hand sanitizer before entering the classroom (provided by the district).
 - b. Students and staff will sanitize hands BEFORE using the restroom and wash hands after.
 - c. Students must wash hands upon returning to the classroom from elsewhere in the building.
 - d. When meals are permitted, all hands must be washed (or hand sanitizer used) before and after meals

- D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation
 - a. All products used for cleaning/sanitizing will be on the CDC/DOH-approved list.
 - b. Restrooms will be cleaned and disinfected at least 3X per school day.
 - c. Only one student will be permitted in the restroom at a time.
 - d. Paraprofessionals and/or security guards will be utilized to monitor bathrooms and communicate to custodial staff when there are high-traffic time periods.
 - e. Custodians will use disinfectant to clean and sanitize all “high-touch” areas throughout the day (doorknobs, handrails, office copiers, etc.)
 - f. Custodians will thoroughly clean/sanitize all classrooms at the end of each day.
 - g. Hand sanitizer dispensers are accessible throughout all buildings.
 - h. Water fountains will continue to be shut down. Students will be encouraged to bring their own water bottles. Bottle refilling stations will be available in each building.
 - i. Portable air filtration units (filter air 3X per hour) will be provided in each classroom, the cafeteria and common office space.

- E. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments
 - a. Warren County Technical School District will continue to follow the contact tracing and quarantine recommendations of the Warren County Department of Health and the CDC.
 - b. Updates and changes to said protocols will be communicated to the Warren County Technical School District community regularly.

- F. Diagnostic and screening testing
 - a. Warren County Technical School District will provide weekly Covid-19 testing using LabQ Diagnostics.
 - b. LabQ offers rapid and PCR testing options and communicates positive results to the Warren County Health Department

- G. Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible
 - a. Warren County Technical School District coordinates with the Warren County Department of Health to inform stakeholders of vaccination opportunities
 - b. Warren County Technical School District is available to provide vaccinations onsite and is in communication with the Warren County Department of Health regarding upcoming vaccination programs.

- H. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies
 - a. Students with disabilities will be afforded accommodations in accordance with their IEP or 504 plan to the greatest extent possible
 - b. Students with verified health conditions may be granted exceptions to the District’s mask-wearing protocols.

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):

Barring a resurgence of Covid-19 cases, Warren County Technical School District will return a traditional schedule for the 2021-2022 school year.

District-level committees have been formed to address the learning loss needs of students and the social/emotional/mental health of students and staff.

Using ESSER funding, Warren County Technical School plans to provide a summer credit recovery/learning loss program July 2021, increase after-school offerings in 2021-22, and hire a Supervisor of Curriculum, Instruction, and Intervention to identify and plan programming to combat learning loss.

Additionally, Lead Teacher positions have been added to the 2021-2022 school year to facilitate coordination between staff and administration to actively reduce learning loss. The Learning Loss committee and the Supervisor of Curriculum, Instruction, and Intervention will focus efforts on identifying

learning loss needs and planning intervention programs and supports to advance academic progress for all students. Warren County Technical School

District will also institute a Social-Emotional wellness program to bring trauma-informed teaching practices and mindfulness-based stress reduction to students and staff members. Technological improvements will be made to classroom spaces to promote the highest level of instructional differentiation

and intervention programming. Free student lunches will continue to be available to all students in the community and the District will implement a "grab and go" breakfast program for students in September 2021.

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)

Warren County Technical School District placed a Google Form survey on the District website to allow for public comment and input on the Safe Reopening Plan. Additional surveys will be utilized in the event revisions are necessary.

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 survey is listed in both English and Spanish for community members. Bilingual staff members are available to translate, if necessary. Should an individual with a disability require the plan to be communicated in an alternate format, the District will accommodate to the greatest extent possible.