



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.

Maywood School District Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

LEA Name: Maywood Public Schools

Date: 06/21/2021

Revision: Following July 14 BOE Meeting

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 District will utilize NJDOH/BCDOH resources on proper mask wearing and staff will assist in training and reinforcement of proper mask wearing, if necessary. The District will follow NJDOH requirements for wearing masks. The District will evaluate guidance documents as updates are made to adjust local policies and practices. The District followed the State guidelines as set forth throughout the 20-21 school year. The District purchased bulk quantities of cloth and surgical masks for students and staff in need. The District shifted optional masking in the middle of June when the State allowed for such an option in excessive heat. Without any formal guidelines from the State for the 21-22 school year at the time of the submission of this report, the District will allow for optional masking for the 21-22 school year.

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

The District initiated cohorts for the first half of the year and ended the cohorts for phase 3 and 4. The District intends to open for full time in person learning without cohorts. If the health data and/or State directives indicate differently, the District will respond accordingly. Furniture will be adjusted accordingly to accommodate for distancing. Use of the desk shields will be employed if deemed necessary by NJDOH/BCDOH.

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

The District invested heavily in signage and consistent reminders to staff and students throughout the year. Bathrooms were used individually to avoid crowding. The messaging and reminders will continue along with the use of the bathrooms on an individual basis or in the nurse office. Greater time will be built in following both lunch and recess to allow for appropriate hand washing and hygiene prior to starting classes for the afternoon.

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

The District will maintain its custodial rotation that will include the use of the UVC stationary lamps in each room and office after school hours. The District used a portion of the ESSR2 funds to invest in the installation of needle point UVC rods in all existing univents and they will be installed over the summer. The District will continue the use of the decontamination spray and all approved cleaning materials that it used for the 20-21 school year. The District will utilize school provided and personal FDA and EPA approved products to clean individual bus seats, desks and chairs, bathroom/sink knobs, etc. The district will use traditional cleaning methods along with pump sprayers and misters to sanitize the schools and district equipment/materials. Additional cleaning periods will continue. Materials and equipment will be utilized to sanitize high traffic, high touch and areas identified due to a potential contact or positive case as per the guidelines from the CDC and/or BCDOH. Outside air dampers will be opened, when possible, to increase air changes and introduce additional outside air. Air flushes will be performed in all locations a minimum of one week prior to the start of school. Buildings have been checked to ensure positive pressure and occupied spaces will purge air routinely. Routine daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, and annual maintenance will be performed in accordance with checklists released by State requirements. Filters have been verified that they are installed appropriately before the start of school. All filters are dated and initialized with install dates. Filter evaluations and changes will be made regularly in accordance with district practices.

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

The District will maintain its two locations (one in each building) that will be used as isolation areas for students and staff experiencing symptoms while in school. The District will maintain its relationship with the BCDOH and use them as a resource for contact tracing to supplement the contact tracing team that each building has as well as the unified district team. The District will abide by all quarantine guidelines as of the start of school and will maintain a virtual platform for those students and staff who may have to attend school virtually due to a quarantine mandate.

F. Diagnostic and screening testing

The District used a google form transcribed with the information supplied by the NJDOH/BCDOH regarding symptoms. The screening tool was used each morning prior to school by all staff and students. Based on the current health and New Jersey State Health Department guidance, the district will determine if it is appropriate and necessary to have individuals complete the health screener as precautionary measure in the 21-22 school year.

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

The District spearheaded a Bergen County teacher vaccination process that took place on three consecutive weekends. Staff who had yet been vaccinated and wanted a vaccine entered their names and all staff were vaccinated at the end of the time period. Students and families were consistently communicated with regarding mobile vaccine availability, municipal, local and county availability and the District kept in close contact with the infectious disease department at HUMC for any and all other availability. The District plans to follow the same strategy throughout the summer and during the Fall.

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

The District special education department, cabinet, principals, district physician, school nurses, staff and parents have engaged in a process to meet the health and safety needs of students with IEPs, 504 plans, individual medical services plans and specific requests due to Covid-19. The Director of Special Education/Child Study Teams will meet routinely with parents and SEPAC to review concerns related to COVID-19 and special education. Case Managers will identify students prone to anxiety and/or school refusal and develop plans for September reentry, including visitations and meetings prior to the first day of school. The District will employ a dedicated guidance/mental health professional at each building to work with students and families who have emergent needs related to COVID-19.

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)

During the summer, the district is offering an educational program in two formats, in person and remotely. Students who have been identified as at risk due to the learning loss that has been measured will take part in an in person summer academy in ELA and Mathematics. These students will also be eligible for an extended day to take part in Junior Explorers, STEM, Art or Music electives. The second component is labeled the MAYwood Summer 2021 SNAPSHOT. This is a digital compilation of resources and suggested work to be reviewed and completed prior to the school year as an enrichment opportunity in all subject areas, both Core and Specials.

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)

The District assembled a comprehensive group of committees as part of the Reopening COmmittee and PAndemic Response Committee. These committees have met throughout the year focusing on sub-committee components consisting of Physical Plant, PPE, Curriculum, SEL and B&G. The Safe Reopening Plan will be reviewed and approved by the Maywood BOE on July 14, 2021. It will be submitted to the Department of Education shortly thereafter and then available on the district website for public review during the whole summer. A corresponding google form survey will also be provided to families to provide feedback that will be shared with the administration, nurses, boe and Restart Committees.

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 plan will be available online (www.maywoodschoools.org)with easy access and emailed to all District families using Blackboard on numerous intervals during the summer. The plan will also be available in Spanish and contact information will be provided for anyone to reach out with questions about the contents of the plan.