



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: Fairfield Public Schools

Date: 06/01/2021

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 – Please see Fairfield Public School’s Restart and Recovery Plan Fall 2020 posted on our website.

Section of Restart and Recovery Plan Fall 2020	Applicable Appendices of Restart and Recovery Plan Fall 2020
A.1.a.(1)(d)	A
A.1.b.(2) & (3)	B
A.1.c.(1) & (2)	C
A.1.d.(2)	D
A.1.e.(4);(5);(6); & (7)	E

B. Physical distancing (e.g., including use of cohorts/podding) – Please see Fairfield Public School’s Restart and Recovery Plan Fall 2020 posted on our website.

Section of Restart and Recovery Plan Fall 2020	Applicable Appendices of Restart and Recovery Plan Fall 2020
A.1.b.(1); (2); (3); & (4)	B
A.1.d.(2) & (3)	D
A.1.e.(2)(a) & (c)(iv)	E
A.1.h.(1)(a) & (d)	H
A.1.i.(1)(b) & (3)	I
A.1.j.(1)	J

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette – Please see Fairfield Public School’s Restart and Recovery Plan Fall 2020 posted on our website.

Section of Restart and Recovery Plan Fall 2020	Applicable Appendices of Restart and Recovery Plan Fall 2020
A.1.a.(1)(d)	A
A.1.b.(7) & (8)	B
A.1.h.(1)(e)	H
A.1.i.(1)(d)	I
A.1.j.(1)	J

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation – Please see Fairfield Public School’s Restart and Recovery Plan Fall 2020 posted on our website.

Section of Restart and Recovery Plan Fall 2020	Applicable Appendices of Restart and Recovery Plan Fall 2020
A.1.c.(3)	C
A.1.g.	G
A.1.h.(1)(a) & (c)	H
A.1.i.(1)(e) & (g)(i)	I
A.1.i.(2)	I
A.1.i.(3)	I

E. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments – Please see Fairfield Public School’s Restart and Recovery Plan Fall 2020 posted on our website.

Section of Restart and Recovery Plan Fall 2020	Applicable Appendices of Restart and Recovery Plan Fall 2020
A.1.e.	E
A.1.f.	F
B.2.g.	M

F. Diagnostic and screening testing – Please see Fairfield Public School’s Restart and Recovery Plan Fall 2020 posted on our website.

Section of Restart and Recovery Plan Fall 2020	Applicable Appendices of Restart and Recovery Plan Fall 2020
A.1.d.(1)	D
A.1.e.	E

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

Fairfield Public Schools will continue to share locations with available appointments with the staff and eligible students.

H. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies – Please see Fairfield Public School’s Restart and Recovery Plan Fall 2020 posted on our website.

Section of Restart and Recovery Plan Fall 2020	Applicable Appendices of Restart and Recovery Plan Fall 2020
A.1.a.(1)(e)	A
A.1.b.(2)(a)	B
A.1.c.(1) & (2)	C
A.1.e.(1)(d)	E
A.1.e.(5)	E
A.1.e.(6)(d)	E
A.2.	K
B.1.d.	L

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.

Fairfield has expanded its Summer Skills Program to address students’ academic needs. The goal of this five-week program is to solidify necessary skills from the year the student just completed and skills covered in the Fall to boost them into the next school year. The district is also committed to providing additional instructional support in the Fall. Fairfield employs an RTI Model for social/behavioral support and has a full-time guidance counselor in each school. Counselors visit classrooms regularly to deliver the district’s SEL curriculum. A universal screener is utilized in grades K-6 to identify those students who may be in need of individualized mental health interventions. Teachers are encouraged to check in daily with students to talk about their emotional state and with a counselor, when needed, to discuss his/her own emotional state.

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.

The Safe Return Plan is on the June 10, 2021 Board agenda. Public has an opportunity to comment on agenda items.

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.

The Safe Return Plan is posted on the Fairfield Public School District website, as all of our communication is posted.