



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: Kenilworth Public Schools

Date: 06/24/2021

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

[These are the current guidelines we follow.](#) We will update the community in the summer with the latest requirements related to masks to ensure that the guidance we are following is up-to-date. We will provide training and reminders to teachers, students, and parents about proper mask wearing. We will also send reminders to the community at large. Teachers will remind students as well. Proper mask wearing will make up some of the details we share in the summer as part of our larger reopening plans. We have created our current guidelines in collaboration with our local health department, and we will continue to work in tandem with the Department of Health.

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

[These are the current guidelines we follow.](#) We will follow whatever social distancing requirements are in place at the time. Our lunch schedules will reflect concern for social distancing, as will all of our school environments. When social distancing cannot be achieved, we will employ the use of additional PPE, such as shields. We will provide signage to maintain social distancing. In addition, we will send reminders and actively monitor social distancing.

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

[These are the guidelines we follow now.](#) The District will implement protocols and procedures from the CDC/NJDOH/NJDOE that are in effect at the time. The Kenilworth Schools will continue to update the community. Should the guidelines change, the District will provide training to its faculty and students. Additionally, signage supporting the requirements will appear throughout the buildings. We will also continue to outfit the buildings with an adequate supply of hand sanitizer to support handwashing.

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

[These are the guidelines we follow now.](#) Our buildings and grounds department follow strict standard operating procedures for daily cleaning and HVAC maintenance. An aggressive schedule for HVAC filter changing and maintenance is in place and is monitored in real-time and in ongoing ways. We use EPA registered cleaning products and innovative technology like HEPA filtration vacuums and electrostatic tools to ensure clean and healthy buildings. We've also installed I-wave pathogen management devices across our district to safeguard high quality air. We provide our custodial crew with professional learning in best practices in these matters.

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

[These are the current guidelines we follow.](#) The district developed and refined its contact tracing procedures in combination with isolation and quarantine procedures throughout the school year. We followed CDC and NJDOH guidance closely. We also developed a strong relationship with the Kenilworth Health Office. We will continue to leverage their support and expertise. We will refine our practices as national, state, and local guidelines change.

F. Diagnostic and screening testing

[These are the current guidelines we follow.](#) The District will implement protocols and procedures from the CDC/NJDOH/NJDOE that are in effect at the time. The District will continue to update the community should the guidelines change. The district currently provides training to its faculty on contact tracing. Currently, we provide regular updates, share locations for screening tests, and support individual families who reach out in need. Our medical team works closely with our school physician, along with the Kenilworth Health Officer. Through this triangulated relationship, we provide diagnostic screening testing and support.

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

We have worked with our local health department, along with the Union County office of education, to arrange for more than two dozen faculty and staff members to receive vaccinations. We share resources and locations. Additionally, we've helped to schedule appointments and will continue to do so for eligible individuals.

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

The district will continue to follow students' IEPs with careful fidelity. [The ways in which we've met classified students' needs are included here.](#) We will continue to follow these efforts and build upon them.

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)

We have been actively assessing students for learning loss and addressing their needs. Students in grades K-2 have been assessed using GoMath, Dibels, and guided reading levels. Students in grades 3-8 have been assessed using NWEA MAPs for math and ELA. Students in grades 9-12 are assessed using standards-based, teacher created benchmarks. Students who need extra support receive Title 1 services after school, are referred to MTSS for individualized interventions, and meet with teachers during teacher office hours. Targeted middle school students receive a period of intervention during the school day. We continue to identify school community members in need of support through varied measures including informal and formal check-ins. We leverage the expertise of our crisis response teams, child study team members, guidance counselors, and licensed clinical practitioners through consultative services. [More of the work we've facilitated in the area of SEL is included here.](#)

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)

We will share our plan in a Superintendent's Update and encourage members of the public to provide feedback. We also use our Crisis Team and Pandemic Response teams to help inform our procedures and protocols. Presentations are also made at Board of Education meetings, which are

televised. In these meetings, there is an opportunity for the public to comment and share feedback. In the summer, we will encourage feedback upon the release of our detailed plan, through surveys and forms. We envision our plan to be a dynamic document that changes according to new guidance and developing circumstances.

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 Kenilworth Schools translates important district updates into Spanish and emails them to our school community in both English and Spanish. Additionally, we will post the plan to our website, which allows parents to translate information into several languages. Finally, at individual parents' requests, we will provide parent support in the parents' native language. The district contracts with translation providers, and they can assist us in those support opportunities.