



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:

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:

Kittatinny Regional School District will follow the New Jersey State mandates as it applies to wearing of face coverings. As of June 2, 2021, all students, faculty members, and visitors must wear a face covering when entering the building regardless of vaccination status. As students/staff enter the building, as well as throughout the day, a constant check to ensure they are correctly wearing their face coverings will be conducted by staff members. Face coverings will be required at all times except when members of the school community are eating, drinking, exercising or have a documented medical exception to the face covering requirements. These expectations will be adjusted and modified based upon the State of New Jersey and the New Jersey Department of Health requirements/recommendations regarding face coverings.

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

Kittatinny Regional School District will continue to follow the New Jersey state and New Jersey Department of Health guidance for physical distancing. As of June 2, 2021, a minimum of three (3) feet of physical distancing between students should be maintained in classrooms with additional safety precautions in place. Classroom areas are arranged so that three (3) feet of physical distancing between students and staff members can be maintained and all students are able to attend in-person instruction full-day, 5 days a week.

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette:

As per the New Jersey Department of Health, Kittatinny Regional High School will reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and increase signage and may monitor students and staff to ensure proper handwashing practices are occurring. If soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol will be used (for staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer). Kittatinny Regional High School will continue to encourage students and staff to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue if not wearing a face covering. Used tissues will be thrown in the trash and hand hygiene as outlined above should be performed immediately. Kittatinny Regional High School will have adequate supplies including soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol (for staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer), paper towels, tissues, and no-touch trash cans. Hand hygiene will take place: upon arrival at school; before and after meals and snacks; after going to the bathroom; before leaving for the day; after blowing nose, sneezing, or coughing into tissue; and when hands are visibly soiled. Kittatinny Regional High School faculty will assist/observe young children or children needing assistance to ensure proper handwashing.

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation:

Kittatinny Regional School District completes weekly inspections of all “unit ventilators” and “exhaust fans” facility wide and in individual classrooms to ensure that they are working properly in addition to cleaning the units. All classrooms have operational windows for fresh air as well as operational exhaust fans in hallways and large gathering areas. All school areas are cleaned and disinfected during the school day and nightly with the EPA certified COVID-19 cleaning products such as, but not limited to, Brutab 6S Disinfectant & Sanitizer and Bioesque. Throughout the day, high touch surfaces are regularly cleaned and disinfected. Classrooms will be provided with sanitizing sprays and wipes as an ongoing cleaning practices between classes and during times when the classroom is not being occupied.

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

Kittatinny Regional School District has complied and followed the New Jersey Department of Health K-12 Guidance document in regards to quarantine and isolation. Contact tracing is completed by the school in collaboration with the New Jersey Department of Health. This practice will continue into the 2021-2022 school year and will be adjusted and modified as per the changes and updates to the NJ DOH K-12 School Guidance Document and the Executive Orders of New Jersey.

F. Diagnostic and screening testing:

Kittatinny Regional High School requires students/families to complete a daily screening tool prior to their arrival and entering school using the screening R School screening tool provided by the school district and based upon the New Jersey Department of Health recommended screening form. Visitors are required to fill out a screening form upon entering the school building that is recorded and kept on file for any contact tracing events. Kittatinny Regional High School Faculty will self-screen prior to entering the building using the screening R School screening tool provided by the school district and based upon the New Jersey Department of Health recommended screening form. If students or staff have COVID-19 like symptoms as per the screening tool, they will not be allowed in the building or will be sent home immediately. They will follow Department of Health guidelines in reference to the next steps prior to reentering the building for school or work. At least quarterly, staff, families and students will be reminded via an email announcement of the expected screening procedures for attendance on a daily basis at Kittatinny Regional High School.

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

Kittatinny Regional School District has and will continue to assist the New Jersey Department of Health in their efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students by sending any information to families and faculty and collecting pertinent data for the scheduling of requested vaccinations of our school community. If requested KRSD will assist in providing a facility for local vaccinations by authorized medical providers.

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

Kittatinny Regional School District will provide appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities as needed. The Child Study Team, in conjunction with administration and teachers, will develop these accommodations based on testing results and/or a medical diagnosis from a doctor. I.D.E.A. students will be prioritized in any limited return to a hybrid schedule with recommendations allowing I.E.P driven students accommodations for increased in-person learning experiences and platforms.

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)

Pending changes on NJDOH guidelines, Kittatinny Regional School District is planning to have students attending 5 days a week, in-person from 7:30 am until 2:15 pm each day starting in September 2021. Students who demonstrate a gap in academic areas based on district assessments will have tiered interventions in place through our Response to Intervention (RTI) process, after school tutoring sessions, reading, writing and math workshops, and additional services in mentoring and Social Emotional Learning and Health models in place allowing easy access for any and all students who are in need of these services and academic acceleration. Qualifying students will also have the ability to attend specialized “extended school year programs and academic enrichment programs starting at the end of June and into the summer months of July and August, 2021. During these programs students will receive academic attention to the identified student needs and targeted remediation / acceleration through a variety of research based programs. Kittatinny Regional School District will continue to provide students with lunch free of charge through the USDA approved programs. Kittatinny Regional School District will provide students with services to support the social emotional needs including, but not limited to, school counseling services, social emotional learning curriculum, and mindfulness activities along with a number of online SEL social emotional health programming throughout the 2021-2022 school year. Kittatinny will continue to partner with SolaceCare (online services) and The Center for Prevention and Project Self Sufficiency (local community resources) to provide a diverse variety of SEL and mental health services inclusive of counseling services to families. Kittatinny will explore the possibility of utilizing a service animal as an alternative SEL resource for students in need. These services will be offered to all families and employees of Kittatinny Regional School District increasing the ability and access to participate in health and wellness activities throughout the school year that focus on mental and physical health.

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)

Kittatinny Regional School District will have the public comment on the Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Service during the June 10 and June 17, 2021 public meetings of the Board of Education.

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)

Kittatinny Regional School District has the ability to translate the document into languages other than English upon request. In addition, the plan can be orally translated upon request by reaching out directly to the school. Kittatinny Regional School District will make modifications and adjustments to Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Service to meet the needs of our school community and according to all required mandates by authorized agencies to ensure their full understanding of the Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Service Plan.