



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: Wildwood Public Schools

Date (mm/dd/yyyy): 06/09/2021

Date Revised (mm/dd/yyyy): 5/28/2024

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

Although no longer required, Wildwood Public Schools will adhere to current and relevant CDC guidance regarding universal and correct mask wearing as well as relevant and current Executive Orders issued by the state of New Jersey when required.

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

Although no longer required, Wildwood Public Schools will adhere to current and relevant CDC guidance regarding universal and correct physical distancing protocols as well as relevant and current Executive Orders issued by the state of New Jersey when required.

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Wildwood Public Schools will adhere to current and relevant CDC guidance regarding universal and correct hand washing and respiratory etiquette protocols as well as relevant and current Executive Orders issued by the state of New Jersey.

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

Wildwood Public Schools will adhere to current and relevant CDC guidance regarding universal and correct facilities cleaning and maintenance protocols as well as relevant and current Executive Orders issued by the state of New Jersey. Wildwood Public Schools has installed a new HVAC system in the high school/middle school with MERV 13 filters for ventilation. Wildwood Public Schools will install replacement HVAC units in the elementary school with MERV 13 filters in classrooms with the oldest units. Wildwood Public Schools will continue to maintain proper ventilation in all buildings within the district.

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

No longer required.

F. Diagnostic and screening testing

No longer required.

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

No longer required.

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

Wildwood Public Schools will continue to accommodate students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies. These accommodations will be in consultation with the IEP team, the student's healthcare provider, the school nurses, and the District's physician of record. Accommodations will also be made for students that have a 504 plan.

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)

The Wildwood Public Schools will continue to utilize assessment data, including data from the new State mandated "Start Strong" assessments in Fall 2021 and subsequent assessments, to determine the educational needs of students and the interventions necessary to accelerate learning. The District will provide remediation and enrichment activities, including summer school for current students. Returning students will also have access to 1:1 technology for access to academic and mental health opportunities. The school counseling office will hold orientations for incoming student. In addition, the district's CORE Team, including the CST Supervisor, Nurses, SAC, Guidance Counselors, Psychologist and Social Worker will continue to counsel and work with students to maintain continuity of services.

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 Wildwood School District continues to solicit input from the school community.

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)

Stakeholders that have a disability that prevents them from accessing the Plan to provide feedback, will be given the opportunity for a phone conference or in-person meeting to discuss the plan and answer any questions. The Plan will be published in Spanish and access to Microsoft Translate will be provided for other languages. The district has held faculty and community meetings to explain the Plan to all stakeholders.