



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: Roselle Public Schools

Date (mm/dd/yyyy): 06/21/2021

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

The Roselle Public Schools will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff by strictly following all Executive Orders by the Governor and recommendation provided by the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) as it pertains to the appropriate wearing of Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommended masks or face coverings. If existing mask wearing requirements and recommendations are still in effect when our schools reopen for in-person instruction in September of 2021, in accordance with our Roselle Return to Learn Plan, we will mandate that all staff, students, and visitors wear a mask or face covering at all times while in school buildings. Students and staff that wish to be exempt from this policy will be required to provide medical documentation and to have the accommodation documented in an individualized education program (IEP), 504 assistance plan, individualized health plan (IHP), or other appropriate student/staff plan for accommodation procedures. In addition, all medical documentation will be vetted through the school district physician.

Staff, students, and visitors will be required to provide their own masks/face coverings but a supply of disposable face coverings will be available at the main entrance of all buildings and in the nurse's office. On days of excessive heat, mask wearing will be relaxed for students and staff not working in air conditioned (AC) spaces. Students failing to comply with face covering procedures and policies will be referred to administration and the student code of conduct will be applied to them. Staff failing to comply with face covering procedures and policies will be referred to their immediate supervisor and human resources for appropriate action. Visitors (inclusive of contractors) failing to comply with face covering procedures and policies will be denied entry into the buildings or will be escorted out of them. District Medical staff will be provided with a supply of disposable face coverings to use as appropriate, in the event of a suspected or confirmed COVID-19

or other contagious infection case. Face coverings will also be required to be worn by all staff on buses. Additionally, all passengers will be required to wear masks while on a bus. If the wearing of masks or face coverings is not mandated by the Governor or NJDOH, students and staff will be allowed the option of wearing one without being made to feel uncomfortable.

Mitigation Strategy	Section of Fall 2020 Plan	Applicable Appendices of Fall 2020 Plan
Universal and Correct Wearing of Masks	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)

The Roselle Public Schools (RPS) will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff by strictly following all Executive Orders by the Governor and recommendation provided by the NJDOH as it pertains to the social distancing of students and staff. If existing social distancing requirements and recommendations are still in effect when our schools reopen for in-person instruction in September 2021, in accordance with our RPS Restart of School Plan 2020, the district will require that to the maximum extent possible, students, staff, and visitors remain 3-6 feet or more between each other in all public and common areas of the school buildings. In cases where this is not possible, particularly in cafeterias and faculty lounges where students and staff eat, maximum possible distancing will be adhered to and portable partitions will be installed. Willful failure to follow social distancing guidelines will be subject to referral and action from the appropriate authority. Exemptions on this procedure will be made where necessary to maintain the safety, health, well-being, and instructional integrity of the school environment and all those within it. In addition, whenever possible, all meetings will be held in-person or virtually. If social distancing is not mandated by the Governor or the NJDOH, students and staff will be allowed to maintain a safe distance from one another without being made to feel uncomfortable.

Mitigation Strategy	Section of Fall 2020 Plan	Applicable Appendices of Fall 2020 Plan
Physical Distancing (e.g., including use of cohorts/podding)	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
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C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

In accordance with RPS district and individual school procedures and protocols, all staff and students will be reminded to wash and/or sanitize their hands as often as possible during the school day, especially before and after eating, after the use of the restroom, and when coughing or sneezing. The district will provide CDC approved hand sanitizer in all classrooms, building main entrances, and in all other areas identified as high traffic or high risk. Custodial staff will ensure that all hand sanitizer and soap stations are filled daily. All classrooms will be provided with a 5 gallon hand sanitizer. Additionally, as a preventive measure staff and students will be reminded, when coughing or sneezing, to do so in a tissue, paper towel, toilet paper, or handkerchief, and if none are available, in the pit of their elbow; and adhere to the handwashing protocol.

Mitigation Strategy	Section of Fall 2020 Plan	Applicable Appendices of Fall 2020 Plan
Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette	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

In accordance with the Roselle Public School Restart of School Plan 2020 ,the district will remain vigilant in diligently cleaning and disinfecting schools. It will implement specific procedures for cleaning and sanitizing offices, restrooms, classrooms, and larger spaces, such as the library, cafeterias, and gymnasiums, after usage each evening, as well as engage in the deep cleaning of these rooms upon the detection of a positive or symptomatic individual. In addition, the district will ensure that the ventilation and the filtration of air in all school buildings is functioning at the safest level possible. Unit ventilators, were installed, will run continuously in order to maintain air quality by flushing out carbon dioxide and other potential airborne contaminants, such as COVID-19, with fresh air. In addition, all unit ventilators will be equipped with the highest quality air filters based upon the age and airflow capacity of the ventilator. Furthermore, all filters will be changed every two-months rather than every four. Finally, the district will utilize budgeted funds, capital reserves, and ESSER II grant funding to replace current heating and ventilation (HV) units with higher efficient and AC compatible units, particularly in large building spaces, such as the library, cafeterias, and gymnasiums, as well as in second and third floor classrooms.

Mitigation Strategy	Section of Fall 2020 Plan	Applicable Appendices of Fall 2020 Plan
Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities, Including Improving Ventilation	A.1.c.(3) A.1.g. A.1.h.(1)(a) & (c) A.1.i.(1)(e) & (g)(i) A.1.i.(2) A.1.i.(3)	C G H I I I

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

In alignment with the district RPS Restart of School Plan, the district will continue to execute contact tracing procedures in accordance with New Jersey and Federal Law, and in compliance and cooperation with the CDC and NJDOH. Notifications to staff, students, and/or parents will continue to be provided under the guidance of the NJDOH, while diligently ensuring that all applicable privacy policies and laws are adhered to. Furthermore, the district will continue to report all positive cases to the Union County DOH in a timely and precise manner. Likewise, the district will continue to send broadcast emails to the community informing them of infections in schools and will implement the Staff and Student COVID-19 Isolation and Quarantine Data Dashboard on the district website. Finally, the district will implement a system to accurately and efficiently perform contact tracing and maintain the essential data collected.

Mitigation Strategy	Section of Fall 2020 Plan	Applicable Appendices of Fall 2020 Plan
Contact Tracing in Combination with Isolation and Quarantine	A.1.e. A.1.f. B.2.g.	E F M

F. Diagnostic and screening testing

As the district did during nearly the entire 2020-21 school year, it will continue to explore easy access COVID-19 testing locations to all staff and students, as well as their immediate family members periodically in the district during after school hours. In addition, RPS may require testing prior to major voluntary student activities and programs throughout the school year. Finally, it will continue to utilize its current vendor, Advance Management Services, to perform this essential screening service.

Mitigation Strategy	Section of Fall 2020 Plan	Applicable Appendices of Fall 2020 Plan
Diagnostic and Screening Testing	A.1.d.(1) A.1.e.	D E

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

As the district did during the last several months of the 2020-21school year,it will continue to offer easy access initial COVID-19 vaccinations and booster shots to all staff and CDC/NJDOH allowable students, as well as their immediate family members, once a week at a location in the district during after school hours through a partnership with a community pharmacy.

Additionally, to further protect its staff and students from illness, the Flu vaccine will also be made available onsite to staff and students through a partnership with another community pharmacy. Considering the following:

- Identifying ongoing pharmacies that administer vaccinations (Rite-Aid)
- Explore feasibility of Pop-up sites for vaccination at football games, soccer games, volleyball games, etc...
- Develop Student Incentive for SY 2021-2022
- Offer fast food gift cards for each child who is fully vaccinated.
- Identify community partners (such as 7/11 for free slushie or Big Gulp to students for first and second vaccination).
- Free backpack for getting fully vaccinated
- Establish a Vaccination Clinic for 12-17 year olds during summer; or in schools.
- Promoted Agape HOW & Holy Name Medical Center Vaccination (Pfizer and Janssen) dates May 16 and May 23 1:00pm-4:00pm posted on Preschool Social Media Platforms
- The district communicated information about vaccination availability at Warinaco Park in April 2021

Mitigation Strategy	Section of Fall 2020 Plan	Applicable Appendices of Fall 2020 Plan
Efforts to Provide Vaccinations to Educators, Other Staff, and Students	N/A	NEW

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

All Students and/or staff with a documented disabling condition will be provided with appropriate accommodations, including exemptions, if it is determined by the school district physician and the individual’s IEP, and/or 504 plan, that based upon the level and severity of their disabling condition, they will be unable to comply with district health and safety policies, procedures, and practices. Such accommodations and/or exemptions will be documented in their respective IEP, and/or 504 plan in accordance with New Jersey statute and New Jersey Administrative Code regulations.

- Student exemptions must have a doctor’s note with documented medical reason and asking time/plan if applicable
- All medical notes will be reviewed and approved by the district physician and must be submitted in writing to the Case Manager/ School Nurse prior to the student returning to school.
- Students who can not wear masks will be required to stay behind a plastic shield/ barrier when interacting with staff/ other students and or maintaining 6ft distance. Students will also be held to whatever other CDC guidelines are in place at the time.
- Students who are unable to mask as per current CDC guidelines will not be eligible for bussing until such masking guidelines are lifted by the district/ DOE

Mitigation Strategy	Section of Fall 2020 Plan	Applicable Appendices of Fall 2020 Plan
H. Appropriate Accommodations for Children with Disabilities	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. (1000 character limit)

The district will ensure the continuity of learning by utilizing 2020-21 end of year benchmark assessment, iReady data, and 2021 Start Strong Assessment data to identify learners in need of acceleration and remediation so that it can continue or begin providing targeted

remediation services designed for them to either gain credit completion for classes in which they may have failed, and/or to accelerate their performance through tiered remediation interventions, including but not limited to, before and after school group/ individual tutoring, credit recovery, and learning loss programs. The summer programming will offer academic support via Title I, Title II, ESY (Special Education), Learning Loss Grant, G&T, HS Credit Recovery, Kean University Scholastic Program, and the 21st Century Grant program. Additionally, the district will address staff and student social and emotional needs through multi-layered counseling services that will feature district-wide Tier 2 and 3 mental health clinical services provided by Performed Care, the district's mental health services vendor.

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 is hosting a Roselle Public Schools (RPS) Parent Forum on June 14, 2021. The Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent will present a brief presentation using the Zoom Webinar platform. Following the presentation, the RPS district will conduct a public comment period thereby providing parents the opportunity to share their concerns and opinions. The RPS Pandemic Response Team/Safe Return to Learn Committee will also provide feedback/input. Additionally, the RPS district will also seek input from the entire community via a brief survey. The feedback collected will be strongly considered for incorporation into the plan prior to the district submitting it to the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) and posting it on its website by June 24, 2021.

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 RPS district will provide this written report to families in both English, Spanish, and Creole, the 3 most common languages spoken fluently by the families of students in the district. In addition, on an individual basis, the district will translate the report into other languages for the parents of students who request it because they do not speak or understand English, Spanish, or Creole. Furthermore, in the case that the district is unable to translate the report into a specific language, it will provide that parent with an interpreter fluent in their language in order to verbally interpret the report for them. Finally, upon request, the district will provide an alternately formatted report for parents with an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) defined disability.

LEGAL Note

Governor Murphy's Executive Order 242 (the "EO"), which was signed on May 24, 2021. In the EO, Governor Murphy cites the following circumstances related to COVID-19, which are relevant to the operations of the District:

- "Infants and children up to age 11 are not currently eligible for vaccination, and are not anticipated to become eligible until at least the fall, so that it is appropriate to exercise additional caution in settings that involve that population";
- "The CDC's guidance for K-12 operations notes that schools should continue to follow current mitigation protocols through the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year";
- "Effective Friday, May 28, 2021, individuals in indoor public spaces are not required to wear masks, regardless of their ability to maintain six feet of distance from other individuals or groups. In accordance with CDC recommendations, individuals who are not fully vaccinated should continue to wear masks in indoor public spaces" *(See below, as this does not apply to schools)*;
- "[I]ndoor public spaces' do not include child care centers, other child care facilities, youth summer camps, and public, private, and parochial preschool program premises and elementary and secondary schools, including charter and renaissance schools...";
- "This Order shall not supersede any social distancing requirements for child care centers, other child care facilities, youth summer camps, and public, private, and parochial preschool program premises, and elementary and secondary schools, including charter and renaissance schools, which continue to be governed by [certain previously issued Executive Orders], and any applicable standards issued by the Commissioner of the DOH";

Given the language of the foregoing EO, as it relates to masking and social distancing, the District should continue to implement and enforce its protocols regarding the use of masks and social distancing.

Additionally, per CDC guidance, which appears to be current as of May 15, 2021, "CDC recommends schools continue to use the current COVID-19 prevention strategies for the 2020-2021 school year." This recommendation is based, in part, on the fact that students up to age 11 are not yet eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine and as such, they will not be vaccinated by the end of the current school year. The CDC has further indicated that it expects to update its guidance for the school year 2021-2022 "in the coming weeks."