



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.

Template: LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

LEA Name: Passaic Valley Regional High School

Date (mm/dd/yyyy): 12/1/2023

Date Revised (mm/dd/yyyy): 12/1/2023

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:

Passaic Valley Regional High School will continue to follow the protocols set forth by the CDC and local agencies as they pertain to the correct wearing of masks. Accommodations will follow CDC, NJDOH, and most current COVID-19 Standards for Child Care Centers as well as COVID-19 Public Health Recommendations for Local Health Departments for K-12 Schools.

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

Passaic Valley Regional High School will continue to follow the protocols set forth by the CDC and local agencies as they pertain to physical distancing. Accommodations will follow CDC, NJDOH, and most current COVID-19 Standards for Child Care Centers as well as COVID-19 Public Health Recommendations for Local Health Departments for K-12 Schools.

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette:

Passaic Valley Regional High School will continue to promote behaviors that reduce the spread of COVID-19 and other communicable diseases, including staff and students staying home when appropriate and encouraging hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette. Hand sanitizing stations continue to be

maintained, and common areas are periodically sprayed and disinfected. The district will continue to follow the protocols set forth by the CDC and local agencies as they pertain to hand washing and respiratory etiquette.

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

Passaic Valley Regional High School will continue to adhere to enhanced facilities cleaning practices and procedures, and to any new specific requirements of the Health Department as they arise. All indoor facilities continue to demonstrate adequate ventilation, including operational heating and ventilation systems where appropriate. AC units continue to be maintained with filters changed in accordance with manufacturer recommendations. Bathrooms continue to be sanitized regularly.

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

School Nurses will continue to monitor symptom reports from students and staff, and will contact trace as appropriate to mitigate school spread. Procedures for contact tracing and quarantine will be in accordance with NJDOH guidelines for K-12 schools. School Nurses will continue to work with the local Health Department. Alternative instruction options following district policies will ensure continuity of instruction for quarantined students.

F. Diagnostic and screening testing:

School nurses will continue to monitor symptom reports for both staff and students. In consultation with the local Health Department, we conclude that contact tracing has been an effective means of tracking cases and mitigating school spread.

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

Passaic Valley Regional High School will continue to work collaboratively with the local Health Department and other community agencies to advertise vaccination opportunities to staff, community members, and students.

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

Student IEPs/504 will continue to be reviewed and adjusted as needed and on a case-by-case basis to ensure individualized accommodations appropriate to students' needs are implemented. Behaviorists and school counselors will continue to provide intervention and resources, including, but not limited to, trauma-informed compassionate classroom and Nurtured Heart approach.

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.

Continuation of full-time, five day per week in-person instruction. Instructional pacing and curriculum continue to be reviewed and revised for learning acceleration. Remote learning remains unavailable by Executive Order. Home instruction and simultaneous synchronous learning is available for quarantining students. Planning continues for Summer 2024 curricular/enrichment programming to support learning acceleration and tutoring options. Additional programming to continue support for the whole child includes SEL programs, retention of co-curricular offerings.

3. Public Comment

A. Describe how the LEA sought public comment on its plan, and how it took those public comments 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 Passaic Valley Regional High School District implements community-wide surveys and planning meetings for stakeholder input. Feedback provided assists in the drafting of a comprehensive plan; that plan is presented publicly at the Board of Education meeting. Public comment on the plan remains open for the duration of the plan and responses are considered for subsequent revisions.

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 plan is presented publicly at a Board of Education meeting and remains open for comment. The plan is available in Spanish and Arabic translations upon request. Parents and community members who require additional support to ensure equitable access may request an in-person, phone, or teleconference consultation from the PVRHS Business Office at 973-890-2589.