



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: Ocean City School District

Date (mm/dd/yyyy): 06/08/2021

Date Revised (mm/dd/yyyy): 06/16/2021

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 Ocean City School District 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. Students that attend Ocean City School District will be required to wear masks throughout the facility during the school day or until different guidance is issued regarding universal and correct mask wearing by the CDC and/or New Jersey Department of Health. The Ocean City School District policy 1648 and the District Return to School Plan reflects the District’s masking expectations and requirements. In addition to signage around the building, email and social media reminders will be distributed to students, parents, and guardians regarding universal and correct wearing of masks. All staff and students will also be trained on proper mask wearing protocols utilizing the GCN training module and teacher resources.

B. Physical distancing (e.g., including use of cohorts/podding): The Ocean City School District will adhere to current and relevant CDC guidance regarding physical distancing as well as relevant and current Executive Orders issued by the State of New Jersey. Students that attend Ocean City School District will be expected to physically distance throughout the facility during the school day or until different guidance is issued regarding physical distance by the CDC and/or New Jersey Department of Health. Students will remain three (3) feet socially distanced in the classrooms and common areas wearing masks where practicable. In addition, signage regarding social distancing is displayed throughout the buildings and on school grounds. Email and social media reminders will be distributed to students, parents, and guardians regarding physical distancing expectations.

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette: The Ocean City School District will adhere to current and relevant CDC guidance regarding handwashing and respiratory etiquette as well as relevant and current Executive Orders issued by the State of New Jersey. Students that attend Ocean City School District will be expected to utilize the hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes that are in all classrooms and common areas throughout the facility during the school

day or until different guidance is issued regarding handwashing and respiratory etiquette by the CDC and/or New Jersey Department of Health. The Ocean City School District policy 1648 and the District Return to School Plan reflect the District's handwashing and respiratory etiquette expectations. In addition, signage regarding hand washing and respiratory etiquette are displayed throughout our schools and on school grounds. Email and social media reminders will be distributed to students, parents, and guardians regarding the District's handwashing and respiratory etiquette expectations. All staff and students will also be trained on handwashing and respiratory etiquette utilizing the GCN training module and teacher resources.

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation: The Ocean City School District will continue to sanitize, disinfect and clean all facilities daily. Furthermore, disinfecting wipes are available in each classroom for students to disinfect their desks and instructional area before and after use. The District is updating the HVAC control systems during the summer of 2021. In addition, the District performs regularly scheduled preventative maintenance on all HVAC systems throughout the school year to ensure compliance with ventilation standards including the required "fresh air" component that is specified in Federal and State health guidance. The District will continue to ensure that frequently touched surfaces and restrooms are routinely disinfected and cleaned. The Ocean City School District policy 1648 and the District Return to School Plan reflects the District's cleaning, disinfecting, and ventilation expectations and procedures.

E. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments: The Ocean City School District will continue to utilize isolation rooms for unvaccinated students that are in attendance and presenting symptoms of COVID-19. Furthermore, unvaccinated students suspected of having COVID-19 will be directed to be tested for COVID19 and self-quarantine based on current and relevant CDC and/or New Jersey Department of Health guidance. The District will continue to work in partnership and communicate with the Cape May County Department of Health regarding self-quarantine periods for identified students, faculty, and staff. The Ocean City School District policy 1648 and the District Return to School Plan outlines the District's contact tracing and isolation procedures.

F. Diagnostic and screening testing: The Ocean City School District will continue to utilize the self-screening tool that was provided by the NJDOH that reflects COVID-19 screening requirements for unvaccinated students, faculty, and staff. The screening requirements are delineated in weekly/daily district school correspondence to staff and families. Furthermore, unvaccinated students, faculty, and staff that manifest or present symptoms of COVID-19, based on the screening tool, will be directed and expected to follow the most current and relevant guidance regarding self-quarantine provided by the CDC and/or the New Jersey Department of Health. The District's COVID-19 screening tool will be distributed to students, faculty, and staff at the beginning of the school year. In addition, regular reminders and social media posts will be shared with stakeholders to reinforce the District's self-screening expectations for unvaccinated individuals. Faculty and staff will continue to monitor students for any signs of illness and report any concerns to the school nurses and proper administration.

G. Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible: Since vaccinations were made available to educators and staff working in educational settings, the The Ocean City School District has and continues to provide coverage for faculty and staff during their vaccination appointments regardless of when the appointment was scheduled. The Ocean City School District Human Resource department also assisted scheduling staff, as requested, to receive vaccinations at the Atlantic City mega site. In addition, the District partnered with Atlanticare to provide vaccinations to eligible students, staff, and community members in May 2021 through a vaccination clinic hosted at our high school. A second planned community vaccination clinic is being coordinated with Atlanticare for the summer of 2021. The District has also emailed and posted to social media vaccination locations for students, faculty, staff, and community members to receive vaccinations. These locations are located throughout the city. In addition, all correspondence regarding the vaccine clinic was sent in Spanish.

H. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies: The Ocean City School District 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 Ocean City School District will continue to utilize assessment data, including data from the new State mandated "Start Strong" assessments in Fall 2021, 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, Raider Ready Algebra program, Social and Emotional Learning summer workshops, SAT Prep, and Career and College Readiness summer programs. All schools will offer orientations for new students, current students and students transitioning to a new building. In addition, the Wellness Team will continue to counsel and work with students to maintain continuity of services. The district will continue its practice of using multiple measures to continuously monitor student achievement and to improve our schools. More information is available on our district website: <https://oceancityschools.org/returntoschoolplan>.

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. (1000 character limit)

The Ocean City School District sought public comment on this plan by sending the plan to all stakeholders through the District's messaging system and also received input through our Continuation of Safe Learning Environments: Infection Prevention Control committee. Stakeholders were encouraged to provide feedback through a Google Form. The plan is also posted on the district website. The Board of Education also created an ad-hoc COVID-19 Committee which provided regular updates and received public feedback during Board of Education meetings.

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. Our website has a feature to translate content into Spanish. If necessary and upon request, the district will work with a translation service to provide this documentation in any language necessary to accommodate the district's population and language preferences.