



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: Brigantine Public School District

Date (07/31/2020): Restart and Recovery Plan – We have been in-person 5 days a week, full schedule since 11/11/20 Date Revised (06/02/2021):

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

- School staff, students, and visitors are required to wear face coverings at all times, with the exception of children under the age of two, or the wearing of a face covering would inhibit the individual's health.
- Students and staff are requested to provide their own face coverings. The district has also purchased surgical face masks for any student or staff member who is unable to provide their own mask.
- Face coverings must cover the nose, mouth, and chin.
- If using a cloth face covering, it is recommended that parents/guardians wash them daily.
- The use of face coverings may be modified for individuals with disabilities.
- Face coverings must adhere to school dress code policy.
- Subject to change based upon guidelines of NJ Governor, NJDOH, and CDC.

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

- To the extent possible, class sizes will be limited to allow for social distancing of (3ft-6ft) in the classrooms.
- Classrooms will be provided with enough desks or tables, as are developmentally appropriate, for every student.
- Extraneous furniture including tables, file cabinets, extra desks, etc. will be removed from classrooms to provide additional spacing for student seating.
- Classroom seating will be arranged with desks facing in the same direction when social distancing is not possible.
- Plexiglass desktop shields will be provided for students.
- To the extent possible, special area teachers will report to the students' classrooms to provide instruction.
- Masks will be worn by students and staff throughout the day.
- Social Distancing on School Buses - Students will have assigned seats on buses and will be spaced out as much as possible. Assigned seats will be based on household relationships. Since it is not possible for students to be spaced out at least six feet apart on buses, students, bus drivers, and bus aides will be required to wear masks at bus stops and on buses at all times. Extra masks will be provided to bus drivers for students without masks.
- Subject to change based upon guidelines of NJ Governor, NJDOH, and CDC.

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Hand sanitizing stations will be available throughout the school.

- Hand sanitizers non-alcohol placed throughout the buildings. Hand sanitizers containing at least 60% alcohol will be available as well for supervised use by students.
- Hand sanitizers will be available at entrances/exits to the building, all classrooms, cafeteria, gym and playground.
- Hand washing stations will be available in each Pre K-5 classroom.
- Students will wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds, minimally, when they enter the school, before lunch, after recess, when they use the restroom, in the event that they cough or sneeze, in the event that they blow their nose and prior to dismissal.
- Hand hygiene instructions will be posted.
- Subject to change based upon guidelines of NJ Governor, NJDOH, and CDC.

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

Procedural manual cleaning practices will be attended to as needed on a case by case situation. If/when building has a positive case, the facilities crew will wait 24 hours before entering the area. All listed materials for cleaning are listed throughout this plan, and will be led by our director of facilities and grounds, in coordination with the Department of Health. The building will be shut down for at least 48 hours.

- Cleaning and Sanitizing of district buildings with approved disinfectants, paying special attention to high traffic areas preschool and frequently touched surfaces.
- Wiping of desks and tables throughout the day when possible.
- Increased frequency of the changing of air filters in the school's ventilation systems.
- Throughout the day the use of Electrostatic sanitizing sprayers to be used to maximize the sanitizing of the buildings.
- Additional bottle fill water stations have been added to the facility. All other water fountains have been turned off and or disabled. The Brigantine Green Team committee has donated water bottles for each student.
- Touchless soap dispensers being installed in as many areas as possible.
- Hand sanitizer will be in every room, office and large spaces and hallways.
- Communication and signage will reinforce good hygiene practices and hand washing.
- Signage will be posted to promote proper social distancing, as well as floor and wall markings.
- Unnecessary furniture and tables will be removed from classrooms. Additional classroom materials will be stored away.
- The District has acquired a supply of thousands of PPE items including different size face masks, face shields, and gloves. The district encourages parents to supply each student with a proper fitting and comfortable face mask. The district also asks that staff members do the same. However, in the case a mask is damaged, lost or otherwise dealt unsafe the district shall provide a mask.
- When feasible, outside areas will be used to promote social distancing and then be sanitized.

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

Contact tracing will be conducted by the Atlantic County Department of Health with the assistance of Brigantine Community School as required.

- The School Security Specialist shall be trained in contract tracing based on CDC guidelines.
- The Department of Health will contact impacted families directly in the event of a student diagnosis of Covid-19.
- Brigantine Community School will contact the Atlantic County Department of Health in the event that a staff member is diagnosed with Covid-19.

- The school nurses or our Certified School Safety Specialist will serve as liaisons between Brigantine Community School and the Atlantic County Department of Health.
- In the event that Brigantine Community School receives a confirmed case of Covid-19 from a staff member or student who has been in contact with others, we will consult with the county health department, most up to date CDC guidelines and the Covid-19 Risk Matrix to determine the need for a closure.
- In the event of a closure, the maintenance team may return to the building for service 24 hours following a building closure.
- In the event of a closure, all classes will go to an A Day, B Day schedule virtually with teachers. The remote schedule will be provided to students and staff.
- In the event of a quarantine, the class that had a positive case of Covid-19 of a student/staff member will remain on Quarantine at home based on current CDC guidance and direction from the County Department of Health. STUDENTS AND STAFF members will not be marked absent, as they will work remotely on a daily basis.
- Subject to change based upon guidelines of NJ Governor, NJDOH, and CDC.

F. Diagnostic and screening testing

- As students enter the building, staff will visually check students for symptoms upon arrival.
 - Staff will take students' temperatures upon entering the classroom at the beginning of the school day.
 - Teachers will take students' temperatures with a touchless hand-held temperature scan.
 - Students will enter the classroom and wash their hands.
 - In the event that a student has a temperature above 100.4 degrees F, the student will report to a designated area in the nurse's office where they will be given a second temperature check and screened for symptoms.
- a. Screening Procedures for Staff
- Staff members are responsible for self-screening prior to arrival to the school.
 - Staff members are responsible for taking their temperature prior to arriving to work and identifying symptoms of illness.
 - When staff members use their key fob when they arrive at school, they will acknowledge that they engaged in self-screening.
 - In the event that a staff member did not self-screen, they may report to the nurse's office.
- b. Protocols for Symptomatic Students
- In the event that a student demonstrates symptoms of illness, the supervising staff member will call the nurse.
 - The student will be directed to an isolated area in the nurse's office.
 - Students with special needs will be accompanied by a familiar staff member.

- The school nurse will contact the parent/guardian and obtain the following information:

(Based on CDC Guidelines)

People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

Symptom	X if present
Fever, chills	
Coughing	
Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing	
Fatigue	
Muscle or body aches	
Headache	
New loss of taste or smell	
Congestion or runny nose	
Nausea or vomiting	
Diarrhea	
Sore throat	
Other:	

In the past 14 days, has your child been in close proximity to anyone who has experienced any of the above symptoms or has experienced any of the above symptoms since your contact?

In the past 14 days, has the child been in close proximity to anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19?

In the past 14 days, has the child travelled to any of the states?

- The school nurse will make a determination if the student needs to see their physician.
- A physician’s note will be required for readmittance to school.
- In the event that a staff member demonstrates symptoms of illness, they will report to a designated area in the nurse's office.
- The school nurse will obtain the following information:

Protocol for Symptomatic Staff Members

(Based on CDC Guidelines)

People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

Symptom	X if present
Fever, chills	
Coughing	
Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing	
Fatigue	
Muscle or body aches	
Headache	
New loss of taste or smell	
Congestion or runny nose	
Nausea or vomiting	
Diarrhea	
Sore throat	
Other:	

In the past 14 days, have you been in close proximity to anyone who has experienced any of the above symptoms or has experienced any of the above symptoms since your contact?

In the past 14 days, have you been in close proximity to anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19?

- The school nurse will make a determination if the staff member needs to see their physician.
- A physician's note will be required for readmittance to school.
- Subject to change based upon guidelines of NJ Governor, NJDOH, and CDC.

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

In collaboration with staff, administration, and health officials the overall staff have been provided appointment times to become vaccinated at the Atlantic City Convention Center, which served as a NJ Mega Center. The staff and island officials worked together to also schedule appointments for all residents in Brigantine, who needed assistance. This collaborative effort has enabled the community to work as one, to create a safer community for all. When the vaccination is available for individuals younger than 12 years old, the school district will work to become a vaccination center for those that need. ** Subject to change based upon guidelines of NJ Governor, NJDOH, and CDC.

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

Students with complex disabilities with IEP's, 504 Plans or chronic health issues that may be at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 may require accommodations or modifications to their educational programming.

- The Child Study Team may contact parents/guardians of special education students with known health issues to identify if there is a need to revise the IEP.

- The 504 Coordinator may contact parents/guardians of students who have 504 Plans documenting known health issues to identify if there is a need to revise the 504 Plan.
- The school nurses may contact parents/guardians of students with known health issues to identify the need for modifying their school health plan.
- Parents/Guardians of students with chronic health issues that may be at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 must contact the school nurse(s).
- Subject to change based upon guidelines of NJ Governor, NJDOH, and CDC.

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)

- Students will return to school on a full schedule of five full days a week, with the exception of half days for professional development and parent conferencing.

Social Emotional Learning/School Culture/School Climate

Social Emotional Learning, School Culture and School Climate Initiatives are currently being utilized in a variety of manners throughout the school day, including, but not limited to the following activities:

- Individual/Group Counseling
- Resiliency Team Initiatives

- Mentoring
- Kindness Club
- Forest Friends
- Guidance Counselor SEL Class Lessons
- Implementation of the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program
- Monthly Consultation with Behavior Specialist
- PTA Activities
- Monthly Participation in Traumatic Loss Coalition Meetings
- Trained Staff in Mental Health First Aid
- Trained Staff in Crisis Prevention Intervention
- Professional Development in Social Emotional Learning
- Sharing and Distributing Social Emotional Learning Resources

School officials are currently developing additional activities based on the results of our survey that was distributed to parents/guardians including, but not limited to the exploration of the following activities:

- Resiliency Team Training
- Resiliency Team Activities
- Staff Training-Trauma Informed Instructional Strategies
- Prepare Olweus Bullying Prevention Resources for Online Instruction
- Designate/Update Website for Social Emotional Resources
- No Place for Hate Initiative through the Anti-Defamation League
- Development of Cohorts to Monitor Student Social Emotional Well-Being
- Establishing Additional Counseling Activities Through Virtual Platform
- Professional Development Opportunities
- Incorporation/Expansion of Mindfulness Activities
- Share Mental Health/Self-Care Resources with Staff
- Orange Frog SEL Program – Harvard Professor Shawn Achor’s program for staff, parents, and students. Multiple staff, and parent trainings throughout the year
- Damon West, author of The Coffee Bean, will be speaking three times with students, staff, and parents.

Multi-Tiered System of Supports

A Multi-Tiered System of Supports is currently being utilized in a variety of manners throughout and following the school day, including, but not limited to the following:

- Intervention and Referral Services (I&RS)
- Preschool Intervention and Referral Team (PIRT)
- In-class Basic Skills Instruction
- Supplemental Basic Skills Instruction
- Continuum of Placement Options for Special Education Students

School officials are currently developing additional activities based on the results of our survey that was distributed to parents/guardians.

- Consider and Include Social Emotional Learning (SEL) in the I&RS Process
- Update Data System to Provide Tracking of Strategies and Progress Including SEL
- Establish Baseline Data to Inform Academic Supports
- Establish Baseline Data to Inform Social Emotional Learning Support

Wraparound Supports

Wraparound Supports are currently being utilized in a variety of manners throughout and following the school day, including, but not limited to:

- Afterschool Title One Services
- Mentoring Programs for students
- Homework Assistance
- Strengthening Families
- Before and Aftercare
- Summer Counseling

School officials are currently developing additional activities based on the results of our survey that was distributed to parents/guardians.

- Provide School Work and Homework Assistance
- Parent Training

- Parent Connections via Zoom with Teachers and Parents
- Establish Baseline Data to Inform Academic Wraparound Supports
- Establish Baseline Data to Inform Social Emotional Learning Wraparound Supports

In the event of physical school closure, the district will continue to distribute meals to students. While school is in session, the district will do the following:

- Preschool through 8th grade students will eat breakfast in their classrooms.
- Kindergarten through 8th grade students will eat lunch in the cafeteria.
- Lunch periods will be staggered.
- In the event that students cannot be spaced at least six feet apart, protective barriers will be placed between students.
- All self-service and buffet style service will be discontinued.
- Biometric scanning will be discontinued. Students will be identified by name.
- All tables and desks will be cleaned and sanitized between meal services.
- Students that qualify for free & reduced lunch that choose remote learning can continue to pick up free meals at a location to be determined.
- Subject to change based upon guidelines of NJ Governor, NJDOH, and CDC.

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)

This plan was created, updated as needed, and implemented since 11/11/20, as all students have been afforded the opportunity to attend in-person learning. The creation of this plan included students, staff, parents, BOE members, and extensive stakeholder members from the community. Throughout the year we have updated as per the NJ Governor, NJDOH, and the CDC. We have also utilized parent and staff surveys to gain valuable feedback to adjust the plan as needed, which was still allowed under executive orders of the state of NJ. We have hosted monthly BOE meetings in person throughout the year, and also have a public comment section on the June 17, 2021 meeting as well, in regards to this plan.

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 Brigantine School District will post our plan to our school website and provide a written or orally translated plan to parents/guardians that may have limited English proficiency. In the event that a parent informs us of a disability that prevents them from accessing the plan, the Brigantine School District will consult with outside agencies, (such as the New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired) to provide an alternative format to ensure accessibility of the plan to all parents/guardians.

This plan will be available to all families on our ADA compliant district website.