



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: Rochelle Park School District, Rochelle Park, New Jersey

Date: 06/24/2021

Date Revised:

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:

Rochelle Park School District will follow the guidelines of the State’s Executive Order(s), New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE), and New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) in collaboration with the Bergen County Health Department on face covering (mask) protocols. District Policy 1648 and the District’s Restart and Recovery Plan address safety recommendations. As the safety recommendations shift based on updates to Executive Orders, NJDOE, and NJDOH guidelines and protocols, the district will respond accordingly. District Policy 8451, Control of Communicable Disease, and Policy 1648 Restart and Recovery Plan, and Policy and Regulation 7421 Indoor Air Quality, among other policies/regulations, will serve to guide practices and considerations. Notice regarding the universal and correct wearing of masks, per guidelines, will include verbal communication, staff training, student instruction, written communication including signage in classrooms, hallways, offices and common areas. The district will uphold universal and correct wearing of masks per the guidelines, and adjust accordingly.

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

Rochelle Park School District will follow the guidelines of the State’s Executive Order(s), New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE), and New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) in collaboration with the Bergen County Health Department on physical distancing protocols. District Policy 1648 and the District’s Restart and Recovery Plan address physical distancing. As the safety recommendations shift based on updates to Executive Orders, NJDOE, and NJDOH guidelines and protocols, the district will respond accordingly. Social distancing markings and directional guides are placed on doors, walls, floors, and elevators. Social distancing outdoors on school grounds, to the extent possible, will be maintained in accordance with guidelines.

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette: Rochelle Park School District will follow the guidelines of the State's Executive Order(s), New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE), and New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) in collaboration with the Bergen County Health Department on physical distancing protocols. District Policy 1648 and the District's Restart and Recovery Plan address handwashing and respiratory etiquette. Toward this end, measures have included and will continue to include: hand sanitizing stations in each room, disinfecting wipes in classrooms and office areas where warranted, and soap in restrooms. Other measures include signs for handwashing and covering coughs/sneezes, staff training, student instruction, written communication including signage in classrooms, hallways, offices and common areas. The district will continue to promote hygiene practices of hand washing and respiratory etiquette per the guidelines.

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation: Rochelle Park School District will follow the guidelines of the State's Executive Order(s), New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE), and New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) in collaboration with the Bergen County Health Department on physical distancing protocols. District Policy 1648 and the District's Restart and Recovery Plan address cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation. Further, Policy and Regulation 7421 Indoor Air Quality addresses practices for improving ventilation. The district has installed air conditioners and air ionization units in all classrooms, offices, and learning spaces. A routine daily cleaning and sanitizing plan is implemented for classrooms, offices, restrooms, common areas, and high touch surfaces (e.g. handrails, doorknobs) and the use of electrostatic sprayers for disinfecting classroom desks and chairs is also incorporated. Products used meet CDC and EPA guidelines for safe and effective use for addressing COVID-19. These practices will continue.

E. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments: Rochelle Park School district administrators and school nurse, and any other staff deemed appropriate by the district, will provide contact tracing services through collaboration with the Bergen County Health Department. These services have been successfully implemented throughout the 2020-2021 school year and will continue as needed in an effort to maintain a safe and healthy school community.

F. Diagnostic and screening testing: During the 2020-2021 school year the Rochelle Park School District, specifically Midland School, successfully implemented practices for daily health screenings for staff and students, as well as visitors. These screenings include temperature scans and a health screening form. The school nurse will continue to follow established practices from the NJDOH and NJDOE, including the incorporation of an isolation area. These practices will continue, as until such time that the guidance allows for adjustments.

G. Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible: The Rochelle Park School District has routinely shared communications from the State, NJDOH, Bergen County Health Department and Bergen County Office of Education for

opportunities to schedule vaccination appointments. In addition, the district collaborated with the Rochelle Park Office of Emergency Management and a local pharmacy to provide vaccinations directly to district staff who sought receiving a vaccination. Opportunities with Hackensack University Medical Center were also provided. Staff who elected to obtain the vaccination had multiple opportunities to do so. Furthermore, opportunities for students and families were shared via resources in community update notices, email, and postings on the website.

H. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies: Rochelle Park School District will follow the guidelines of the State's Executive Order(s) as well as accommodations that meet requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. As guidelines shift based on updates to Executive Orders, NJDOE, and NJDOH guidelines and protocols, the district will respond accordingly.

January 6, 2022 Update: The District has implemented the practices noted above and will continue with these practices. As NJDOH and NJDOE guidance changes the district will adjust practices to meet the guidelines. Social distancing in the classrooms and lunch room is maintained to the extent practicable as is compliance with Executive Orders 251 and 253 as measures toward maintain a safe and healthy environment.

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):

June 24, 2021: The District anticipates providing a full day of on-site, in person instruction during the 2021-2022 school year. It is further anticipated that a return to before and after care services will be implemented. Social, emotional, and mental health needs will be infused in learning, as is current in curricula, as well as provided by school based guidance counseling services. The district will continue to provide meals to students at no charge for the duration of the government program that permits this to continue.

January 6, 2022 Update: The District has provided and will continue to provide full day on-site, in person instruction. Where necessary, students who have been identified for quarantine under the NJDOH guidelines are provided with live online instruction matching the student's school day schedule. The district continues to provide meals at no charge to families under the existing government program. This includes meal access to students who are under quarantine and learning remotely.

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): Posting on the website; Public comment at BOE meetings; and Email: ReturnToMidland@rochellepark.org

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 plan posted on the district website can be translated using the Google Translate feature on the district website. Families in need may contact the school guidance counselor or principal to arrange for needs to support their understanding of this material.

January 6, 2022 Update: The public comment avenues for section A and B above remain in effect.