



## 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

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LEA Name: Passaic County Vocational School District

Date 10/31/2023

Date Revised:12/22/2022

### 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

Governor Murphy announced that effective March 7, 2022, face masks would no longer be required in NJ schools. PCVSD follows the direction and guidance of the State of NJ. Therefore, unless otherwise required by the NJ Dept. of Health (NJDOH), face masks are optional at PCVSD. Consistent with the current guidance from the NJDOH, individuals who are ill or returning from isolation may be asked to wear a face mask.

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

On May 17, 2021, Governor Murphy announced that upon the conclusion of the 2020-2021 school year, the sections of Executive Order 175 that permitted remote learning were rescinded, meaning that schools were required to provide full-day, in-person instruction, as they were prior to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. PCVSD will implement full in-person instruction for the 2023-2024 school year. Guidance from the NJDOH & CDC will continue to be followed.

#### C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Appropriate signage will remain displayed in school buildings reinforcing proper personal hygiene. Proper handwashing strategies include washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, washing after using the bathroom, washing before eating, washing

after nose blowing, coughing, or sneezing. Hand sanitizer is provided in all classrooms, at building entrances and other high traffic areas of the school building. Students and staff are encouraged to cover coughs and sneezes. Staff & Students have access to related training via Vector Solutions (district online training resources). These training modules are designed to educate the public on contagious diseases/illnesses and limit transmission. Trainings include - Coronavirus Awareness & Common Illness Prevention.

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

Barriers are available in places that have an identified need and/or where social distancing is a challenge. Classroom doors may remain open to reduce touch surfaces & improve air circulation when necessary. Maintenance staff will be provided with appropriate training (i.e.: Vector Solutions, etc.).

Available Trainings:

- Coronavirus: Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Workplace
- Coronavirus Awareness

Daily cleaning includes all classrooms, bathrooms, hallways (frequent touchpoints), nurse’s offices, locker rooms, cafeterias, common areas, and all sanitizer dispensers.

The HVAC systems at PCVSD have been audited and are routinely serviced to ensure proper operation. MERV-13 and MERV-10 filters are used to meet necessary requirements and comply with latest guidelines as per the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE). Filters are replaced per HVAC consultants prescribed schedule.

PCVSD participated in the NJ K-12 Statewide Air Purifier Program and is receiving over 100 portable air purifiers (Medify Air MA-112) for use in district. The air purifiers are to supplement the HVAC system in areas of need, including but not necessarily limited to, nurses’ offices, classrooms, offices, locker rooms, auditorium, cafeterias, libraries, gymnasiums, band rooms, wood shop, etc.

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

PCVSD will continue to work closely with local, county, and state health departments, follow the most recent guidance on contact tracing, isolation, and quarantine, and implement appropriate safety measures. PCVSD will continue to closely monitor Daily COVID-19 reporting from both employees and students. School Nurses, Human Resources, and the District Safety Officer will continue to work collaboratively with the Local and County Health Departments, reporting cases as required (i.e.: CDRSS).

#### **F. Diagnostic and screening testing**

PCVSD provides free COVID-19 OTC/home test kits to all members of the school community upon request. All employees and students are asked to be tested for COVID-19 when symptomatic and isolate and/or quarantine consistent with guidance from the NJ Dept. of Health. In the case of an outbreak, PCVSD may provide testing on campus if needed.

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

PCVSD has partnered with the Passaic County Dept. of Health, Sheefa Pharmacy, St. Joseph's Medical Center, and Walgreens to offer COVID-19 vaccines to school employees, students, and family members. At this time vaccinations are readily available to the public at all area pharmacies. If there is an identified need, the district may work to offer vaccinations on campus.

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

Students with disabilities will be provided all appropriate accommodations based on substantiated needs identified in their IEPs, by the PCVSD Child Study Team and/or via an appropriate medical professional.

## **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.**

ARP ESSER funds are being used to provide students with a full continuum of services for the 2023-2024 school year. Through various assessment tools, the district continues to evaluate student learning loss and provide remediation through in-class support services, extended day, and/or summer programs. PCVSD has employed additional staff members as needed to specifically address the needs of students in the areas of social and emotional learning, academic support/need, mental health, and food services.

## **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.**

PCVSD solicits feedback from a variety of stakeholders (i.e.: BOE representative(s), administration representative(s), teacher representative(s), and parent(s)).

**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 district's plan will be posted on the PCVSD website in both English and Spanish. The document itself will be provided, upon request, in an alternative format to individuals with a disability as defined by ADA. Translation software is also available on the PCTVS webpage.