



## 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 06/24/2021

Date Revised: 12/24/2021

### 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

As of June 2021, as per [Executive Order 242](#), the use of face masks is still mandatory in all NJ schools. The established safety protocol at PCVSD also remains in place. This protocol includes mandatory use of face masks in schools and while on school buses (exception- instances of extreme heat). Information will be provided to staff and students on proper use, removal, and cleaning of masks. The district will provide appropriate face masks to students, staff, and visitors as needed.

#### 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, 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. PCVSD will return to full in person instruction for the 2021-2022 school year. Physical distancing protocols will be followed based on the most current guidance from the NJDOH & CDC.

#### 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. Alcohol-based hand sanitizer is provided in all classrooms, at building entrances and other high traffic areas of the school building. Students and staff will be encouraged to cover coughs and sneezes. Staff & Students will have access to receive trainings through Vector Solutions (district training resource). These trainings are designed to educate the public on illness and limiting the spread of illnesses. Trainings include- Coronavirus Awareness & Common Illness Prevention.

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

Barriers will be in place where social distancing is a challenge. Classroom doors will remain open to reduce touch surfaces & improve air circulation. Maintenance staff will be provided training through Vector Solutions.

Trainings to be included:

- Coronavirus: Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Workplace
- Coronavirus Awareness

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

The HVAC systems at PCVSD have been audited for operations and upfitting of filters to MERV-13 and MERV-10 to meet all requirements and comply with latest guidelines as per the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE).

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

PCVDS will continue to work with local and county health departments for guidance on isolation and quarantine. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, county, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments: Schools will closely monitor Daily COVID-19 Symptom Screening reports completed through the district health app from both staff and students. Procedures for isolation and quarantine will continue as in the 2020-2021 NJDOH guidance. School Nurses will work collaboratively with the Local and County Health Departments, reporting cases and contacts as required.

**F. Diagnostic and screening testing**

PCVSD requires staff, students, and visitors to complete the “Daily Self-Assessment” under the following circumstances: you are ill/symptomatic; you recently tested positive for COVID-19; you are not vaccinated and were in “close contact” with a person recently diagnosed with COVID-19; you recently traveled out of the country; etc.

PCVSD opted into the State COVID-19 Screening Testing Program under Option 1 – Full End to End Testing Services and was assigned Concentric/Ginko Bioworks. Testing is available 1 time per week.

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

PCVSD has partnered with St. Joseph’s Wayne Medical Center & Walgreens to offer Covid-19 vaccines to school employees, students, and family members.

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

Students with disabilities will have all appropriate accommodations addressed based on documented needs in their IEPs.

## **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.**

ESSER ARP funds will be utilized to provide students with a full continuum of services for the 2021-2022 school year. PCVSD will employ additional staff members to specifically address the needs of students in the areas of social and emotional learning, academic need, mental health, and food services. Through various assessment tools, the district will evaluate student learning loss and provide remediation through in class support services and extended day programs.

## **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 has collected feedback from its various stakeholders through surveys that were provided in both English and Spanish.

**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.