



FARMINGDALE 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.

LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

LEA Name: Farmingdale

Date 05/25/21, Date Revised (03/21/2022, 12/12/2022):

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.

The district has adopted policies for the restart and recovery after an emergency closure to address topics such as screening for symptoms, mask-wearing, visitors, cleaning practices, contact tracing, scheduling, staffing, continuity of learning, and remote learning.

A. Universal and correct wearing of masks

- The school will follow the directives put forth by the Governor of New Jersey with respect to the wearing of facial coverings.
- The wearing of masks or facial coverings is optional effective March 7, 2022.
- The district will maintain adequate amounts of PPE (i.e. facial coverings, disinfectant, hand sanitizer, etc.).
- Staff and students will be provided a facial covering through the district upon request.
- It is recommended that a mask be worn in school until the end of the 10th day from the onset of COVID symptoms or diagnosis.

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

- Social distancing is encouraged, though not mandated.
- Social distancing protocols may be re-evaluated or adjusted based upon state directives.

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

- Promote frequent handwashing before and after lunch, recess, gym, bathroom trips.
- Teachers will assist/remind students to wash when possible.
- Paper towels, not hand dryers, will be provided at every wash station in the district.

- Hands-free sanitizing stations are placed at all entrances, outside each classroom, common areas, and learning spaces throughout the building. In addition, each classroom will be provided its own hand sanitizer for use within that space.
- Encourage students and staff to use a tissue to cover each cough/sneeze.
- Expectations for coughing and sneezing will be presented in SafeSchools training, as well as during the opening days of school for students and staff.
- Throw away tissue after each use.
- Wash or use hand sanitizer each time for at least 20 seconds.

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

- Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities
 - The custodial staff will clean objects/surfaces frequently touched on a frequent, daily basis (i.e. doorknobs, light switches, classroom sink handles, countertops).
 - Increased routine cleaning and disinfection will be implemented when needed.
 - The custodial staff will use all cleaning products according to the directions on the label. Staff will follow the manufacturer's instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products (i.e. concentration, application method, contact time, etc.)
 - [A list of products that are EPA-approved for use against the virus that causes COVID-19 will be used as a reference when cleaning.](#)
 - In addition to normal nightly cleaning, all areas will be fogged or sprayed down with an electrostatic sprayer as needed.
 - Daily cleaning checklists will be used for all areas of the building.
 - Water fountains will remain open with routine cleaning in place.
 - All high touch points will be disinfected prior to the start of the day.
 - Bathrooms will be cleaned daily, using protocols outlined by the Environmental Protection Agency.
 - Cleaning staff will clean and disinfect all areas (i.e. offices, bathrooms, and common areas) where illness breakouts occur, focusing especially on frequently touched surfaces.
- Ventilation
 - The school building has adequate ventilation, including operational heating and ventilation systems where appropriate.
 - Recirculated air has a fresh air component.
 - Windows can be opened if needed.
 - Air conditioning filters will be changed according to manufacturer recommendations.

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

- As of Spring 2022, our district no longer monitors in-school close contacts.
- Contact tracing guidelines will be revisited should the need arise to reinstate the practice.
- The district will follow current Communicable Disease Service guidance for illness reporting.

F. Diagnostic and screening testing

Student screening:

- Parents/guardians are expected to keep their children home when exhibiting symptoms of communicable disease and to notify the school nurse of any positive test results with regard to illness.
- Staff will visually check students throughout the course of the day for symptoms related to COVID-19 or other communicable illness and refer any students suspected of symptoms to the School Nurse for evaluation.
- The district has added professional development and SafeSchool trainings on hygiene protocols, as well as COVID-19.
- Screening guidelines may be amended per state directive.

Staff screening:

- Staff who are exhibiting symptoms of communicable disease are expected to stay home and to notify the school nurse of any positive test results with regard to illness.
- Screening guidelines may be amended per state directive.

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

- Coordinated efforts with neighboring school districts and a local hospital to prioritize vaccinations for eligible staff
- Scheduled appointments around the school day or provided a substitute to allow staff to get the vaccine in a timely manner
- Eligible student vaccination clinic information continuously updated and provided to parents via website and social media
- Nurse provided information and answered questions for staff and parents regarding the vaccines

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

Account for Students with disabilities

- Guidelines for individual accommodations for students with disabilities will be in accordance with the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#)
- When mandated by the Governor of New Jersey, students will be required to wear facial coverings, unless doing so would inhibit the student's health. It is also necessary to acknowledge that enforcing the use of facial coverings may be impractical for young children or individuals with disabilities.
- In the event of school closure due to widespread illness, the school's 504 Committee will develop a plan to address the return to school of medically-fragile students and those with physical or health impairments who may require accommodations and modifications as part of a 504 Plan.

- The district will communicate frequently with the families of students with significant medical risk factors to determine if additional precautions or unique measures are necessary prior to a student’s return to school.

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 district will continue to coordinate referrals to government agencies such as the NJ Department of Children and Families and the Department of Human Services as appropriate.

- The district will continue to communicate with local community health care providers and direct families seeking healthcare to programs such as NJ Family Care, NJSNAP, NJHelps, Federally Qualifying Health Clinics, and dental clinics.
- The school counselor, CST, teachers, and administrators will monitor students’ mental health according to a locally-developed mental health needs assessment tool.
- IEP teams will review student progress to identify possible learning loss and the need for additional services.
- In the event of school closure due to widespread illness, the school’s 504 Committee will develop a plan to address the return to school of medically-fragile students and those with physical or health impairments who may require accommodations and modifications as part of a 504 Plan.
- The CST Coordinator and CST members will work together to complete evaluations to determine eligibility for special education services.

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 district sent out a survey to all families and community members to gather comments on plan development. The district also took public comment at the June 16, 2021, March 21, 2022, and December 12, 2022 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)

The plan was presented in a user-friendly format on the district website for review. A district representative is also available to provide an oral translation to parents upon request.