



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

## 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), [April 28, 2021 broadcast](#), in March 2021 President Biden signed the Federal [American Rescue Plan \(ARP\) Act](#) into law: Public Law 117-2. The ARP Act provides an additional \$122 billion in Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) to help States and school districts 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. **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.**

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that upon the conclusion of the 2020-2021 school year, portions of Executive Order 175 allowing remote learning will be rescinded, meaning that schools will be required to provide full-day, in-person instruction, as they were prior to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.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 2023-2024 school year as it becomes available.

**Please take the time to review the draft version of the 2023/2024 Safe Return Plan.**  
**Please email any comments or suggestions to [clindenm@paulsboro.k12.nj.us](mailto:clindenm@paulsboro.k12.nj.us).**

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

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LEA Name: Paulsboro Public Schools

Date: 6/30/2023

Date Revised: June 30, 2023

## 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:

Paulsboro Public Schools follow the most updated guidance regarding mask-wearing and exceptions to maintain the health and safety of students and staff. The District continues to keep masks optional. Upon such time local, state or federal laws change, the Safe Return Plan will be adjusted accordingly. Recommendations from these agencies regarding masking can be found by visiting [NJDOH and CDS Public Health Recommendations for K-12 School, Childcare and Youth Camps](#).

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

Paulsboro Public Schools will follow the most updated guidance regarding physical distancing to maintain the health and safety of students and staff. Upon such time local, state, or federal laws change, the Safe Return Plan will be adjusted accordingly. Recommendations for local health departments for K-12 schools can be found by visiting the [State of New Jersey Department of Health](#)

### C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette:

Paulsboro Public Schools will follow the most updated guidance regarding handwashing and respirator etiquette to maintain the health and safety of students and staff. High-touch areas in staff and student lavatories are upgraded to include touchless features in all schools and district buildings. Upon such time local, state, or federal laws change, the Safe Return Plan will be adjusted accordingly. Guidance can be found in the [New Jersey Department of Health Recommendations for Local Health Departments for K-12 Schools](#) for handwashing and respiratory etiquette.

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

Paulsboro Public Schools will follow the most updated guidance regarding cleaning and maintaining health facilities, including improving ventilation to maintain the health and safety of students and staff. The Supervisor of Facilities monitors cleaning procedures for fidelity. The district has repaired and/or replaced the heating boilers, classroom ventilation control system, and potable water and hot water boiler systems. All classrooms and offices are equipped with air conditioning systems. Upon such time local, state, or federal laws change, the Safe Return Plan will be adjusted accordingly.

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

Paulsboro Public Schools will follow the most updated guidance regarding contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments to maintain the health and safety of students and staff. With assistance from the school nurses, the district follows the most recent guidance. Isolation areas for each school are identified. School nurses have developed screening processes to limit exposure and notify if/when a sick student is coming. Upon such time local, state, or federal laws change, the Safe Return Plan will be adjusted accordingly.

**F. Diagnostic and screening testing:**

Paulsboro Public Schools will follow the most updated guidance regarding diagnostic and screening testing to maintain the health and safety of students and staff. Policies have been updated and adopted by the Board of Education regarding screening procedures utilizing the recommendations of health organizations and the New Jersey School Boards Association.

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

Paulsboro Public Schools will work closely with the Gloucester County Department of Health to provide community access to vaccinations. The district has partnered with Inspira Health to host vaccine clinics at the high school. Upon such time local, state, or federal laws change, the Safe Return Plan will be adjusted accordingly.

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

Paulsboro Public Schools will comply with all laws, executive orders, and the public health directives with regard to maintaining the health and safety of students and staff. The district makes accommodations in consultation with the Supervisor of Special Services and the Child Study Team. The District will continue to work to provide appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities as per individualized student plans. In the case of an Out of District student, the Out of District personnel will work in coordination with the Paulsboro case managers. Policies and procedures will continue to reflect the diversity of the school community, including students with disabilities and those who speak a language other than English at home. Upon such time local, state, or federal laws change, the Safe Return Plan will be adjusted accordingly.

## **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 continues to implement activities related to summer learning, supplemental afterschool programs, extended school year and/or comprehensive after-school programs. All programs were offered to all students. During the school year, all schools will provide intervention and enrichment services to all students in small group or 1:1 format. Workshops in MTSS and RTI, restorative practices, encouraging pro-social behaviors, and how to maintain safe, secure, and healthy school environments and classrooms are being planned for both students and teachers. Grant-funded positions for staff in the areas of academic and social and emotional support continue to be available. The district has built additional support staff in the local budget at all grade levels. Grant-funded positions for staff in the areas of academic and social and emotional support are being planned. For sustainability, the district will endeavor to build these support staff in the local budget.

## **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)**

Opportunity for public comment on the initial Safe Return Plan was made available on the District website through June 29, 2023. The District Safe Return Committee reviewed the final version of the Safe Return Plan incorporating comments offered by the community where applicable. During a

period of revision, the District will provide the same opportunity for public comment and district review as required by the Federal American Rescue Plan Act ESSER III Application.

- 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 District's plan was reviewed by the District Safe Return committee, as well as other educational constituents and community stakeholders. The plan is posted on the District's website which permits the opportunity for translation of documents in a preferred language. Further accommodation will be made by request.

- C. Describe any guidance, professional learning, and technical assistance opportunities the LEA will make available to its schools. (1000 character limit)**

Paulsboro Public Schools utilizes the Google Suite of applications as its learning management system. Students and parents receive access to information, training, and support throughout the year on utilizing digital learning resources, school software, and data management systems. Professional learning provided to school staff is regularly updated to comply with compulsory professional development topics as well as those suggested by local and state authorities during times of emergency.