

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

This document is intended to meet the federal statutory requirement that, within 30 days of receiving ARP ESSER LEA allocation (anticipated May 24th), an LEA shall publish an LEA Plan on the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services, which is often called a “school district reopening plan.”

Note, if an LEA developed a plan before *The American Rescue Plan Act* (ARPA) was enacted on 03/11/2021 that complied with the federal statutory requirements for public posting and comments but does not meet all of the requirements below, then the LEA must revise its plan no later than six months after receiving ARP ESSER funds

For further context, please reference ARPA (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/1319/text>) or the Interim Final Requirements of ARP ESSER (<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2021-04-22/pdf/2021-08359.pdf>).

I. General Information

1. LEA Name: Berlin Public Schools
2. Date of Publication: June 21, 2021, Revised 12/9/2021

II. Transparency and Accessibility

1. This plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services was published and made publicly available online here:
Description: District website sau3.org
2. Before making the plan publicly available, the LEA sought public comment on the plan and took such comments into account in the development of the plan (please check one).
Yes: ☒ Somewhat: ☐ No: ☐
Description: Two surveys to stakeholders: 3/15/21 and 6/18/21
3. The plan is in an understandable and uniform format (please check one):
Yes: ☒ Somewhat: ☐ No: ☐
Description: Using this template
4. The plan, to the extent practicable, is written in a language that parents can understand or, if not practicable, orally translated (please check one):
Yes: ☒ Somewhat: ☐ No: ☐
Description: Will be translated upon request.
5. The plan, upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability, is provided in an alternative format accessible to that parent (please check one):
Yes: ☒ Somewhat: ☐ No: ☐
Description: _____

III. Health and Safety

1. How the LEA will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other school and LEA staff:

Description during SY20-21: Followed Governor's orders, DHHS and CDC guidelines as closely as possible.

Description during SY21-22: Plan will follow DHHS and CDC guidelines as closely as possible.

2. The LEA's adoption of the following CDC health and safety strategies are described below:
(Note federal regulation on this plan requires such reporting, but does not require adoption of CDC safety recommendations. The NH DOE recognizes schools will implement localized safety measures based on the guidance provided by the CDC, NH Public Health, and local public health officials.)

- a. Universal and correct wearing of masks:

During SY20-21 (check one): Yes: ☒ Somewhat: ☐ No: ☐
During SY21-22 (check one): Yes: ☒ Somewhat: ☐ No: ☐

Description of both SYs: SY 20-21: Masks were worn by all staff and students in the building, on busses and at recess, according to guidance.
SY 21-22: We are operating under a phased model, dependent on local and state covid case statistics.

- b. Physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding and modifying facilities):

During SY20-21 (check one): Yes: ☒ Somewhat: ☐ No: ☐
During SY21-22 (check one): Yes: ☐ Somewhat: ☒ No: ☐

Description of both SYs: SY 20-21: Created the recommended physical distance of at least 3 ft by offering remote learning.
SY 21-22: Will not offer remote pathway, therefore, we will distance as much as possible but it may not be 3 ft in certain areas.

- c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette:

During SY20-21 (check one): Yes: ☒ Somewhat: ☐ No: ☐
During SY21-22 (check one): Yes: ☒ Somewhat: ☐ No: ☐

Description of both SYs: We have incorporated signage, lessons and reminders of handwashing and respiratory etiquette and will continue to do so.
We also added sinks in the K-5 bldg and touchless faucets in both bldgs.

- d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation:

During SY20-21 (check one): Yes: ☒ Somewhat: ☐ No: ☐
During SY21-22 (check one): Yes: ☒ Somewhat: ☐ No: ☐

Description of both SYs: SY 20-21: Repairs to the HVAC system were made to increase air quality. Air purifiers were installed in classrooms.
SY 2021-22: Upgrades to the HVAC system, windows and roof at BMHS are in the planning stages as the structures have reached the end of their useful life.

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

During SY20-21 (check one): Yes: ☒ Somewhat: ☐ No: ☐
During SY21-22 (check one): Yes: ☒ Somewhat: ☐ No: ☐

Description of both SYs: We have, and will continue to adopt the guidelines of DHHS and CDC in regards to isolation and quarantine.
We work in conjunction with DHHS, contact tracing for students in an effort to control community spread.

- f. Diagnostic and screening testing:

During SY20-21 (check one): Yes: ☐ Somewhat: ☒ No: ☐
During SY21-22 (check one): Yes: ☐ Somewhat: ☒ No: ☐

Description of both SYs: SY20-21: We developed a system with local health providers to make diagnostic testing available to students.
SY 21-22: We enrolled in the SASS program. Nurses use BiNax symptomatic testing.

- g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities:

During SY20-21 (check one): Yes: ☒ Somewhat: ☐ No: ☐

During SY21-22 (check one): Yes: ☒ Somewhat: ☐ No: ☐
 Description of both SYs: SY 20-21: Worked with local health agencies to create a vaccs site at our closed elementary school.
 Provided staff vaccination in a clinic on Day 1 of eligibility, students in week 1 of eligibility. Site now closed and all individuals

- h. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies:

During SY20-21 (check one): Yes: ☒ Somewhat: ☐ No: ☐
 During SY21-22 (check one): Yes: ☒ Somewhat: ☐ No: ☐
 Description of both SYs: Students were given choice of a remote pathway in 20-21. If remote, they were able to still receive supp.
 All services and accommodations were provided. The remote pathway will only be available to those with documented medica

- i. Coordination with state and local health officials (please check one):

During SY20-21 (check one): Yes: ☒ Somewhat: ☐ No: ☐
 During SY21-22 (check one): Yes: ☒ Somewhat: ☐ No: ☐
 Description of both SYs: Our Androscoggin Valley area was one of the first in the state to form a community covid team with local
 We will continue this partnership.

IV. Continuity of Services

1. The LEA has provided continuity of services in addressing student academic needs:

Description during SY20-21: All services were continued, no matter what mode of learning we were in.

Description during SY21-22: All services will be continued, no matter what mode of learning we are in.

2. The LEA has provided continuity of services in addressing student social, emotional, mental, and other health needs, which may include student health and food services:

Description during SY20-21: All services were continued, no matter the mode. Meals were delivered to remote students.

Our social worker and SRO also made home visits where needed.

Description during SY21-22: All services will continue, no matter the mode.

3. The LEA has provided continuity of services in addressing staff social, emotional, mental, and other health needs:

Description during SY20-21: SEL PD (geared toward staff well-being) was a mandatory training at the beginning of the year

One of our SEL coaches offered a yoga class to staff throughout the spring and summer.

Description during SY21-22: We plan to offer an enhanced menu of optional activities to staff next year.

V. Plan Review

1. The LEA will meet the federal regulatory requirement to review and, as appropriate, revise its Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan at least every six months through September 30, 2023 (the award period including the Tydings period). (Note an LEA that developed a plan before ARPA was enacted on 03/11/2021 that complied with the federal statutory requirements for public posting and comments but does not meet all of the requirements above must revise its plan no later than six months after the LEA receives LEA ESSER funds.)

Yes: ☒ No: ☐

Description:

2. In doing so, the LEA will meet the federal statutory requirement to seek public input and take such input into account in determining whether to revise the plan and, if revisions are determined necessary, on the revisions it makes to its plan.

Yes: ☒ No: ☐

Description: _____

3. In doing so, the LEA will also meet the federal regulatory requirement to address CDC safety recommendations and, if the CDC has updated its safety recommendations at the time the LEA is revising its plan, each of the updated CDC safety recommendations.
(Note federal regulation on this plan requires such reporting, but does not require adoption of CDC safety recommendations. The NH DOE recognizes schools will implement localized safety measures based on the guidance provided by the CDC, NH Public Health, and local public health officials.)

Yes: ☒ No: ☐

Description: We will not wait the required 6 month period to revise according to CDC and DHHS recommendations. The Superintendent will continue to r
adjust accordingly.

VI. Authorization

LEA Superintendent's Signature:

Date:

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12/9/2021 _____

VIII. Appendices

Appendix A. ARPA Statutory Excerpt

“(i) Safe return to in-person instruction.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A local educational agency receiving funds under this section shall develop and make publicly available on the local educational agency’s website, not later than 30 days after receiving the allocation of funds described in paragraph (d)(1), a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services.

(2) COMMENT PERIOD.—Before making the plan described in paragraph (1) publicly available, the local educational agency shall seek public comment on the plan and take such comments into account in the development of the plan.

(3) PREVIOUS PLANS.—If a local educational agency has developed a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction before the date of enactment of this Act that meets the requirements described in paragraphs (1) and (2), such plan shall be deemed to satisfy the requirements under this subsection.”

Appendix B. Interim Final Requirements of ARP ESSER Excerpt

“(3) *LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services.*

(a) An LEA must describe in its plan under section 2001(i)(1) of the ARP Act for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services—

(i) how it 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.

(B) Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (*e.g.*, use of cohorts/ podding).

(C) Handwashing and respiratory etiquette.

(D) Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation.

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

(F) Diagnostic and screening testing.

(G) Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities.

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

(I) Coordination with State and local health officials.

(ii) how it will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address students’ academic needs and students’ and staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services.

(b) (i) During the period of the ARP ESSER award established in section 2001(a) of the ARP Act, an LEA must regularly, but no less frequently than every six months (taking into consideration the timing of significant changes to CDC guidance on reopening schools), review and, as appropriate, revise its plan for the safe return to in person instruction and continuity of services.

(ii) In determining whether revisions are necessary, and in making any revisions, the LEA must seek public input and take such input into account.

(iii) If at the time the LEA revises its plan the CDC has updated its guidance on reopening schools, the revised plan must address the extent to which the LEA has adopted policies, and describe any such policies, for each of the updated safety recommendations.

(c) If an LEA developed a plan prior to enactment of the ARP Act that meets the statutory requirements of section 2001(i)(1) and (2) of the ARP Act but does not address all the requirements in paragraph (a), the LEA must, pursuant to paragraph (b), revise and post its plan no later than six months after receiving its ARP ESSER funds to meet the requirements in paragraph (a).

(d) An LEA’s plan under section 2001(i)(1) of the ARP Act for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services must be—

(i) In an understandable and uniform format;

(ii) To the extent practicable, written in a language that parents can understand or, if it is not practicable to provide written translations to a parent with limited English proficiency, be orally translated for such parent; and

(iii) Upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA, provided in an alternative format accessible to that parent.”