

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: Conway School District
2. Date of Publication: Draft for SAU9 posted 8/11/21; updated and final draft posted 8/13/21

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: [http://www.sau9.org/UserFiles/Server/Server_68938/File/Coronavirus COVID-19/School%20Re-entry/2021-2022/2nd%20Year%20Re-entry%20Plan%20Booklet%20%20-%20Rev.%2008.11.21.pdf](http://www.sau9.org/UserFiles/Server/Server_68938/File/Coronavirus%20COVID-19/School%20Re-entry/2021-2022/2nd%20Year%20Re-entry%20Plan%20Booklet%20%20-%20Rev.%2008.11.21.pdf)
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: A committee comprised of school administrators, teachers, parents, and local health care professionals worked to develop the plan. The plan was discussed at SAU9 school board meetings where members of it
3. The plan is in an understandable and uniform format (please check one):
Yes: ☒ Somewhat: ☐ No: ☐
Description: The plan is written in simplistic terms. There is a color-coded system to define operating conditions. Charts are used to organize information. The charts describe different elements of school operations and how they may look under different operating conditions.
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: The language used in the plan is intentionally straight-forward. Should there be a request for the plan to be translated into a different language that request would be accommodated as needed.
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: Should a parent with a disability request the plan is provided in an alternative format, opportunity for the parent to meet with a school representative with whom they feel comfortable would be made to allow that person to explain the plan and allow the parent to ask any questions/request clarification of any of the plan's contents.

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: In SY 20-21 schools in SAU9 were open five days per week minus a few instances when remote instruction was necessary due to COVID-19 exposure/outbreaks. Students worked in small, consistent cohorts. Schedules minimized transitions. Students and staff wore masks. Outdoor spaces were used as much as possible. All meals were served in classrooms. Students were given assigned seats on buses.

Description during SY21-22: The adopted plan allows for flexibility in implementing an array of mitigation strategies including masking, physical distancing, and cohorting. As the conditions change, multiple factors will be considered to determine the strategies that will be used. Administrators meet weekly with local health care professionals to gather input. School board members are kept up to date.

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: Masks were worn at all times during the 20-21 school year. In the 21-22 school year masks will be worn indoors when operating in yellow or red conditions.

There is flexibility for masks to be removed outdoors when physical distancing can be implemented. Should conditions improve, including increased vaccination rates and reduced rates of COVID transmission, masks may become optional.

- 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: In 20-21 students were in strict cohorts and transitions were limited. For the 21-22 SY, there is more opportunity for students to travel and working somewhat.

However, we will continue to try to minimize potential exposure as much as possible. We are attempting to keep class sizes around 20 students and provide space for physical distancing indoors.

- 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: Students and staff are consistently reminded of the importance of hand washing and respiratory etiquette.

- 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: Facilities are being cleaned consistently. High-touch areas are disinfected more regularly. We have allocated funds in ESSER to improve ventilation.

- 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: As we become aware of confirmed, positive cases of COVID-19, we engage in notifying anyone who could be a close contact. Letters were sent to the

full school community to make individuals aware of all positive cases. In both the 20-21 and 21-22 school year close contacts will need to isolate per CDC and NHDPHS guidelines.

- 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: Families are asked to screen students daily to look for symptoms of COVID-19 prior to sending students to school. Staff is asked to self-screen.

- 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: Vaccine clinics for staff were offered in April of 2020, with the second clinic in May. At the end of the spring vaccine clinics for middle and high school students were offered at school, with parent permission, to increase ease of access to vaccines for all students eligible. We worked with NH-IDPHC to offer these clinics. We will continue to work with NH-IDPHC to help families access

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: Any individual in need of accommodations is able to access those by working with our SAU office. In the 20-21 school year some staff was allowed to work remotely due to health concerns. As needed accommodations are identified in the 21-22 school year they will be provided in accordance with state and federal requirements

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: We have been reviewing information from the CDC, AAP, and NH-IDPHC all along. We also have been consulting weekly with area medical professionals.

IV. Continuity of Services

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

Description during SY20-21: During the 20-21 school year SAU9 schools provided all students the option of attending school in-person five days per week. There were only a few instances where students were also given the option to elect a remote model of instruction to accommodate family preferences identified during over 20 listening sessions held during July and August of 2020. Remote access to instruction was provided.
 Description during SY21-22: SAU9 schools will be open 5 days per week. ESSER funds are being used to hire additional staff to keep class sizes small, reduce burdens on staff, and provide to Funds are being used to provide free access to summer programming for any interested student through both our 21 CCLC program and our School to Career Camps run in collaboration with our CTE program. We also have funds allow

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 students had access to supports to address social, emotional, mental and other health needs through school staff. Each building has at least one counselor. Students and families were also able to access Family Support Liaisons/Student Advocates for support. Meals were provided in school and opportunities for meals to be provided during school closures were communicated. Some were provided.
 Description during SY21-22: The same resources will be accessible to students during SY21-22. Additionally, we are looking to hire a school social worker to support student needs. We are also reshaping our alternative high school programming to allow for more flexibility in meeting student needs, with both during and outside of school learning experiences available.

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

Description during SY20-21: We work with NH Interlocal Trust and share a monthly newsletter with information to support healthy lives. We created an employee Wellness website to organize and union representation to address any concerns including the extension of benefits. In the 20-21 school year additional "COVID sick time" was provided once federal requirements ended.
 Description during SY21-22: We will continue to work with NH Interlocal Trust to provide wellness benefits, information, and opportunities for our staff. Additionally, there are additional wellness resources available on our website to support people. The SAU9 Wellness Committee meets monthly and provides additional resources.

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: A subgroup of the Return to School committee continues to meet weekly and will recommend plan updates as needed. There is an agenda item on every school board meeting to address updates regarding Covid-19 and to allow opportunity for both board and community members to provide input regarding potential changes

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: There is opportunity at every board meeting in SAU 9 for the public to offer input into the plan regarding potential revisions. Surveys have been used to gather additional information regarding community perceptions. Most recently, surveys were sent to staff and families on 7/30/21 to gather additional feedback regarding their thoughts on the return to school for the 21-22 school year.

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: The Return to School Committee meets at least quarterly to review the plan and implement changes based upon local conditions, NHDPHS, and the CDC. A subgroup of this committee has been meeting weekly to assess local conditions and recommendations.

VI. Authorization

LEA Superintendent's Signature:

Date:

11/12/21

8/17/21

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.”