

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: Deerfield School District
2. Date of Publication: June 10, 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: School Websites
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: The draft plan is being published in order to accept those public comments and give the reader something to consider
3. The plan is in an understandable and uniform format (please check one):
Yes: Somewhat: No:
Description: _____
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: _____
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: Details were provided in the comprehensive reopening plan

Description during SY21-22: Details found in the proposed opening plan

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: Strategies adopted and implemented. 21-22 will remain fluid and recommendations will be followed

- 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: Strategies adopted and implemented. 21-22 will remain fluid and recommendations will be followed

- 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: Strategies adopted and implemented. 21-22 will remain fluid and recommendations will be followed

- 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: Strategies adopted and implemented. 21-22 will remain fluid and recommendations will be followed

- 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: Strategies adopted and implemented. 21-22 will remain fluid and recommendations will be followed

- 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: Strategies adopted and implemented. 21-22 will remain fluid and recommendations will be followed

Students were screened by nurses and tested off-site.

- 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: 20-21 teachers were part of closed site and student clinic was held at Pembroke Academy.
 We would participate again if offered. _____

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: Accommodations followed per IEP/504 and as needed

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: websites monitored continuously, nurses on every call with Dr. Chan

IV. Continuity of Services

1. The LEA has provided continuity of services in addressing student academic needs:
 Description during SY20-21: No breaks in services, different models of instruction offered
 Description during SY21-22: There will be no breaks in services

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 nonteaching staff remained involved with students, advisories met, meals offered even when students were not in school
 Description during SY21-22: All nonteaching staff will remain involved with students, advisories will meet, meals offered even when students are not in school

3. The LEA has provided continuity of services in addressing staff social, emotional, mental, and other health needs:
 Description during SY20-21: Regular check-ins with staff, continued staff meetings, leniency regarding remote work to care for self/family
 Description during SY21-22: Regular check-ins with staff and staff meetings will continue. All teachers need to be in the building unless they are on an approved leave of absence. Flexibilities will still be offered if we need to pivot.

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: The plan will be reviewed by administration and discussed with board on a regular basis at least every 6 months

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: Topic is included on board agendas and a period for public comment is provided. Public is also sent an email after meetings and can respond directly to the superintendent and/or principals

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: As soon as we are notified that CDC recommendations change, we will revise/review our plans. Comprehensive plans were developed for 2020-2021 that we can use again.

VI. Authorization

LEA Superintendent's Signature:



Date:

6-23-21

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.”

Deerfield School District

Opening Plan

2021-2022 School Year



Introduction

The purpose of this document is to inform the Deerfield School District Community of the expectations for the coming school year and to elicit feedback from the public regarding this plan. This plan must be submitted to the Department of Education by June 23, 2021 in order for Deerfield Community School to access the ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief) Grant. The Department of Education will be providing us an opportunity to revise our plan as needed, and before it is finalized input will be gathered from the community, administration, and staff.

As we have witnessed for the past year, circumstances and official guidance may change that will warrant revisions to this plan either prior to or during the school year. We will keep the community informed of any changes.

Our Shared Responsibilities

One of the lessons that we learned this past year has to do with a sense of shared responsibility for our community. Staying home when symptomatic, keeping a reasonable distance between ourselves while working and eating, fidelity to mask policies in our schools and on our fields, and making sure to regularly wash and sanitize our hands have all helped to keep our infection numbers low. We remain committed to continuing this partnership into the next school year.

Transitional Plan – June 21 to August 20, 2021

As we head into the summer months we will continue to offer services, programs and activities for our students in our building. Per current guidance from the NH Department of Education and the New Hampshire Division of Public Health Services, **masks will be optional for all students.**

2021-2022 School Year

As of June, 2021 it is the intention of The Deerfield School District to return to a “Pre-Pandemic” model of instruction. **This means that schools will return to in person learning and that masks will be optional for all students.**

We will continue to monitor research and the guidance of the CDC, NH DHHS, and the NHIAA in making decisions to balance the safety, social-emotional, and academic needs of our community. If case infection rates or guidance from the CDC, NH DHHS, or the NHIAA changes, the District will respond to these changes by putting some or all of the mitigation measures in place that were implemented during the 2020-2021 academic year.

Status Level Decisions

The decision to switch between school status/levels will be made by the superintendent of Deerfield in conjunction with the Deerfield School Board. Others involved in the decision will be building level administrators and the school nurse. Their decision will be based on the following factors:

- National or State guidance (CDC, NH DHHS, NHIAA)
- Community spread data
- School community confirmed positive COVID results
- Ability to staff schools and safely supervise students
- Availability of critical staff (e.g. nurses and administrators)
- Inclement weather

Facilities

Evolving [research](#) has come to find that the spread of COVID-19 has a lower risk than previously expected on solid surfaces. Therefore, some of the extra intensive cleaning routines and non-sharing of materials that were put in place for the 2020-2021 plan will not be continued in the 2021-2022 school year.

Our facilities department will continue to:

- use electrostatic sprayers to clean surfaces on a daily basis
- clean bathrooms on a more frequent basis
- change filters
- make plenty of hand sanitizer and masks available
- Supply each classroom with gloves and sanitizers

Conclusion

At this time, the Deerfield School District plans on opening the 2021-2022 school year in a pre-pandemic mode of instruction with the continuation of some of our enhanced cleaning practices in our buildings. Our plan is to stay up to date and well informed in case we need to pivot to a new model of instruction and/or make changes to our daily operations.

This plan will be revisited in August, prior to the schools opening for the 2021-2022 school year. Please either plan to attend or tune in to Deerfield School Board meetings on August 4th and August 18th for up to date information. If you are unable to view or attend these meetings, they are all recorded and posted immediately following. We have

school board minutes that are made available and we will communicate updates to you via our One Call Now system.

Respectfully submitted,

Superintendent Patty Sherman
Principal, Kristen Withee
Assistant Principal, Brian Grieve
Special Education Coordinator, Lisa McConnell

DRAFT