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.


I. General Information

1. LEA Name: Derry Cooperative School District
2. Date of Publication: 8/23/2021

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: Our current and archived plans can be found on the front page of our district website: www.sau10.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: A survey was sent to staff, families, and the community.

3. The plan is in an understandable and uniform format (please check one):
   Yes: □ Somewhat: □ No: □
   Description: This plan is accessible to all stakeholders.

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: Our district is committed to assisting all stakeholders in understanding the plan, including hiring translators.

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: Our district is committed to assisting all stakeholders in understanding the plan.
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: The LEA’s plan for reopening schools in SY20-21 included detailed descriptions for the following health and safety protocols: identifying high risk individuals, tracking of symptoms, working with symptomatic individuals, responding to positive cases of COVID-19, and screening of students and staff. (pages 17-19)

Description during SY21-22: The LEA’s plan for reopening schools in SY21-22 includes: reviewing guidelines by state and local medical agencies, collaborating with state and local health experts, implementing appropriate mitigation protocols, utilizing school nurses to communicate with staff and families in providing guidance on returning to school after illness or exposure, and collecting health attestation agreements of daily home screenings from parents.

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.)

- 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: In 20-21, students in the Derry Cooperative School District were required to wear face coverings, unless accommodations were necessary, at all times, indoors and outdoors, during school hours (including boarding, riding and exiting the bus) with the following considerations: Students in Preschool and Kindergarten required more encouragement, instruction and support for wearing face coverings consistently while in school. Face coverings needed to be removed for nutrition (snack/lunch) and hydration breaks, with students maintaining a social distance of 6 feet. In the 21-22 plan, face coverings are not required outdoors and the requirement for indoors will be based on our Face Covering Decision matrix (outlined in the appendix of the plan).

- 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 maintained classroom cohorts, with social distancing of 3-6 feet. The LEA provided social distancing floor markings in office spaces, hallways, restrooms, and common areas as a reminder to stay 6 feet apart. In 21-22, the plan includes less rigid cohorting particularly in middle schools. Floor markings will continue to be utilized.

- Handwashing and respiratory etiquette:
  - During SY20-21 (check one): Yes: □ Somewhat: □ No: □
  - During SY21-22 (check one): Yes: □ Somewhat: □ No: □

Description of both SYs: In both school years instruction for hand washing and hygiene protocols is designed according to the developmental level of students.

- 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: In 20-21 the following procedures and protocols were implemented:
Cleaning and sanitization
- All plans will follow CDC guidance for cleaning and disinfecting.
- Only Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved products will be used.
- A schedule for cleaning and disinfecting surfaces including high touch areas such as railings, doorknobs, water bubblers/filling stations, and bathrooms will be provided to staff.
- Appropriate protocols to clean and disinfect if a COVID-19 case is suspected and/or confirmed.
- Hand sanitizer dispensers will be located in each room as well as common areas such as hallways, gymnasium, and cafeteria/dining hall.
- Custodial staff will have on-going training for enhanced cleaning and disinfection procedures.
- Electrostatic sprayers are available for custodial staff to use to disinfect non-porous surfaces.
- Schedule custodial staff, as needed, to be available during the school day for routine cleaning and enhanced disinfecting.

Water and ventilation systems
- All filters have been replaced with MERV 8, and MERV 13 air filters will be replaced as soon as the district receives them. HVAC systems filters will be changed quarterly.
- Efforts are being made to increase fresh air intake to improve ventilation.
- Additional windows have been added to six Derry Village School classrooms to improve ventilation.
- Drinking water will continue to be tested based on state and federal recommendations.

For 21-22 facility-related procedures are outlined on page 5 of the current plan.

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: In 20-21 officials from NH DHHS, with cooperation of the school nurse, conducted any contact tracing needed. For 21-22 this process will continue.

Diagnostic and screening testing:
- During SY20-21 (check one): Yes: ☐ Somewhat: ☐ No: ☐
- During SY21-22 (check one): Yes: ☐ Somewhat: ☐ No: ☐
Description of both SYs: In 20-21 the LEA relied/s on self-screening methods for both staff and students in determining whether or not an individual should attend school based on their daily health. For 21-22 this process will continue.

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: In 20-21the LEA provided the means for all staff and students aged 12+ to be vaccinated. In 21-22 the LEA is open to continuing to partner with Pinkerton Academy and the community to provide vaccination clinics for staff and students.

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: In 20-21 the following procedures were implemented:

- IEP, 504, and parent requested meetings will be held remotely.
- All staff working with students will wear face coverings and any additional PPE as needed.
- Identify and plan for all students’ medical needs whether through IEP, 504 and nursing plans.
- Assigned seats/tables will be used during small group instruction.
- After small group instruction, the classroom will be disinfected before the next small group of students enters.
- Necessary protective equipment will be used when working with students.
- Modify existing health and safety plans and/or school protocols to meet student specific needs.
- Identify the classroom space for students to meet social distancing criteria for small group instruction.
- Focus on social-emotional needs as students transition to the school environment.
- School psychologists, home school liaisons and counselors will need to adjust schedules to help support the social-emotional needs of students.
- Use baseline data to identify gaps in learning for academic, social and behavioral needs.
- IEP teams will review service delivery services for students based on student growth prior to, during, and after remote learning.
- IEP teams will collaborate with parents choosing to keep students at home regarding the special education service delivery plan.
- Referrals, three year updates and any additional evaluations will be scheduled by appointment with safety measures in place.

In 21-22, see page 8:

- Accommodations for medically compromised students will be determined through the 504/IEP process.
- IEP, 504, and parent/guardian meetings held in the buildings with the option to be remote when necessary.
- Additional PPE is provided to staff and students as needed.
- Existing health and safety plans and/or school protocols modified to meet student specific needs.
- Use data to identify growth and unfinished learning for academic, social and behavioral needs and adjust service delivery as needed.

- 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: In 20-21, the following was in place: Task Force teams continued to meet and adjust plans as necessary, including school-based teams, district-wide teams, and community leaders, including participation in state health partner calls. For 21-22, this coordination will continue (see page 6).
IV. Continuity of Services
1. The LEA has provided continuity of services in addressing student academic needs:
Description during SY20-21: The LEA provided continuous academic instruction throughout the year utilizing a variety of educational models including: face to face instruction, remote instruction, and hybrid (synchronous) instruction.
Description during SY21-22: See page 7.
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: The LEA provided the following to address the social emotional, and mental needs of students:

- Any individual and group counseling will adhere to social distancing guidelines wherever the counseling takes place in the building.
- Professional development with staff will be done with options for video conferencing and in-person training.
- Family education/training will take place through video conferencing. Offerings may include providing workshops regarding coping strategies for returning to school (i.e. - anxiety, re-introducing routines), how to discuss the pandemic with your child, etc.
- Group counseling will take place in person whenever possible using larger areas or outside if the weather conditions are appropriate. When this is not possible due to the number of groups, groups may take place through video conferencing.
- Social emotional learning (SEL) lessons will take place in the classroom with the counselor coming to the classroom or meeting with the classroom through video conferencing to provide ongoing social emotional education.
- Both breakfast and lunch will be available for pick-up for students who are learning remotely.
- Meals will continue to meet federal guidelines, however, the number of options for each component will be fewer than normal.

Description during SY21-22: See page 5

3. The LEA has provided continuity of services in addressing staff social, emotional, mental, and other health needs:
Description during SY20-21: The LEA provided staff, families, and students with information on how to access resources for mental health and wellness. The School Psychologists created a website with many resources that was updated regularly with sections for families, teachers and students. In addition, the school counselors, school nurses and home-to-school coordinators also have websites. The links to these were located on the school district website. The LEA provided ongoing staff professional development on a variety of topics including: anxiety and depression in children and adolescents, resilience and coping strategies, self-care strategies, and core competencies for social emotional learning.

Description during SY21-22: See p. 5

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 LEA meets regularly to review and revise the existing plan. The LEA has posted its Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity Plan on the district website (www.sau10.org).

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: Plans are posted on the district website, including archiving previous versions of the plan. Significant revisions to the plan are brought to the attention of the school board. The public is invited to comment and question the contents of the plan through email and through public input at school board meetings.

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 LEA meets following CDC updates to review and revise the plan as necessary.

VI. Authorization

LEA Superintendent’s Signature: ____________________________
Date: 8/19/2021
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.”