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 or the Interim Final Requirements of ARP ESSER.

I. General Information

1. LEA Name: Fall Mountain Regional School District

2. Date of Publication: June 15, 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: SAU 60-COVID Data/Updates
   Description: All communication to staff, families and the community are contained in the link above. Please reference the opening Hybrid Reopening Framework and In-Person Reopening Plan and update. These documents were published on July 29, 2020 (revised October 16, 2020) and March 8, 2021 respectively.

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.
   Description: Family & Staff Survey

3. The plan is in an understandable and uniform format (please check one):
   Yes.
   Description: Please see plan.

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.

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:
   The district has not received any requests. However, if a request is received, the district will comply.
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: Hybrid Reopening Framework
   Description during SY21-22: We are currently in the process of revising our framework in preparation for the 2021-2022 school year.

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: Yes
      During SY21-22: Yes
      Description during SY20-21: Hybrid Reopening Framework
      Description during SY21-22: We are currently in the process of revising our framework in preparation for the 2021-2022 school year.
   b. Physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding and modifying facilities):
      During SY20-21: Yes
      During SY21-22: Yes
      Description during SY20-21: Hybrid Reopening Framework
      Description during SY21-22: We are currently in the process of revising our framework in preparation for the 2021-2022 school year.
   c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette:
      During SY20-21: Yes
      During SY21-22: Yes
      Description during SY20-21: Hybrid Reopening Framework
      Description during SY21-22: We are currently in the process of revising our framework in preparation for the 2021-2022 school year.
   d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation:
      During SY20-21: Yes
      During SY21-22: Yes
      Description during SY20-21: Hybrid Reopening Framework
      Description during SY21-22: We are currently in the process of revising our framework in preparation for the 2021-2022 school year.
   e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, and/or Tribal health departments:
      During SY20-21: Yes
      During SY21-22: Yes
Description of both SYs: The district works closely with the New Hampshire DHHS to complete contact tracing. Any Fall Mountain student and/or staff member that has had potential exposure is notified and required to quarantine according to CDC and NH DHHS guidelines.

f. Diagnostic and screening testing:
During SY20-21: No
During SY21-22: No
Description of both SYs: The district requires daily symptoms checks. No surveillance screening and diagnostic testing is being performed.

g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities
During SY20-21 (check one): Yes
During SY21-22 (check one): Yes
Description of both SYs:
2020-2021
   ● Staff vaccination clinic held: April 3, 2021 & April 24, 2021
   ● Students vaccination clinic held for ages 15-over: May 6, 2021 & May 27, 2021
   ● Students vaccination clinic held for ages 12-over: May 22, 2021 & June 12, 2021
2021-2022
The district will determine the need for additional vaccination clinics in accordance with state guidance/recommendations.

h. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies:
During SY20-21: Yes
During SY21-22: TBD
Description of both SYs:
2020-2021: Provided small, consistent learning cohorts of students; related service providers met individually with specific students with IEPs or just met with same class groups; provided remote instruction and learning packets when students with disabilities were required to isolate or quarantine; maintained regular communication with families and physicians for students with disabilities who had medical complications to ensure their health and safety; individualized learning schedules - time for in person instruction and remote instruction. frequent hand washing and mask breaks and use of face shields.

i. Coordination with state and local health officials (please check one):
During SY20-21 (check one): Yes
During SY21-22 (check one): Yes
Description of both SYs:
2020-2021: The district worked closely with DHHS for contact tracing. In addition, the district sought guidance from local emergency directors and health officials when making decisions.
2021-2022: The district will continue to work closely with all stakeholders listed above.

IV. Continuity of Services

1. The LEA has provided continuity of services in addressing student academic needs:
Description during SY20-21: While remote, the district provided additional services to students in need of academic support (additional days of in person learning, 1:1 tutoring, small group instruction).

Description during SY21-22: The district expects that these services will continue while exploring other ways to support students (interventionists, additional classroom teachers, HS competency recovery program, K-8 academic recovery summer program)

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: During remote instruction, students with disabilities were provided with learning packets, hands on materials / activities to keep them engaged socially, and remote therapeutic sessions; students who were not able to engage successfully remotely were invited into the schools for individual instruction and support; school counselors provided direct support to students and families; collaboration between in district mental health providers and out of district providers (West Central, Monadnock Family Services) was essential;

   Description during SY21-22: The district recognizes the need for continued support in addressing students' mental health needs and improving active family engagement; the district is going to employ school social workers and home/school liaisons to assist with building the bridge between home, school and the community; the school will continue to train and educate staff on how to recognize and address mental health needs in their students; overall wellness will continue to be a focus of the district (staff, students, families); Wellness committee will continue; the district is committed to identifying and addressing all students' mental health needs and the first step in this process is the screening of all students (DESSA screening tool);

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

   Description during SY20-21: Our administrators, district nurse and school counselors provided opportunities for staff to engage in coping strategies, stress management and social and emotional mental health workshops.

   Description during SY21-22: The district will continue to provide staff support as mentioned above.

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.

   Description: We are currently reviewing and revising our district Framework and expect to share it with the staff, families and community stakeholders during the Summer 2021.

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.
Description: The district will meet the federal requirements 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.

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.
Description: The district will 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.

VI. Authorization

LEA Superintendent’s Signature:

Date:

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.”