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 (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: __Cocheco Academy of The Arts Charter School__________________________

2. Date of Publication: ____June 11, 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:
________________www.cochecoarts.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: X Somewhat: No:

Description: The plan was developed by staff and made available to parents and students by email and via the school’s learning management system. A public meeting of stakeholders was held on April 6, 2021 to explain the SY20-21 plan, answer questions and take comments. The SY21-22 plan was presented at a public Board of Trustees meeting on June 14, 2021.
3. The plan is in an understandable and uniform format (please check one):

Yes: X    Somewhat:    No:
Description: PDF document and video


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: X    Somewhat:    No:
Description: There are currently no non-English-speaking parents in our community. However, we would obtain translation services if 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: X    Somewhat:    No:
Description: No such requests have been received, but we would make the plan available in an alternate format if requested.
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:
1) Masks are required for all staff and students.
2) Six feet of distance is maintained between all student seats.
3) Students will remain in cohorts by grade in the same classroom whenever possible.
4) Only one person is allowed in each restroom at a time. Handwashing is required.
5) Students and staff must wipe down their desk and chairs before changing classes.
6) A dedicated cleaning service thoroughly cleans the building at the end of each day.
7) All students and staff do a health screening prior to entering the school building each day.
8) Visitors are not allowed in the building.

Description during SY21-22:
1) Masks will be required for all staff and students if community transmission as measured by the NH DHHS is greater than “minimal” in all counties where our staff or students reside.
2) Three feet of distance will be maintained between all student seats.
3) Only one person is allowed in each restroom at a time. Handwashing will be required.
4) Students and staff must wipe down their desks and chairs before changing classes.
5) A dedicated cleaning service will thoroughly clean the building weekly.
6) All students and staff will do a health screening prior to entering the school building each day if community transmission as measured by the NH DHHS is greater than “minimal” in all counties where our staff or students reside.
7) Visitors will not be allowed beyond the reception area.

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: X Somewhat: No
During SY21-22 (check one): Yes: X Somewhat: No
Description of both SYs: Universal and correct wearing of masks is required in SY20-21.
Mask requirements in SY21-22 will depend on the level of community spread and current CDC requirements at the time of opening.

b. Physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding and modifying facilities):
During SY20-21 (check one): Yes: X Somewhat: No:
During SY21-22 (check one): Yes: X Somewhat: No:
Description of both SYs: Student seats are at least 6 feet apart and cohorts are used for core classes, lunch and advisory in SY20-21. Students will be seated at least 3 feet apart during SY21-22. Cohorts will not be used unless recommended by the CDC of NH DHHS during SY21-22.

c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette:

During SY20-21 (check one): Yes: X Somewhat: No:
During SY21-22 (check one): Yes: X Somewhat: No:
Description of both SYs: Handwashing will be required for both SY20-21 and SY 21-22.

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

During SY20-21 (check one): Yes: X Somewhat: No:
During SY21-22 (check one): Yes: X Somewhat: No:
Description of both SYs: All desks and chairs are wiped down between classes and a thorough cleaning of the building is done at the end of each school day during SY20-21. Desks and chairs will continue to be wiped down between classes and a routine cleaning will be done daily, with a thorough cleaning done weekly in SY21-22. Our facility is leased and we have no control over the building’s ventilation systems. We do, however, open windows and use fans to circulate fresh air into enclosed spaces.

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: X Somewhat: No:
During SY21-22 (check one): Yes: X Somewhat: No:
Description of both SYs: In both SY20-21 and SY21-22, in the event of a positive case of COVID-19, the community is notified by email. Those with exposure must quarantine for 10 days or until they receive a negative COVID-19 test after the 5th day after exposure. They may continue to participate in classes remotely during quarantine.

f. Diagnostic and screening testing:

During SY20-21 (check one): Yes: Somewhat: No: X
During SY21-22 (check one): Yes: Somewhat: No: X
Description of both SYs: Our school does not provide diagnostic and screening testing at school. Staff and students must visit a physician or pharmacy for these services.

g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities:
During SY20-21 (check one): Yes: Somewhat: X No:
During SY21-22 (check one): Yes: Somewhat: X No:
Description of both SYs: In SY20-21, the Dover Fire Department organized vaccination clinics for all Dover teachers, including our school. We do not know if this will happen in SY21-22, but we will participate in the program if it is provided again. We did not provide schoolwide vaccinations for our students because of the small number (< 20) eligible. Families were encouraged to register for vaccines on their own.

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

During SY20-21 (check one): Yes: X Somewhat: No:
During SY21-22 (check one): Yes: X Somewhat: No:
Description of both SYs: Our building is handicapped-accessible so no special accommodations are needed to manage COVID-19 protocols. If situations arise, they will be addressed on an individual basis.

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

During SY20-21 (check one): Yes: X Somewhat: No:
During SY21-22 (check one): Yes: X Somewhat: No:
Description of both SYs: Our school receives regular updates from the Department of Education about state and local health protocols, procedures, and recommendations.

IV. Continuity of Services

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

Description during SY20-21: CATA was remote for much of the SY20-21 school year. Our teachers continued to teach live synchronous classes without interruption. Because our enrollment is small, teachers and guidance were able to keep track of student progress and challenges and address issues as they arose.

Description during SY21-22: It is anticipated that CATA will be fully in-person for SY21-22. If the school does need to pivot to remote learning because of new COVID-19 outbreaks, we will use our previous experience with remote learning to monitor student progress in all classes.

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: CATA’s guidance counselor was checking in with students regularly, particularly those who had been referred to her by staff, parents, or other students. The school also held community meetings, clubs, and other social events remotely to keep students connected. CATA does not provide food services, but our partner in the building, the Seymour
Osman Community Center, provided meal programs and 68 Hours of Hunger programs that were open to CATA students.

Description during SY21-22: It is anticipated that CATA will be fully in-person for SY21-22. If the school does need to pivot to remote learning because of new COVID-19 outbreaks, we will use our previous experience with remote learning to monitor student social and emotional well-being. The Community Center programs noted above are anticipated to continue in the event of a renewed pandemic outbreak.

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

Description during SY20-21: CATA's staff is small and close-knit. The school has weekly staff meetings to not only provide information, but also to check on each other and offer support. The 5-person Administrative Team, along with the guidance counselor, can provide additional support if it is needed. These meetings were held remotely during remote learning, but are held in person now that the school has reopened.

Description during SY21-22: CATA's staff is small and close-knit. The school has weekly staff meetings to not only provide information, but also to check on each other and offer support. The 5-person Administrative Team, along with the guidance counselor, can provide additional support if it is needed.

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: X No:
Description: The plan will be presented in public board meetings at least every 6 months, and will be posted on the school's website.
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: X    No:
Description: Public comment will be considered and evaluated to determine whether plan revisions are required. If revisions are made, the plan will again be presented for public comment.

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: X    No:
Description: Any reopening plans or revisions will address CDC safety recommendations, as well as guidance provided by NH Public Health and local public health officials.

VI. Authorization

LEA Superintendent’s Signature: ___________________________ Date: ______________________

[Signature]

[Date: June 14, 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.”