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: SAU #35 Lisbon Regional

2. Date of Publication: August 7, 2020 with multiple revisions as guidance shifted.

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: The SAU#35 Reopening Plan was published on the SAU and school/district websites; in addition it was emailed to every family and staff member when significant revisions/updates occurred; posted frequently on various social media channels as well

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: Each school/district's reopening or safety team, comprised of teachers, parents, administrators & board members regularly provided input.

3. The plan is in an understandable and uniform format (please check one):
   Yes: ■ Somewhat: ☐ No: ☐
   Description: The plan is in a panelled format with a table of contents and various hyperlinks to CDC, NHDOE and DHHS webpages and documents.

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 plan utilizes simple language and features redundancy throughout in order to accommodate various comprehension styles/needs.

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: The SAU has not received requests for accessibility due to a disability but is ready to assist with Text to Speech with Google Drive.

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: Please click link below for a myriad of specifics:
   https://docs.google.com/document/d/1OmJzVOWuqjj4rmJCF_27PTnWHLBAn_TooHfUU5sb1rg/edit?usp=sharing
   Description during SY21-22: Please click link below for a myriad of specifics:
   https://docs.google.com/document/d/1OmJzVOWuqjj4rmJCF_27PTnWHLBAn_TooHfUU5sb1rg/edit?usp=sharing

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: [ ] Somewhat: [x] No: [ ]
   Description of both SYs: SY 21 fully masked for the whole year; SY22 awaiting CDC/DHHS guidance before making a decision.

   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: [ ] Somewhat: [x] No: [ ]
   Description of both SYs: SY21 all schools used cohorts and physical distancing; SY22 will feature a little less use of cohorts but continued physical distancing.

   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: SY21 featured handwashing routines and respiratory etiquette helping us to be fully face to face all year. SY22 will continue to following handwashing and respiratory etiquette.

   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: SY21 featured new cleaning routines and improved HVAC systems. SY22 will continue to initiate those cleaning routines and additional HVAC upgrades are planned at each site.

   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: SY21 featured contract tracing for each positive case and we plan to continue those procedures through SY22.

   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: We are not large enough nor with the capacity/resources to conduct this feature.

   g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities:
   During SY20-21 (check one): Yes: [x] Somewhat: [ ] No: [ ]

During SY21-22 (check one): Yes: [x] Somewhat: [ ] No: [ ]
Description of both SYs: SY21 we partnered with Littleton Regional Hospital do hold vaccination clinics for both staff and students. Planning for SY22 has yet to occur.

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: The SAU Director of Special Services carefully reviews the plan as updates occur and assists in problem solving various health and safety nees of students with disabilities.

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: Each school/district has local health officials as part of their safety/reopening team; this practice will continue through SY22.

IV. Continuity of Services

1. The LEA has provided continuity of services in addressing student academic needs:
Description during SY20-21: In SY21 personnel in each school/district was assigned to assure continuity of services in addressing student academic needs whether they were in person or remote.
Description during SY21-22: In SY22 the plan is to continue that assurance; annual meetings are all addressing plans for every student to return to inperson instruction.

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: SY21 featured telehealth services as well as food delivery and pick up for students who selected remote learning; on campus, SEL needs were primary before academic teaching and learning.
Description during SY21-22: SY22 will feature more enhancements with the initiation of a System of Care Grant SAU wide; already set to serve meals all summer long- including weekends.

3. The LEA has provided continuity of services in addressing staff social, emotional, mental, and other health needs:
Description during SY20-21: SY21 featured almost all of our professional development focused on caring of our staff during this challenging time.
Description during SY21-22: SY22, via the System of Care grant, will expand supports and resources for all of our staff.

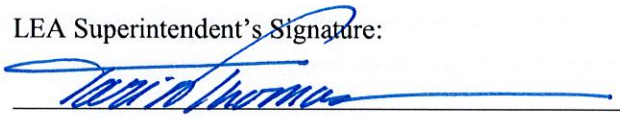
V. Plan Review

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 has already undergone fourteen revisions and will continue to do so through September 30, 2023.

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: Teams at each school will continue to provide input/feedback on the 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: ■ No: ☐
   Description: Each district within SAU#35 will update the plan and initiate all safety recommendations from the CDC.

VI. Authorization

LEA Superintendent's Signature: 

Date: June 11, 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."