

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: Milford School District, SAU 40
2. Date of Publication: June 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:
<https://www.milfordk12.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: The following message and link to a public survey were sent to families, staff, and community partners by the Interim Superintendent.
"Now, with an end to the pandemic finally in sight, we shall prepare for the 21-22 school year with the hopes of regaining normalcy. We invite you to participate in a survey to help inform the planning for the new year, as well as to prioritize the ESSER funding that our district will receive."
The survey can be accessed at this link: [HERE](#)
3. The plan is in an understandable and uniform format (please check one):
Yes: ☒ Somewhat: No:
Description: The MSD reopening plan is a word document, posted on-line for easy access, and in the same familiar format as the previously posted reopening plans shared with families in the 20-21 school year.
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 MSD reopening plan is written in English, and is translated by our EL teacher as necessary for families of English learners.

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 MSD reopening plan may be provided in an alternative format for ease of accessibility upon request.

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: Throughout the 20-21 school year, the MSD implemented a variety of mitigation strategies to maintain health and safety including remote, hybrid and in-person learning models, daily attestation, social distancing, cleaning and sanitizing protocols, temperature checks, face coverings, contact tracing, quarantining, travel guidance, limited shared use of classroom materials/supplies, minimal visitor access to school buildings, and athletic and extracurricular parameters.

Description during SY21-22: During the 21-22 school year, the MSD will implement mitigation strategies to maintain health and safety to the extent recommended or required by CDC/ NH DHHS. Strategies may include any of the following as deemed appropriate and as articulated in updated reopening plans posted to the district website: remote, hybrid and in-person learning models, daily attestation, social distancing, cleaning and sanitizing protocols, temperature checks, face coverings, contact tracing, quarantining, travel guidance, limited shared use of classroom materials/supplies, minimal visitor access to school buildings, and athletic and extracurricular parameters.

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: Use of face masks/coverings will be made optional upon return to school in the 21-22 school year both in and outdoors. No required use of face coverings will be expected. Face coverings will be made available for those choosing to wear them. Transmission rates or recommendations from NH DHHS may prompt a change to this plan.

- 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: Schools will make every effort to continue to follow the recommendations for social distancing at 3ft. in all learning spaces, however, 3ft. can not be guaranteed upon full-return to school. Additional mitigation strategies will be present to lower the risk of transmission.

- 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: Regular handwashing and hand sanitizer use will be provided for safe use by staff and students. Students receive instruction on proper hand washing and respiratory etiquette including covering coughs and sneezes in elbow.

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: Summer ductwork cleaning will be conducted as well as the enhanced systems of automated air control units for maintaining improved air quality. Fans have been issued in each classroom space for exhausting air during cooler temperatures, and for circulating air during warmer weather. Cleaning will occur in classrooms at the end of each school day. Cleaning supplies will be provided to staff to conduct in-classroom cleaning as necessary. All restrooms will be cleaned on a regular rotation along with door knobs, handles and entrances. Hallways and other common spaces will be cleaned nightly. Office spaces will be cleaned daily.

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: The MSD will continue to work in collaboration with the NH DHHS to identify close contacts, and will exclude those students based upon the NH DHHS recommendations.

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: The MSD does not plan to conduct diagnostic or screening tests on-site, however, school nurses, social workers, and others will continue to work closely with students and families to ensure they have the appropriate information necessary to obtain access to diagnostic and screening services outside of the school district.

g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities:

During SY20-21 (check one): Yes: ☒ Somewhat: No: The MSD coordinated a vaccination clinic for faculty and staff with surrounding school districts.

During SY21-22 (check one): Yes: Somewhat: ☒ No: ☒ Description of both SYs: Additional vaccination clinics are not planned for the 21-22 school year, however, after a school/evening vaccination clinic access for parents and students may be explored in partnership with a local pharmacy.

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 will be provided for children with disabilities with respect to all aspects of the district's health and safety, and educational plans, including, by example, the use of a face shield for students unable to tolerate face masks, and compensatory services per IEP requirements as necessary.

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: The continuation of communication and coordination with NH DHHS and local health officials including school nurses, public health officials, and Milford Fire Dept. is expected.

IV. Continuity of Services

1. The LEA has provided continuity of services in addressing student academic needs: Description during SY20-21: The MSD provided flexible learning models throughout the 20-21 school year including remote, hybrid, and in-person instruction. Technology devices (Chromebooks) were provided to students for use at home. Academic needs were met through direct instruction, on-line interactive learning programs, remote monitoring and assessment, remediation and support were offered through WIN Wednesdays, and compensatory services were provided as needed.

Description during SY21-22: The MSD intends to conduct a full in-person model for the 21-22 school year. Students and families desiring to continue with remote learning will be provided information to sign up for VLACS - Virtual Learning Academy Charter School services. A 1:1 Chromebook initiative is expected for continued access to technology to enhance and extend student learning.

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: Students and staff have engaged in the ChooseLove SEL program this school year which provided instruction and support on topics related to social, emotional, and mental health needs. The MSD also provided support through outreach services and ongoing counseling services by our social workers, school counselors, and licensed mental health workers. Food services provided meals to students and families at no cost during both remote and in-person learning models. Experts, including Lynn Lyons, provided professional development and family seminars. Promising Futures grants and NH DOE partnerships allowed for ongoing multi-systems of support services for students and families experiencing varying degrees of need.

Description during SY21-22: Students and staff will continue to implement the ChooseLove SEL program in the 21-22 school year which provides instruction and support on topics related to social, emotional, and mental health needs. The MSD will extend support through outreach services and ongoing counseling services by our social workers, school counselors, and licensed mental health workers. Food services will continue to provide meals to students and families at no cost. Promising Futures grants and NH DOE partnerships will continue to support our MTSS model for providing education and support to staff, students and families experiencing varying degrees of need.

3. The LEA has provided continuity of services in addressing staff social, emotional, mental, and other health needs:
Description during SY20-21: Staff members engaged in a variety of strategies for supporting their own social, emotional, and mental health including professional development by Lynn Lyons. Mrs. Lyons provided staff with tips and strategies for self-care and ideas for reducing levels of anxiety. The MSD provided stress balls, coping strategy cards, and fun raffles. Food and coffee trucks, sponsored luncheons, and exercise incentives were also implemented. The district's wellness team has generated ideas for engaging staff in additional strategies in the upcoming year. The Employee Assistance Program has several resources available for staff which will be promoted by the District's Human Resources department.

Description during SY21-22: The MSD Wellness team at both the district and school levels will continue to implement self-care ideas, services for addressing social, emotional, and mental health in the 21-22 school year. Engagement in ChooseLove for the workplace will be explored. The Promising Futures SEL grant will continue into a second year and will include continued work with Lynn Lyons to offer staff and student support. Before and after school yoga, walking clubs,

and exercise for stress relief will be encouraged. Fun raffles and uplifting activities will help to ensure staff health. The Employee Assistance Program has several resources available for staff which will be promoted by the District's Human Resources department.

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 Milford School District will meet federal regulatory requirements regarding Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan at least every six months through 9-30-23. Signed Assurances will be posted in the Grant Management System.

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: The Milford School District will monitor it's reopening plan based on public comment and data solicited from all stakeholders including students, parents, staff, and community members and make revisions as determined necessary. The most updated plan will be dated and posted to the District's website.

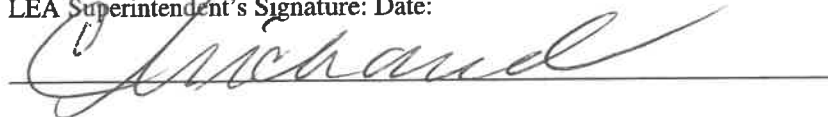
3. In doing so, the LEA will also meet the federal regulatory requirement to address CDC safety recommendations and, if the CDC has updated its safety recommendations at the time the LEA is revising its plan, each of the updated CDC safety recommendations.
(Note federal regulation on this plan requires 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 Milford School District's reopening plan will include CDC safety recommendations and is committed to revising it's plan as necessary based on updated safety recommendations. The most updated plan will be dated and posted to the District's website.

VI. Authorization

LEA Superintendent's Signature: Date:



June 23, 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.”