

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: Oyster River Cooperative School District SAU 5
2. Date of Publication: December 20, 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: The plan is available on the district website at orsd.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 plan was reviewed and approved by the School Board in June and August. Multiple opportunities were given to the public through public meetings and email

3. The plan is in an understandable and uniform format (please check one):
Yes: ☒ Somewhat: ☐ No: ☐

Description: The plan is in a uniform format

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: If required we provide translations to parents with limited English proficiency

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: If requested, we provide an alternative format accessible to a parent who is an individual with a disability. School district uses PDFs to use with accessibility supports such as an easy reader

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: Staff were trained in layers of mitigation such as good hand hygiene, appropriate mask wearing, screening checklist before entering a district facility, physical distancing.

Description during SY21-22: Layers of mitigation include: hand hygiene, universal mask wearing, checklist screening by parent/staff, distancing.

We have also held several clinics to provide vaccines and boosters to students and staff. Participate in SASS program for COVID-19 testing (screening and symptomatic).

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: All buildings require mask wearing at all times. All doors are posted to inform visitors that masks are required at all times. Accommodations are considered for staff and students who may have a disability that prevents them from wearing a mask.

- 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: Physical distancing is enforced at all times. Classrooms have been set up to assure this is accomplished 3 feet for classrooms and teaching spaces and 6 feet for lunchrooms.

- 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: Students are guided to wash hands frequently and masks are being worn to control the spread of germs.

- 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: Cleaning of all buildings continues to be a priority and filters are being changed more frequently to improve ventilation.

Facilities Director monitors latest recommendations from CDC and NHDHHS. Air is exchanged in all schools at a higher rate than recommended.

- 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 nurses in each building are tracking all cases and reporting this information to NHDHHS.

- 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: 21-22 Participate in SASS Program with UNH (weekly screening). School nurses conduct symptomatic testing using rapid and PCR tests, as part of the SASS Program for students and faculty. District has required CLIA certification.

- g. 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: We have had 7 clinics over the last year to provide vaccinations and boosters to students and staff.
 District has collaborated with Stratford County Public Health and McGregor EMS to conduct clinics.

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: Teams with parents to accommodate children with disabilities.

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: School nurses report results to MH/DHHS. School district participate in School Partner calls with DHHS.
 School nurses coordinate with DHHS representatives as needed.

IV. Continuity of Services

1. The LEA has provided continuity of services in addressing student academic needs:
 Description during SY20-21: We provided many summer opportunities for students to address learning loss for the 20-21 school year. Opportunities were offered to identified students at all levels using our MTSS model of instruction. Social opportunities were also increased.
 Description during SY21-22: We used ESSER funds to hire additional tutors to address learning loss.

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: We monitored student wellness and provided access to students who need additional support.
 District used MTSS model of instruction to identify students who were struggling. Food was delivered to homes throughout the school year.
 Description during SY21-22: We continue to address this area of concern with multiple support services. We added a counselor at the middle school to help address mental health needs with students.
 District has SEL and Mental Health in our Strategic Plan which includes a coordinator for each level (elementary, middle, high). District has EMD 68 Hours of Hunger Program and continues to offer free meals based on federal grant.

3. The LEA has provided continuity of services in addressing staff social, emotional, mental, and other health needs:
 Description during SY20-21: We provided some support to staff in the 20-21 year to help with social, emotional and mental needs including resilience training.
 School Psychologist and Director of Counseling coordinated supports.
 Description during SY21-22: This year we have provided additional services to staff. Recently we brought in professional staff to meet with individuals to provide on-site counseling services. We have also reminded the staff of EAP services. Provided PD on dealing burnout.

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: We continue to monitor and update our plans as the situation with this virus changes. Governance Committee and Building Task Forces meet monthly.

TEMPLATE

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: We have 2 sessions for public comment at all of our 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: We are always checking and updating our plan to be sure we are in compliance with CDC recommendations, as well as state recommendations from NHDHHS

VI. Authorization

LEA Superintendent's Signature:

Date:

DeJ Gherly

12/22/2021

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.”