

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: Westmoreland School District
2. Date of Publication: December 3, 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://drive.google.com/file/d/1Rilid8FD-JLHWnNBvQkz-4NhrWc5tfEA/view?usp=sharing>
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 District utilized a survey and held a public meeting to discuss the structure of the plan
3. The plan is in an understandable and uniform format (please check one):
Yes: ☒ Somewhat: ☐ No: ☐
Description: The plan utilizes a table of contents and follows a sequence of topics
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 was written in an understandable manner to stakeholders. The LEA will translate the plan for individuals with limited English proficiency upon request.
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: An alternate format can be requested through the LEA (in person presentation/oral transcription)

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: Schools enforced a minimum of distance between students in accordance with DHHS guidance and all students and staff were required to be masked. Further the District adopted a health screener which was required. Students who arrived without completing a screener were screened by our staff.

Description during SY21-22: All schools will continue to actively monitor and implement the most current guidance from the NHDHHS in order to maintain the health and safety of students, staff and visitors to the schools.

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: Mask requirements are in accordance with NHDHHS and are routinely updated with any new guidance. Correct mask wearing instructions are posted throughout the school.

- 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: We followed distancing protocols as determined by NHDHHS.

- 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: Signs are posted on correct handwashing techniques and respiratory etiquette.

- 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: Yes we maintain an accelerated hard/ touch surface cleaning program as well as a sanitization schedule for the school to be electrostatically sanitized weekly.

- 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: We followed NHDHHS guidelines including contact tracing, mandatory quarantine for close contact, symptoms, and travel as suggested.

- 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: In SY21, we utilized custom electronic screener and manual for those who did not or could not fill out the screener. In SY22, we COVID-19 pool testing and targeted testing for anyone with symptoms with parent consent.

- 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: SY21 Superintendent worked to schedule appointments for all staff at Keene's local vaccination site.
 Open to all staff who elected to use the District for an appointment. SY22 there are scheduled COVID-19 vaccination clinics for eligible students.

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: SY21 Students who were deemed at risk when fully remote were invited into schools on additional days to avoid learning loss.
 SY22: Students with disabilities who cannot be present are provided tutoring.

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: Superintendent meets weekly with NHDHHS and DOE to stay current with recommendations and adjust school guidelines as appropriate.

IV. Continuity of Services

- The LEA has provided continuity of services in addressing student academic needs:
 Description during SY20-21: The district provided in-person, remote and hybrid instruction to address student need. The district also ran specialized transportation during the school day as needed so students could maintain instructional consistency. The district also broadened and strengthened summer programming to address instructional loss during the 20-21 school year.
 Description during SY21-22: The district is monitoring academic achievement and provide a continuity of in-person academic intervention to students that demonstrate need.
- 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: The district provided in-person, remote and hybrid intervention to address the social, emotional and mental health needs of students. The district also ran specialized transportation during the school day as needed so students could maintain consistently with counseling and therapy sessions. The district also provided food services as required.
 Description during SY21-22: The district is monitoring social, emotional and mental health needs of students and provide a continuity of intervention to students that demonstrate the need.
- The LEA has provided continuity of services in addressing staff social, emotional, mental, and other health needs:
 Description during SY20-21: Staff participated in wellness activities in their buildings throughout the school year. For example, staff are participating in yoga before work to help with their mental, social and emotional needs.
 Description during SY21-22: Staff have the opportunity to participate and report out on wellness activities in their buildings that addresses their social, emotional and mental health needs.

V. Plan Review

- 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: As demonstrated throughout FY20-21, the LEA has continually updated and revised plan as additional guidance was given and will continue to do so.

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: As demonstrated from March 2020 to the present, the LEA has continually reached out to receive and consider input in determination of any plan revisions during public meetings, surveys and broadcast communications.

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: Throughout the 2020 to 2021 school year, the LEA has closely monitored and continues to monitor all safety recommendations by New Hampshire Health and Human Services as directed by the CDC to following state guidance first.

VI. Authorization

LEA Superintendent's Signature:



Date:

12/20/2021

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.”