



LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Service Pursuant to the Federal American Rescue Plan Act, Section 2001(i)

Introduction and Background

As announced in the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE)'s [April 28, 2021 broadcast](#), in March 2021 President Biden signed the Federal [American Rescue Plan \(ARP\) Act](#), Public Law 117-2, into law. The ARP Act provides an additional \$122 billion in Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) to States and school districts to help safely return, sustain the safe operation of schools, and address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the nation's students. As with the previous ESSER funds available under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, and the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA), the purpose of the additional funding is to support local educational agencies (LEAs) in preparing for and responding to the impacts of COVID-19 on educators, students, and families. Additional information on ARP ESSER may be found in the NJDOE's [funding comparison fact sheet](#).

Section 2001(i)(1) of the ARP Act requires each LEA that receives ARP ESSER funds to develop and make publicly available on the LEA's website, no later than 30 days after receiving ARP ESSER funds, a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services for all schools (Safe Return Plan) A Safe Return Plan is required of all fund recipients, including those that have already returned to in-person instruction. Section 2001(i)(2) of the ARP Act further requires that the LEA seek public comment on the Safe Return Plan and take those comments into account in finalization of the Safe Return Plan. Under the interim final requirements published in [Volume 86, No. 76 of the Federal Register](#) by the U.S. Department of Education (USDE), an LEA must periodically, but no less frequently than every six months through September 30, 2023, review and, as appropriate, revise its Safe Return Plan.

Pursuant to those requirements, **LEAs must submit to the NJDOE and post on their website their Safe Return Plans by June 24, 2021.** The NJDOE intends to make LEA ARP ESSER Fund applications available in EWEG on May 24, 2021 and LEAs will submit their Safe Return Plans to the NJDOE via EWEG. To assist LEAs with the development of their Safe Return Plans, the NJDOE is providing the following template.

This template incorporates the federally-required components of the Safe Return Plan. The questions in the template below will be included in the LEA ARP ESSER Fund application in EWEG. LEAs will submit responses to the questions within the LEA ARP ESSER Fund application in EWEG by June 24, 2021. The NJDOE hopes that this template will allow LEAs to effectively plan for that submission and to easily post the information to their websites as required by the ARP Act.

Note that on May 17, 2021, Governor Murphy [announced](#) that upon the conclusion of the 2020-2021 school year, portions of Executive Order 175 allowing remote learning will be rescinded, meaning that schools will be required to provide full-day, in-person instruction, as they were prior to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. The NJDOE and New Jersey Department of Health will share additional information regarding State requirements or guidance for health and safety protocols for the 2021-2022 school year as it becomes available.

Template: LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

LEA Name: Moonachie School District (MSD)

Date (mm/dd/yyyy): June 24, 2021 (BOE Approved June 8, 2021)

Date Revised (mm/dd/yyyy):

1. Maintaining Health and Safety

For each mitigation strategy listed below (A–H), please describe how the LEA 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 mask

The MSD has implemented full in-person instruction since Fall of 2020. We followed NJDOH guidelines, including universal wearing of masks, unless it inhibits the person's health, extreme heat, there is a documented medical condition, or it is reflected in a student's IEP. Face coverings are also required for visitors, unless it will inhibit the individual's health. All members of our school community are instructed on the correct wearing of masks. All members of our school community continue universal wearing of masks, every day. As our Governor has announced the continued wearing of masks in schools for Fall 2021, we will continue our process of training the school community on mask protocols. Being successful with universal wearing of masks, the MSD is confident that if required for Fall 2021, universal masking will be successful. Our Safe Return plan for the Fall of 2021, which outlines our policies for universal masking, can be found at: <https://www.moonachieschool.org/Page/3740>

B. Physical distancing (e.g., including use of cohorts/podding)

The MSD has implemented full in-person instruction since Fall of 2020. We followed NJDOH guidelines, including Physical Distancing & Cohorts. We implement 6-feet of Social Distance between all students & staff. Measuring & floor markings are utilized to ensure social distancing standards are met. The MSD created a schedule, whereas cohorts remain together, never mixing. Teachers report to cohort classrooms to provide instruction, rather than students moving. Social Distancing & cohorts remain during lunch & recess. If Social Distancing & cohort requirements are recommended by the NJDOH for Fall 2021, the MSD will continue our practices that were successful this year. The MSD has the space & capability, just as we did this year, to accommodate every student for Live Instruction at the Recommended Socially Distant guidelines. Our Safe Return Plan for the Fall of 2021, which outlines our policies for social distancing and cohorts, can be found at: <https://www.moonachieschool.org/Page/3740>

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

The MSD has implemented full in-person instruction since Fall of 2020. We followed NJDOH guidelines, including Handwashing, Sanitation, & Respiratory Etiquette. All school members were taught proper self-sanitation techniques. The MSD has prepared & maintains hand sanitizing stations with alcohol-based hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol). All school members hand-sanitize upon entering & exiting the building & classrooms. Signs are posted as reminders of proper sanitization techniques. The MSD has assigned bathrooms & times, supervised by staff, whereas handwashing is monitored. Lunch is served in classroom. Student work stations are sanitized before & after lunch. Students properly hand-sanitize before & after eating, as well as after outdoor activities. All procedures will continue, if recommended by CDC & NJDOH. Our Safe Return Plan for the Fall of 2021, which outlines our policies for Handwashing & Respiratory Etiquette can be found at: <https://www.moonachieschool.org/Page/3740>

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

The MSD has implemented full in-person instruction since Fall of 2020. We followed NJDOH guidelines, including Cleaning, Maintaining, & Improved Ventilation. The MSD purchased & maintained CDC recommended cleaning supplies & sprayers. If a positive case is identified, the room is closed for 48-hours, with a sanitation process. The MSD purchased & maintained Air Scrubbers which remove Covid-19 particles from the air. The MSD uses rooms with windows & practices the policy of every window open, at all times. The MSD upgraded our ventilation system to the recommended Merv-13 filters. We have decreased the time between replacement of filters, to ensure improved ventilation. The MSD will continue all practices for cleaning & maintaining healthy facilities and improved ventilation, if recommended by the CDC & NJDOH. Our Safe Return Plan for the Fall of 2021, which outlines our policies for Cleaning, Maintaining, & improved Ventilation can be found at: <https://www.moonachieschool.org/Page/3740>

E. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments

The MSD has implemented full in-person instruction since Fall of 2020. We followed NJDOH guidelines, including Contact Tracing, Isolation, & Mandated Quarantine. When a positive case is identified, isolation with appropriate PPE supervision & full contact tracing occurs. The case is reported to local & state health officials, while maintaining confidentiality. In accordance with the BCDOH, we have quarantined students & staff in contact with a positive case. As recommended by the BCDOH, when 2 unconnected positive cases occurred in a 14-day period, the MSD is closed & remote learning is implemented for two-weeks. The building is sanitized & all school members are recommended to self-monitor symptoms. Re-admittance policies are consistent with NJDOH guidelines. The MSD will implement all NJDOH guidelines next year. Our Safe Return Plan for the Fall of 2021, which outlines our policies for Contact Tracing, Isolation, & Quarantine can be found at: <https://www.moonachieschool.org/Page/3740>

F. Diagnostic and screening testing

The MSD has implemented full in-person instruction since Fall of 2020. We follow NJDOH guidelines, including Diagnostic Screening. The MSD purchased a Symptom Screener, MyMedBot. Each day members of the school completes a symptom survey. If a positive response to any Covid-19 symptom(s), the student is a Remote Learner for the day. The MSD receives alerts in real-time. Our nursing staff communicates with the family & implements all NJDOH guidelines before returning to live instruction. Siblings are remote learners when a symptom is identified. All members of the school undergo a temperature screening before entering the school building. These practices have allowed the MSD to prevent cases of Covid-19. Re-admittance policies are consistent with NJDOH guidelines. The MSD will implement all NJDOH guidelines next year. Our Safe Return Plan for the Fall of 2021, which outlines our policies for Diagnostic & Screening Testing can be found at: <https://www.moonachieschool.org/Page/3740>

G. Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible

The MSD has implemented full in-person instruction since Fall of 2020. We follow NJDOH guidelines, including promoting the vaccination of staff. The MSD led a robust effort to provide vaccinations to all staff who wished to receive it. Partnering with the BCDOE & our township proved successful in timely vaccinations for all staff who desired this opportunity. The MSD has over 85% of staff fully vaccinated. Every staff member of the MSD who wants to be vaccinated, is vaccinated. We continue to share opportunities for vaccination to our staff & families as local information is provided. Should vaccinations be approved for Elementary & Middle school aged children, we will continue our practices of sharing information with families. We will engage in partnerships with the local Borough and the BCDOE to offer convenient times and/or locations for families who wish for their children to receive the vaccination.

H. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies.

Reasonable accommodations were provided for individuals that the CDC identified as having a higher risk for severe illness from Covid-19 such as medically fragile students with IEPs, students with complex disabilities with IEPs or students who require accommodations under a Plan in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. These have included: increased mask breaks, removing the mask requirement with appropriate documentation, gradually increasing in-person time with purposeful transition plans, increased kinesthetic learning opportunities, the creation of pods for students needing similar academic interventions, purposeful brain breaks, modifications aligned to IEP Goals and Accommodations, and increased daily communication with parents. Social and emotional supports were also provided as needed. Our Safe Return Plan for the Fall of 2021, which outlines our policies for Appropriate Accommodations, can be found at: <https://www.moonachieschool.org/Page/3740>

2. Ensuring Continuity of Services

A. Describe how the LEA will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address students' academic needs and students' and staff's social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services. (1000 character limit)

The MSD has identified needs that will be funded by the CRRSA-ESSER II grant, which will provide a continuation of services for students impacted by COVID-19. The MSD is planning to increase the use of technology, by implementing a 1-to-1 initiative for all students. The MSD is planning to provide therapeutic care for students who have experienced isolation, trauma, depression, & anxiety. This care will include individual & family services. The MSD has expanded our Summer programming for the next two-years, ensuring academic acceleration & social interactions. The MSD is also implementing an updated curriculum for Math & ELA, in grades K-5. The MSD is planning a two-year After School Academy, providing students with accelerated learning opportunities. The MSD will provide SEL PD & incorporate SEL strategies into daily instruction. The MSD will continue to supply PPE & building sanitation supplies needed to offer the level of care needed to support the health and safety of all.

3. Public Comment

A. Describe how the LEA sought public comment on its plan, and how it took those public comment into account in the development of its plan. Note, the ARP requires that LEAs seek public comment for each 60-day revision to the plan. (1000 character limit)

During the Summer of 2020, in preparation of returning safely, the MSD hosted three community sessions. All members of the community were invited: parents, board members, medical experts, staff, town officials, and the local police department were represented (Restart Committee). Community input was received and used when preparing for our safe return in September of 2020. Throughout the year, we continued this practice, hosting virtual town-hall information sessions, and implementing our Pandemic Response Team. The Safe Return Plan was approved by the Moonachie Board of Education at the June 8, 2021 Board (BOE) meeting. This is a public meeting of this governing body. In addition to opportunities for public discussion at this and at the subsequent BOE meetings, the Reopening Committee reviewed the ARP Mandatory Subgrant Award for revisions as required by the ARP. Public comment will be solicited as required.

B. Describe how the LEA ensured that the plan is in an understandable and uniform format; is to the extent practicable written in a language that parents can understand or, if not practicable to provide written translations to a parent with limited English proficiency, will be orally translated for such a parent; and upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA, will be provided in an alternative format accessible to that parent. (1000 character limit)

The Safe Return Plan, and all subsequent documents, are published on the district website at <https://www.moonachieschool.org/Page/3740>. The Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services is posted there as well. For those members of the public whose first language is not English, the website has the ability to translate text into 105 different languages. Should oral translation be needed by a member of the public, we have the ability to provide this service in Spanish. The text of the Safe Return Plan is understandable and follows a clear format, making it easy for the public to access the area they wish. Upon request and if necessary, an individual with a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act will be provided information in an alternative format that is accessible for that parent or guardian.