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Applicant: 03 4600 RUTHERFORD - Bergen

ARP Safe Return Plan ▾

Application: ARP Safe Return Plan - 00-

Project Period: 9/1/2021 - 8/31/2022

Cycle: Original Application

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.

Support for Schools: Describe how the LEA will support its schools in safely returning to in-person instruction and sustaining safe operation. This description must include:

For each mitigation strategy listed below, 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.

LEA Response Table

1) Universal and correct wearing of masks

([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

Face coverings for students are currently required at all times when in the school building. However, at teacher discretion, students will be given "mask breaks" when social distancing is possible. It is also necessary to acknowledge that enforcing the use of face coverings might be impractical for young children or individuals with disabilities. Accommodations for students who are unable to wear a face covering are addressed according to that student's need and in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations. Exceptions to requirements for face coverings include when doing so would inhibit the person's health, the individual is in extreme heat

outdoors, the individual is in water, the student's documented medical condition or disability as reflected in an IEP precludes the use of face covering, or the student is under the age of two and could risk suffocation. Currently, face coverings are always required for visitors and staff in the buildings.

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

([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

All instructional and non-instructional rooms in school and district facilities comply with recommended social distancing to the maximum extent practicable. Students are seated at least three feet apart. When a classroom or non-instructional room was not able to maintain this physical distance, additional modifications were implemented whenever possible, including having students sit on only one side of a table, spaced appropriately. Schools in the district provided physical markings to help ensure that staff and students remain socially distant in lines and at other times. When possible, a school created "one-way routes" in hallways and stairways. Hall monitors were stationed near restrooms to enforce social distancing in the bathroom and in the hallway. Times for lunch were staggered to allow for social distancing. Students remain in class groups during outdoor recess to avoid intermingling with other classes during the school day.

3) Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

The district promotes behaviors that reduce the spread of COVID-19 such as encouraging staff and students to stay home when appropriate; encouraging the practice of hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette; requiring the use of face coverings; and signs and messages in and around school buildings. Hand washing and hand sanitizing are permitted and encouraged throughout the school day. Each school prepared and maintains hand sanitizing stations with alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Such stations are located in each classroom; at entrances and exits of buildings; near lunchrooms and toilets; children five and younger are supervised when using hand sanitizer. School officials developed a school-wide plan where students are required to wash hands at least 20 seconds at regular intervals during the school day and always before eating, after using the bathroom, and after blowing their nose, coughing, and/or sneezing.

4) Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

Drivers and bus aides wear face coverings and use hand sanitizer when entering the bus for the first time. Drivers and aides continue to use hand sanitizer as warranted. Buses are each equipped with a UV-C air purifier. Hand sanitizer is provided to students at the entrance to the bus. Students maintain social distance and wear face coverings while waiting for the bus (unless a documented disability or medical condition prohibits face covering usage). The district adheres to Rutherford Maintenance Department cleaning procedures. In addition, the department follows the cleaning schedule developed by the district's custodial and maintenance consultant, Edvocate-School Support Solutions. The district maintains an adequate supply of cleaning supplies, including hand sanitizers, gloves, and face coverings to allow for a two-month supply. The staff disinfects during the school day for touchpoints, including but not limited to, phones, door handles, light switches, handrails, etc.

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

([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

Procedures for symptomatic staff and students include students and staff with symptoms are safely and respectfully isolated from others. School officials follow Communicable Disease Service guidelines for illness reporting. If the school district becomes aware that an individual who has spent time in a district facility tests positive for COVID-19, officials notify the local health officials, staff and family of a confirmed case while maintaining confidentiality. The procedure the district uses when someone tests positive includes the establishment of an isolation space. Students remain in isolation with continued supervision and care until picked up by an authorized adult. The district follows current Communicable Disease Service guidelines for illness reporting. An adequate amount of PPE is available, accessible and provided for use. Methods to assist in contact tracing include records of groups/cohorts, assigned staff, and daily attendance.

6) Diagnostic and screening testing

([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

The school district adopted Board policy 1648 regarding the screening procedures for students and employees upon arrival at school or work location for symptoms and history of exposure. Screening procedures include the following: staff must visually check students for symptoms upon arrival and/or confirm with families that

students were free of COVID-19 symptoms; health checks must be conducted safely and respectfully, and in accordance with any applicable privacy laws and regulations; results must be documented when signs/symptoms of COVID-19 are observed; any screening policy/protocol must take into account students with disabilities and accommodations that may be needed in the screening process for those students. School officials have encouraged parents to be alert for signs of the illness in their children and to keep their child home when sick. Parents/guardians are to use the Daily Home Screening Checklist to assess their child's health before the child comes to school.

7) Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible
([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

Most educators and staff members have voluntarily made vaccination appointments and were vaccinated. In conjunction with the Bergen County Board of Health, staff members who were not yet vaccinated participated in a random drawing to receive the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Eventually there were no more volunteers for the drawing since all who requested to participate were vaccinated. The district also distributed all health notices, including notices of locations offering vaccines. Students who are eligible for vaccines are already making their own appointments and getting vaccinated.

8) Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies
([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

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 Individualized Education Programs (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 (504 Plan). Accommodations were also made for those younger students or individuals with disabilities who could not wear a face covering and addressed according to a student's particular need and in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations. An exception to a face covering was also made if a student had a documented medical condition or disability as reflected in an IEP that precluded the use of a face covering.

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Safe Return Plan Updated

Safe Return Plan text and assurances must be agreed to every six months.

Date Plan Updated

Describe how the LEA 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. ([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

The district has identified certain needs that are being funded by the CRRSA-ESSER II grant and will continue under the ARP-ESSER III grant to provide a continuation of services for students and staff impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The district is planning to increase its use of interactive technology, particularly for students with disabilities and for students entering kindergarten and grade 1. The district is planning to provide therapeutic care for identified students who have experienced isolation, trauma, depression and anxiety. The therapeutic care will include individual and family counseling to support students' academic success and mental health needs. Summer programs are planned in English Language Arts and math during summer 2022 and during zero period/after school programs. A variety of programs are being planned for the high school, the middle school and the upper elementary school. A revision of the ELA and math curricula will increase fidelity to the standards.

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. ([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

The Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services was initially approved by the Rutherford Board of Education on June 2, 2021. The update was approved by the Board on January 3, 2022. These were public meetings of this governing body. There were opportunities for public discussion at these meetings and at subsequent Board of Education meetings. The reopening committee will continue to review this template and the ARP Mandatory Subgrant Award for revisions as required. Public comment will be solicited as required by the subgrant award. The ARP-ESSER III submission was Board approved on October 25, 2021.

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. ([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

The School Reopening Plan is published on the district website at www.rutherfordschools.org. and the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services will be posted there as well, once it is Board approved. For those members of the public whose first language is not English, the website has the ability to translate text into eleven different languages. The text of the ReOpening Plan is understandable and follows a clear format, making it easy for people 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.

Briefly describe any guidance, professional learning, and technical assistance opportunities the LEA will make available to its schools. ([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

Professional learning and technical assistance will be provided for two districtwide online support programs that reinforce most content areas. This support will increase student success in a variety of content areas after the disruption of learning caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The district is budgeting for social-emotional learning training for professional staff to strengthen SEL, promote SEL for students, and to develop a plan for addressing the emotional fallout of the trauma of COVID-19.

Provide current link to the district's website where the plan is posted.

www.rutherfordschools.org

By checking this box and saving the page, the applicant hereby certifies that they will assure that the information contained in the Safe Return to School plans will be updated within this system every 6 months during this grant project period.

Assurances Fully Agreed to By:

Brenda Fargo

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Assurances

American Rescue Plan of 2021

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ARP- ESSER)

- By checking this box and saving the page, the applicant hereby certifies that he/she has read, understood and will comply with the assurances listed below that will apply to any subsequent application amendments of all federal programs in which the LEA participates.

The Local Educational Agency (LEA) hereby assures the New Jersey Department of Education that:

1. The LEA, as a recipient of funds under the ARP understands the general assurances agreed to in the GMS system also apply to the ARP funds.
2. The LEA, as a recipient of federal funds under the ARP will determine the most important educational needs as a result of COVID-19, propose a timeline for providing services and assistance to students and staff, determine the extent to which the LEA intends to use funds awarded under the ARP to promote the authorized purposes and uses, and determine how the LEA intends to assess and address student learning loss resulting from the disruption in educational services. This information should be documented by the LEA and be available upon request by the NJDOE;
3. The LEA will ensure that funds awarded under the ARP are used for activities allowable under section 2001. All activities and expenditures must be reasonable, necessary, allocable under section 2001 and meet the purpose of the ARP, to prepare for, prevent and respond to COVID-19. Further, the LEA, as a recipient of funds under section 2001 of the ARP, will reserve not less than twenty percent (20%) of such funds to address learning loss through the implementation of evidence-based interventions, such as summer learning

- or summer enrichment, extended day, comprehensive afterschool programs, or extended school year programs, and ensure that such interventions respond to the students' academic, social, and emotional needs and address the disproportionate impact of the coronavirus on the student subgroups described in section 1111(b)(2)(B)(xi) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 USC § 6311(b)(2)(B)(xi), students experiencing homelessness, and children in foster care;
4. The LEA, as a recipient of funds under section 2001 of the ARP agrees to develop and comply with the requirements for a safe return to in-person instruction as required in section 2001(e) of the ARP;
 5. The LEA will use such fiscal control and fund accounting procedures as will ensure proper disbursement of, and accounting for, Federal funds paid to the LEA under the ARP. LEA will utilize Grants Management System (EWEG) to budget and report financial expenditures relating to ESSER funds provided under the ARP. Further, upon request by NJDOE, the LEA will provide documentation to support claims for expenditures, including expenditure ledgers, invoices, receipts and documentation to support purchases and proof of services received;
 6. The LEA will adopt and use proper methods of administering funds received under the ARP Act, including:
 - A. The enforcement of any obligations imposed by law on agencies, institutions, organizations, and other recipients responsible for carrying out each federal award; and
 - B. The correction of deficiencies in operations that are identified through audits, monitoring, or evaluation.
 7. The LEA will ensure that any and all internet connectivity purchases are in compliance with the Child Internet Protection Act (CIPA);
 8. The LEA, as a recipient of funds under the ARP will comply with the provisions of all applicable acts, regulations and assurances, including the New Jersey School Code, the New Jersey Administrative Code, orders and guidance from the New Jersey State Department of Education, NJDOE State Board of Education, and the following provisions of Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) 34 CFR parts 76, 77, 81, 82, 84, 97, 98, and 99; the OMB Guidelines to Agencies on Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement) in 2 CFR part 180, as adopted and amended as regulations of the Department in 2 CFR part 3485; and the Uniform Guidance in 2 CFR part 200, as adopted and amended as regulations of the Department in 2 CFR part 3474.

Assurances Fully Agreed to By:

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Submit

The application has been submitted for review.

Consistency Check

Lock Application

Unlock Application

Consistency Check was run on: 1/3/2022

Authorized Representative submitted the application to NJDOE on: 1/3/2022

OGM Final Review