



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 reopen, 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.

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

Name: Glen Rock Public School District

Date Board of Education Approved: June 14, 2021, August 23, 2021, December 13, 2021, June 27, 2022 Date Revised: June 18, 2021; August 13, 2021; June 13, 2022; December 19, 2022; May 22, 2023; December 11, 2023

Maintaining Health and Safety

For each mitigation strategy listed below (A–H), please describe how the Glen Rock School District 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:

The Glen Rock School District will follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended actions in addition to other guidance issued by the NJDOH, NJDOE or other governing bodies. At the time of this revision, it remains no longer mandatory that masks be worn indoors in all district and school buildings by all students, employees, and parents/visitors, no matter one's vaccination status.

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

- All student desks will be spaced apart as far as possible per each classroom's dimensions. Desks will be faced in the same direction and group seating arrangements will be limited. Students will be requested to physically distance themselves to the greatest extent possible in the hallways and the CDC's recommended physical distancing of three feet apart in schools will be maintained to the greatest extent possible as follows:
- All student desks will be spaced apart as far as possible during large group settings such as study halls, lunches, assemblies, etc.

To further mitigate risk, limit and/or eliminate direct contact at entry and exit points, the district will implement procedures that will reduce the frequency and flow of visitors. This will also include a suspension in the dropping off of nonessential items for students during the school day. In addition, the following will be implemented:

- Signage promoting social distancing shall be posted and building ingress/egress shall be established in an effort to promote social

distancing to the extent practical. Signs will be placed in hallways and common areas segregating common areas as best as possible to promote social distancing to the extent practical. Appropriate signage will also be installed for the district's athletic fields and facilities.

- Accommodations, where appropriate, will be discussed and implemented with students and staff that are deemed to be high risk. Possible accommodations could be, but are not limited to, additional Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), room relocation and/or schedule adjustments.
- The district will encourage students and staff to take their temperatures at home and remain home when an elevated fever is detected.
- Hand sanitation stations containing the CDC's recommended alcohol base of 60% shall be placed in common areas and classrooms.

The entire K-12 student body has been and will continue to be in school for full day in-person instruction each school day.

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

- Hand sanitation stations containing the CDC's recommended alcohol base of 60% shall be placed in common areas and classrooms. In addition, hand washing signage will be posted in all faculty and student bathrooms.

Furthermore, signage and communication will emphasize the importance of:

- Covering your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing
- Using tissues and throwing them away
- Washing your hands or using a hand sanitizer every time you touch your nose or mouth

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

Disposable gloves will be provided to minimize the time necessary to clean supplies, materials and/or equipment that are frequently shared between students. In addition the following will be implemented:

- Classroom desks/chair seats in all K-12 buildings will be disinfected each day. Classrooms will be provided disinfectant wipes to be used as needed. All elementary school buildings unit ventilators were replaced in September 2020, and each instructional space is air-conditioned. Each installed unit ventilator provides fresh air. When practical, windows will be opened to provide additional fresh air. Windows located in instructional areas have been evaluated to ensure they are in proper working order. In addition, the district installed bi-polar ionization units in every district classroom and instructional space throughout the district in September, 2021.
- Filter replacements for Heating & Ventilating and HVAC units at all of the district's schools are completed in accordance with manufacturer's guidelines. Filter replacement records are maintained in the district's SchoolDude facility management software program.
- 60% alcohol-based hand sanitizing stations are installed in entrances and exits of buildings, hallways, and other common areas. Custodial staff workflow charts and schedules determined that they have sufficient staff to clean commonly used areas and touchpoints during the course of the day.

- K-5 teachers will designate scheduled times throughout the day for students, as needed, to wash their hands. This includes before and after eating, after using the restroom, and before and after going to and from the playground and/or physical education classes.

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

The district can only take action if there is a report of a confirmed COVID-19 case in a school building. The district has designated liaison(s) for the purpose of Contact Tracing. The designated liaison(s) have completed the Johns Hopkins University COVID-19 Contact Tracing training course. Contact Tracers will investigate each COVID-19 positive case as needed. Based on the information provided, Contact Tracers will identify any close contacts. Contact Tracers will notify affected staff and families of the potential exposure. Contact Tracers will work with the Glen Rock Board of Health, Glen Rock Office of Emergency Management and Bergen County Health Service to mitigate any further outbreak. Each district building has an identified quarantine room where students and staff can isolate from the rest of the general population should they exhibit COVID-19 symptoms.

F. Diagnostic and screening testing

A daily pre-screening survey from the district was not required in the 2022-2023 school year and will not be required for the 2023-2024 school year; however, parents are expected to monitor their children for signs of illness every day. Students who are sick should not attend school. If your child is exhibiting COVID-like symptoms (see below) or tests positive for COVID-19, please inform your child's school nurse. The same protocol applies to employees. Employees should monitor their symptoms and not report to work if they are not feeling well. If an employee tests positive for COVID-19, he/she needs to inform the school nurse and the building principal or immediate supervisor. If students or staff members exhibit symptoms, the district recommends they be tested for COVID-19.

The New Jersey Department of Health recommends that individuals with the following symptoms be excluded from school:

* At least **two** of the following symptoms: fever (measured or subjective), chills, rigor (shivers), myalgia (muscle aches), headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion, or runny nose;

OR

* At least **one** of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, loss of smell, loss of taste.

The district will follow any mandatory quarantine guidelines as recommended by the CDC, including days away from school or work.

The district will require a doctor's note for a student or staff member to return to school prior to the conclusion of the five (5) days of isolation due to a positive COVID-19 test

The district's response to students and staff presenting symptoms will be guided by protocols outlined in The New Jersey Department of Health COVID-19 Public Health Recommendations for Local Health Departments for K-12 Schools. Glen Rock Schools will strictly adhere to its recommendations and requirements including coordination and continuous communication with the Bergen County Department of

Health, Glen Rock Office of Emergency Management and the Glen Rock Board of Health. In addition, the district will constantly review these recommendations for updates and modifications and make adjustments as recommended. The district will monitor for outbreaks or clusters of cases.

The district forwarded all vaccination communications from the Bergen County Department of Health and the office of the Executive County Superintendent to staff and community as directed. In addition, the district promoted a partnership with a local pharmacy to provide vaccinations for eligible students and staff prior to the start of school in September. The very few remaining unvaccinated employees are not interested in getting vaccinated at this time.

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

Students in the preschool disabled, language learning disabled and autism classes will continue to receive support from classroom teachers, related service providers and school nurses in positive hygiene and behaviors that limit the spread of any communicable diseases. Students with diagnosed medical disabilities that could be exacerbated by those who contract COVID-19 will work with their case managers in order to determine the most appropriate plan for receiving instruction. In addition, to minimize any potential spread, hand sanitizing stations will continue to be easily accessible in all schools, and frequent hand washing will be encouraged. Students still have the option of wearing a mask, should they prefer.

2. Ensuring Continuity of Services

A. Describe how the Glen Rock School District 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.

At the elementary school level, students' social, emotional, and mental health needs will be met through continued SEL and character education lessons delivered by the school counselor as well as by individual and small group counseling. In addition, the district implemented a K-5 SEL curriculum that focuses on understanding emotional intelligence, identifying and regulating emotions, and developing empathy for others. Similarly, at the middle school and high school levels, school counselors will continue to address student needs through individual counseling as needed, and the Core Team in each building will continue to identify and provide interventions to at-risk students. The MS/HS Student Assistance Counselor (SAC) and Wellness Counselors will continue to work with students who need regularly scheduled counseling and facilitate group counseling based on identified needs. The SAC and Wellness Counselors will also continue to design and implement school-wide SEL programming that emphasizes wellness. Staff members will continue to receive professional development and training with regard to SEL so that they can better assist their students and participate in self-care.

3. Public Comment

A. Describe how the Glen Rock School District sought public comment on its plan, and how it took those public comments 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.

For this document, the Glen Rock Board of Education presented at its May 8, 2023 Board of Education meeting, seeking public comment. Comments were taken into consideration and included if warranted. The Board of Education posted to its district webpage the amended document based on public comment on May 22, 2023.

B. Describe how the Glen Rock School District 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)

Care was taken to ensure that the plan was written in understandable language, and we used a uniform format to make navigation of the document clear and easy to follow. The plan and other documents and notifications related to the forming and implementation of the plan are located on our website, which is accessible to all and provides assistance for language translation. The district is available to provide oral translations if necessary and accessibility for those with a disability upon request.