

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

LEA PLAN

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Parsippany-Troy Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and in accordance with the requirements of Federal American Rescue Plan Act, hereby approves the Parsippany-Troy Hills Township Public Schools Safe Return Plan for the 2021-2022 school year. Following Board approval, the plan will be made available on the district's website. In accordance with the act, this plan shall be reviewed at least every six months and updated as necessary

Approved June 24, 2021



**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

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.

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

LEA Name: Parsippany-Troy Hills Township School District

Date: June 24, 2021

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 masks:

The Parsippany-Troy Hills Township School District's plan for mask wearing will follow the guidance issued by the Governor's Executive Orders and/or the NJ Department of Health.

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

The Parsippany-Troy Hills Township School District's plan for physical distancing will follow the guidelines issued by the Governor's Executive Orders and/or the Department of Health.

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette:

The Parsippany-Troy Hills Township School District will promote handwashing and respiratory hygiene through signs and messages to remind students and staff of healthy behaviors. The school nurse will also post reminders on each school's webpage about healthy practices.

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation:

In addition to all existing established cleaning procedures, the District Facilities and Custodial departments will implement the following measures in an attempt to protect students, staff and visitors from contracting or spreading the COVID-19 virus:

- *Special attention will be given to the disinfecting of high trafficked areas in and around all school facilities. Frequently touched surfaces such as door handles, door knobs, panic bars, and light switches will be cleaned and disinfected at a minimum of twice per day.*
- *Cafeteria tables will be cleaned and disinfected before and after each lunch session.*
- *Restroom and locker room cleaning and disinfecting frequency will be increased to at least twice per day. This will also include all frequently touched surfaces such as flushometers, faucets, soap and sanitizer dispensers, paper towel dispensers, door handles, etc.*
- *Trash collection will be performed only by properly outfitted custodial personnel using approved latex, nitrile or vinyl gloves. Trash receptacles will be emptied and liners replaced in restrooms during the normal school day as well as the evening cleaning to maintain sanitary conditions.*
- *All hand sanitizing, soap and paper towel dispensers in restrooms and common areas will be checked and refilled four times daily to ensure they are usable at all times.*
- *Water fountains will be covered and not used; bottle filling stations will be sanitized twice daily and once during the evening shift.*
- *Any areas designated as food consumption locations will also have an increased frequency of cleaning and sanitizing procedures once these areas have been established.*
- *Air filters in all HVAC equipment will be changed quarterly as long as the COVID-19 response continues.*
- *Fitness centers will be cleaned and sanitized twice daily and once during the evening shift focusing on any items being regularly handled. Sanitizing wipes and products will be provided in these areas so self cleaning by the users will also be possible and encouraged as many commercial gym facilities are currently doing.*
- *All vehicles involved in the transportation of students will be cleaned and disinfected daily using a combination of sanitizing wipes and Atomizing Disinfectant Sprayers*
- *All contact between employees and students within the facilities will be within the parameters outlined in the District publication of “COVID-19 Exposure Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Safety Plan”.*
- *All district facilities have adequate ventilation, including operational heating, and ventilation systems where appropriate. Recirculated air has a fresh air component.*
- *Filter(s) for A/C units are maintained and changed according to manufacturer recommendations.*

In summation the Parsippany-Troy Hills School District will follow all recommendations outlined in numerous Government publications and advisories which are already established and will adjust our procedures and policies accordingly as new advisories are released and updated.

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

The Parsippany-Troy Hills Township School District will follow the guidance issued by the Governor's Executive Orders and/or the NJ Department of Health regarding contact tracing and quarantines.

F. Diagnostic and screening testing:

The district's school nurses and the Parsippany Board of Health continue to make referrals to local facilities.

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

The Parsippany-Troy Hills Township School District partnered with Atlantic Health to offer vaccination appointments for interested staff members. Coverage was provided for any staff member needing a daytime appointment. The district also provided Parsippany Hills HS as a vaccination site for the Boonton Walmart Pharmacy Department on June 12. Seventy students, among other community members, received their first dose of the vaccination. The district will continue to share information about vaccination sites with the school community.

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

Related service providers, including behaviorists and occupational therapists, will continue to work with students with sensory deficits should mask-wearing be either required or desired by the child's family. All classrooms are outfitted with protective wear and supplies.

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.

ACADEMIC, SOCIAL, AND BEHAVIORAL SUPPORTS

The Parsippany-Troy Hills Township School District will continue to implement interventions that will ensure continuity of service, including services that address students' academic needs, and students' and staff's social, emotional, mental health, and other needs.

Summer Opportunities

- *Summer Stepstones*, an optional, free, virtual academic program for students entering grades 1-8 and Algebra designed to reinforce basic foundational skills in literacy and mathematics.
- *Academic Boot Camp*, a free intervention program for identified students to provide small group support in reading and mathematics.
- *Wide World of Summer*, held at Central Middle School, offers full and half-day programs for students interested in sports, games, STEM, and cultural and performing arts.
- *ESL Camp* is a free virtual opportunity for our English Language Learners that reinforces academic skills through fun activities.

- *Extended School Year* will be an in-person opportunity for specially identified special education students that connects them with related services and academic supports.
- All school counselors will be available to meet with students and tour them through the school to ease their comfort with returning to classes in September.
- The Parsippany Town Library offers a free Summer Reading Program and our middle and high schools have posted summer assignments on their websites.

School Year Opportunities

The elementary and middle schools will use strategies from The First Six Weeks of School to provide a welcoming and positive return to school for all students. The high schools will offer orientation sessions for any student wishing to visit the school in advance of the first day. All students are eligible for free breakfast and lunch for the 2021-2022 school year.

The elementary teachers will administer the district's standard assessments in the fall, including running records and math benchmark assessments, to inform their instruction. The middle and high schools will offer tutorial opportunities for students needing academic assistance.

Staff members are supported through district Professional Learning days, a positive and encouraging school environment, and a partnership with Rutgers Behavioral Health Care. Finally, the district has engaged with Goryeb Children's Hospital in Morristown to develop transition supports for students and their families as we return to school in September.

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.

The district will include the plan on the June 24, 2021 Board of Education agenda. The community will be invited to make public comments during the subsequent BOE meeting. Following public comments, the Board of Education will be asked to adopt the plan with the understanding that it will be revisited each 60 days for further modification (if necessary) per state requirements. The approved plan will then be posted on the district website.

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.

The plan will be posted on the district website and may be translated by the end user. Other specific accommodations will be made upon request.