



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 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: Oxford Township School District

Date (06/07/2021):

Date Revised (01/03/2022):

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 Oxford Township School District (also referred to as Oxford Central School) will follow New Jersey Executive Order 251, effective August 9, 2021. All staff, students and visitors to the school must wear a face mask.
- As students enter the building, as well as throughout the day, faculty check to ensure they are correctly wearing their masks.
- Should indoor mask wearing be lifted, students, faculty and staff members who wish to continue wearing a mask may do so without fear of being teased, bullied, and/or harassed. Behaviors of this nature will be addressed according to Board of Education Policy 5131, Student Conduct and/or Policy 5131.1 Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying.
- Signage will be placed in classrooms, hallways, office areas and common areas promoting proper hygiene, hand washing, face covering and physical distancing procedures.
- As per Executive Order 251, students and staff must wear mask on school buses to and from school.

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

- The Oxford Township School District will continue to follow the New Jersey Department of Health guidance for physical distancing.

- As of June 7, 2021, a minimum of three (3) feet of physical distancing between students should be maintained in classrooms.
- Classroom areas are arranged so that three (3) feet of physical distancing between students can be maintained and all students are able to attend in-person instruction five days a week.
- Physical distance will be maintained during the initial student entry in the morning by using a queue setup at multiple entry points.
- Markings will be placed on the sidewalk to remind students to maintain the prescribed social distance as required from the most up-to-date information by the NJDOH, NJDOE and WCDOH.
- Students will be dismissed from the building in small groups as designated by the administration.
- The use of common areas will be limited to times when social distancing can be maintained and when students are supervised such as testing, related services, as required from the most up-to-date information by the NJDOH, NJDOE and WCDOH.
- If needed, lunch procedures will be re-evaluated concerning podding and cohorts.

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette:

- As per the NJDOH, the Oxford Township School District will reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and increase monitoring of students and staff.
- If soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol will be used.
- The Oxford Township School District will encourage students and staff to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue if not wearing a mask. Used tissues will be thrown in the trash and hand hygiene as outlined above should be performed immediately.
- The school district will have adequate supplies including soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol (for staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer), paper towels, tissues, and no-touch trash cans.
- Hand hygiene will take place: upon arrival at school; before and after meals and snacks; after going to the bathroom; before leaving for the day; after blowing nose, sneezing, or coughing into tissue; and when hands are visibly soiled.
- Oxford Central School faculty will assist and observe young children to ensure proper handwashing.
- Classroom windows may be opened to provide additional fresh air.

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

- Shared workspaces and other shared equipment will be sanitized/cleaned daily utilizing electro-static spray guns and EPA COVID-19 approved sanitizing solutions.
- Hand sanitizer will be placed in each room. Disinfectant wipes will be available in every classroom, office area and common area.

- Oxford Central School will continue to follow all maintenance to ensure all HVAC units servicing classrooms, offices and common spaces are working properly and filters are replaced.
- In addition to maintaining the units, all classrooms have operational windows for fresh air as well as operational exhaust fans in hallways and lower level classrooms.
- Routine cleaning schedules will be enhanced to ensure the sanitizing and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces, objects, items, etc.
- All cleaning/sanitizing products will meet prescribed CDC and EPA guidelines for effectiveness in battling COVID-19.
- A limited number of restrooms will be open to ensure effective monitoring and maintaining of facilities. Restroom doors will be propped open and restrooms will be cleaned and disinfected hourly and after every change of class.
- Water fountains will be shut down. Students will be encouraged to bring their own water. Water bottle refilling stations are available.

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

- The Oxford Central School complies with the New Jersey Department of Health guidance in regards to quarantine and isolation.
- Contact tracing is completed by the school in collaboration with the New Jersey Department of Health.
- All school district administrators, the school safety specialist, counselors, and any other staff deemed appropriate by the school district will be provided information regarding the role of contact tracing in keeping school communities safe from the contagious disease.
- **At this time, vaccinated individuals would NOT need to quarantine if considered a close contact of a positive case. The Oxford Township School District will implement changes to this procedure based on the guidance and recommendations of the State of NJ, NJDOH and/or WCDOH.**
- **Quarantine protocols for vaccinated, partially vaccinated and unvaccinated persons can be found on the NJDOH [Quarantine Recommendations Page](#).**

F. Diagnostic and screening testing:

- The Oxford Township School District will discontinue daily health check verification forms. Student temperatures will still be assessed upon entrance to the school each day. Students who have two or more COVID-19 symptoms **must** remain at home and this absence must be reported to the nurse and the Main Office. A list of symptoms will be posted in the OCS Backpack on the school district website.
- District faculty will self-screen prior to entering the building using the screening tool model provided by the New Jersey Department of Health.
- If students or staff have COVID-19 symptoms, or Covid-like symptoms as per the screening tool, they will not be allowed in the building or will be sent home immediately. They will follow Department of Health guidelines in reference to the next steps prior to reentering the building for school or work.
- **Travel: Domestic and International travel will be covered by guidance issued from local, state and federal agencies.**

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

- The district, in collaboration with the Warren Hills Cluster and the Warren County Department of Health, provided faculty and staff with the opportunity to be vaccinated. Other faculty and staff were vaccinated, prior to or through different agencies, outside of this collaboration.
- Communication was sent via the school district's mass notification system and social media platforms to all families regarding the opportunity available to students aged 5-15 for vaccination appointments at a local pharmacy. Location and appointment instructions were provided as part of the communication.
- [Per the State of NJ, NJDOH and WCDOH, individuals 5 years of age and older are strongly encouraged to be vaccinated. At this time, vaccinations are NOT a requirement to attend school.](#)

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

- Oxford Central School will provide appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities as needed. Our Child Study Team, in conjunction with administration and teachers, will develop these accommodations based on testing results and/or a medical diagnosis from a doctor.
- Physical accommodations included plexi-glass desk barriers were for students, faculty and staff as well as appropriate physical distancing.

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)

- Pending changes in NJDOH guidelines, the district will have students attending 5 days a week, in-person starting on August 30, 2021.
- The school day will be 8:20-3:00, and lunch will be served.
- Students who demonstrate a gap in academic areas based on district assessments will have tiered interventions in place through our Response to Intervention (RTI) process.
- Students who struggle during the 2021-2022 school year will also have the ability to attend the OCS Summer Academy Program in July 2022. During this program, students' academic needs will be targeted and remediated through a variety of programs.
- The district will utilize in-person and if necessary, remote learning models, to support students during the summer of 2022.
- OCS will continue to provide students with lunch through the USDA Seamless Summer Option.
- OCS will provide students with services to support their SEL needs including, but not limited to, school counseling services, social-emotional learning curriculum, and positive school-wide behavioral support activities.
- Staff will be offered health and wellness activities throughout the school year that focus on mental and physical health.

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)

The Oxford Township School District will invite public comment through the Re-Opening Committee and during the public meeting of the Oxford Township Board of Education on June 10, 2021.

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 Oxford Township School District will have the ability to translate the document into languages other than English upon request. In addition, the plan can be orally translated upon request by reaching out directly to the school. The district will adjust the document to meet the needs of any community member to ensure their full understanding of the Safe Reopening Plan.