



## 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](#), Elementary 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 Elementary 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 Elementary 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.

## **Clementon Elementary School District Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services**

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**LEA Name: Clementon**

**Date: 6/01/21**

**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 masks**

All Staff members will be required to wear facial coverings throughout the school day as advised by the NJDOH whether vaccinated or not until further guidance is released. We recommend that all students wear a facial coverings throughout the school day regardless of social distancing practices. Students are expected to wear facial coverings when in the hallways, switching classrooms, moving around in classrooms, or using the bathroom facilities. We have masks available for all visitors, students and staff.

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

Clementon Elementary School will follow the recommendations from The Department of Health with maintaining a minimum of 3 feet of physical distancing between students maintained in classrooms for elementary schools across low, moderate and high risk and for middle/high school when the region is in low and moderate risk level. If conditions in the Southwest region indicate high risk, we will maintain 6ft distancing in the classroom especially in our middle school aged students. We will continue to set up the lunch room 6 ft apart at all times. Clementon Elementary School will continue full day in person instruction for all of our students without the use of cohorts.

**C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette**

Employees, students and visitors must wash their hands or apply hand sanitizer frequently and after touching items or surfaces that may be frequently touched by other people, such as door handles, tables, desktops, shared workstations or microphones, or electronic registers/screens. Hand sanitizing dispensers are mounted on the wall as you enter each room throughout the building for quick and

easy use. Staff will continue to encourage students to apply hand sanitizer as they enter each new room throughout the day. Sanitizing Stations will be positioned at appropriate age levels and will be refilled regularly with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that meets CDC criteria. Additionally, all of our plumbing fixtures (including toilets, water fountains, and sinks) are touchless. For respiratory etiquette, students and staff will also be continuously reminded to cover their mouth and nose with a tissue when they cough or sneeze, to throw used tissues in the trash and to properly hand wash following coughing and sneezing.

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

To ensure the health and safety of all students and staff, highly touched surfaces will be sanitized throughout the day (such as: handrails, door handles, bathrooms, water fountains, radios and telephones etc.) Teachers and other staff will be provided with sanitizing wipes for as needed use. At the end of each day, custodial staff will sanitize: Classrooms, Gymnasium, Bathrooms, Hallways/Foyers, Offices, Media Center, Lunchroom/Kitchen and Playgrounds. Also to note, on Wednesdays, our custodial staff will complete a more intensive sanitizing/cleaning process by using machinery, the Victory Electrostatic Sprayer using a chemical called Brutab 6s.

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

- a. The nurse in collaboration with the Superintendent and the Principal will work closely with the Camden County Health Department to support any efforts towards identifying students/staff necessary to facilitate contact tracing for confirmed COVID-19 cases that impact the district/school community. Contact tracing will be done as per Camden County Health Department protocols.

**F. Diagnostic and screening testing**

Parents, students and staff will be provided with an online checklist screening tool that they should review each morning before entering the school building. Students and Staff members will be encouraged to stay home from school if they are exhibiting any Covid related symptoms and should follow up with their primary physician before returning to school. Students who present with Covid-19 compatible symptoms throughout the school day, will be directed to our school health office for evaluation. If the student meets the criteria put forth by the NJDOH, the parent will be directed to follow up with their child's pediatrician for evaluation and Covid testing before returning to the school building. If the parents choose not to have their child tested for Covid, they will follow the proper quarantine guidelines from the NJDOH.

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

Clementon Elementary School worked closely with the CCDOH in efforts to provide our staff members with access to the Covid-19 vaccination. Employees were allotted time during the school day to receive the vaccination and we will continue to encourage non vaccinated staff members with local opportunities to receive a vaccination. Students 12 and older will continue to receive current information and local access to walk-in clinics and pharmacies.

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

Facial masks are recommended for all of our students. However, there may be an exception if a student's medical condition or disability precludes the use of a face covering in a school building. In that case, if a parent/guardian of a student with a disability believes the use of a face covering would not be possible for the child because of the child's disability, the parent should provide documentation from the child's healthcare provider to the nurse and school principal.

## **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).**
- a. Clementon Elementary School's dedication to Pandemic Recovery includes a large diverse group of stakeholders. The Pandemic Recovery committee has met weekly starting in January of 2021 and will continue for the next two school years. We will analyze benchmark data and the fall Start Strong data as well as a variety of other assessments to drive our instruction and programming decisions. We will utilize an additional full time social worker whose focus is on family engagement and student mental health. We will also hold monthly meetings for parents pertaining to mental health and how to help their child navigate this unprecedented time. We will implement a morning meeting by applying Responsive Classroom techniques in each classroom that will focus on Social Emotional Learning. Starting summer of 2021, staff will have the opportunity to review DOE cohesion charts and incorporate previous standards into their pacing charts and units plans.

### 3. Public Comment

- A. A. Describe how the LEA 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. (1000 character limit).**
- a. The Clementon Safe Reopening Plan was presented at a Board of Education meeting, uploaded to our school website, and addressed in a letter and survey to the community. Within each of these avenues the public was able to comment which drove the revision of the plan. If further comments from the public are brought to our attention, we will make additional revisions. Parents are also encouraged to come to our Pandemic Recovery Committee meetings where they can have discussions about the plan and help with its creation and/or revision.
- B. 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).**
- a. The Clementon Reopening Plan was presented in an understandable format at the Board of Education meeting. The plan was then uploaded to the school's website in English and Spanish. The plan was also adapted into an easily digestible letter that was made available to the community in both English and Spanish. Our website has ADA compliant features.
- C. Briefly describe any guidance professional learning and technical assistance opportunities the LEA will make available to its schools.**
- a. The Clementon School District has allocated funds to support professional development learning in the following areas: co-teaching, math and reading strategies, mental health, ELL strategies, and SEL strategies to use with all students in grade Pre-K to 8. In addition, staff will have professional development pertaining to 3 mentor text and several new online programming changes. Clementon School District is upgrading all of our classrooms to include Interactive Flat Panels and have a 1:1 intuitive with our students. These devices will help students be more curious, engaged and inspired throughout the school day therefore building lifelong learners.