



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.

Magnolia Public School District Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

LEA Name: Magnolia

Date: 5/27/21

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 face masks 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 mask 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.

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

Magnolia Public 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 our Southwest region becomes high risk, we will maintain 6ft distancing in the classroom especially in our middle school aged students. There will be no cohorts this year at Magnolia Public School. We will be full in-person instruction throughout the school year.

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. 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.

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

The superintendent and/or principal as well as the school nurse 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

Students and staff will be provided with a 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 portraying 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 student and parent will be directed to follow up with their pediatrician for evaluation and Covid testing before returning into 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

Magnolia Public 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 those staff members not vaccinated with opportunities to receive the vaccination. For our students 12 and older, current information and opportunities are provided to parents through our school communication platform with local 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 student's case manager or 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)

Magnolia continues to utilize the Pandemic Recovery team which is composed of stakeholders from a diverse group. The team consistently met throughout the 2020-21 school year and will continue for the next two years. Program decisions ,instructional strategies, and social- emotional learning will be evaluated by benchmark data, Start Strong, and other assessments. Magnolia has invested in adding an additional day for our part time social worker and school counselor. Their focus will be to analyze and support the mental health of students, families and staff. A parent support group will be adopted to assist parents in helping their child learn how to apply strategies to support their mental health needs during this unprecedented time.

Morning meetings and support groups will be implemented into the classrooms and schedules to address the Social Emotional needs of our students. Beginning in the summer of 2021, staff will have the opportunity to review the DOE cohesion chart and create unit plans aligned to the standards.

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 Magnolia Safe Reopening Plan was presented to the Board at the June 15th meeting. In addition the plan will be uploaded to our school website, and an email will be sent to the community. A survey was conducted to allow for public comment, which drove the revision of this plan. Additions will be made if the public has additional comments. Parents are welcome to attend our Pandemic Recovery Committee meetings to discuss the plan and assist with recommendations and revisions of the plan.

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 Reopening Plan was presented to the Board of Education in an easy and understandable format. The plan was emailed and uploaded to the school's website. Our website is compliant with ADA features.