

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

This document is intended to meet the federal statutory requirement that, within 30 days of receiving ARP ESSER LEA allocation (anticipated May 24th), an LEA shall publish an LEA Plan on the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services, which is often called a “school district reopening plan.”

Note, if an LEA developed a plan before *The American Rescue Plan Act* (ARPA) was enacted on 03/11/2021 that complied with the federal statutory requirements for public posting and comments but does not meet all of the requirements below, then the LEA must revise its plan no later than six months after receiving ARP ESSER funds

For further context, please reference ARPA (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/1319/text>) or the Interim Final Requirements of ARP ESSER (<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2021-04-22/pdf/2021-08359.pdf>).

I. General Information

- 1. LEA Name: SAU 21
- 2. Date of Publication: 8/5/20

II. Transparency and Accessibility

- 1. This plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services was published and made publicly available online here:
Description: www.SAU21.org
- 2. Before making the plan publicly available, the LEA sought public comment on the plan and took such comments into account in the development of the plan (please check one).
Yes: Somewhat: No:
Description: Public comment was offered at the Joint Board meeting and subsequent individual school district board meetings as the school progressed through the year and iterations of the plan
- 3. The plan is in an understandable and uniform format (please check one):
Yes: Somewhat: No:
Description: The plan was published via PPT with supporting documentation and revised through the year with updated presentations.
- 4. The plan, to the extent practicable, is written in a language that parents can understand or, if not practicable, orally translated (please check one):
Yes: Somewhat: No:
Description: _____
- 5. The plan, upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability, is provided in an alternative format accessible to that parent (please check one):
Yes: Somewhat: No:
Description: Should we receive a request, we would provide an alternative accessible format.

III. Health and Safety

1. How the LEA will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other school and LEA staff:

Description during SY20-21: Per the reopening plan, adhering to CDC guidelines and DHHS guidance to provide proper social distancing, cohorts, mask wearing, cleaning procedures, ventilation, etc.

Description during SY21-22: We plan to follow CDC and NH DHHS guidance for health and safety measures upon return to the school in 2021-22

2. The LEA's adoption of the following CDC health and safety strategies are described below: (Note federal regulation on this plan requires such reporting, but does not require adoption of CDC safety recommendations. The NH DOE recognizes schools will implement localized safety measures based on the guidance provided by the CDC, NH Public Health, and local public health officials.)

- a. Universal and correct wearing of masks:

During SY20-21 (check one): Yes: Somewhat: No:

During SY21-22 (check one): Yes: Somewhat: No:

Description of both SYs: SY20-21 mask wearing required for all staff, students, and visitors.

SY21-22 we plan to follow CDC/DHHS guidance on mask wearing

- b. Physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding and modifying facilities):

During SY20-21 (check one): Yes: Somewhat: No:

During SY21-22 (check one): Yes: Somewhat: No:

Description of both SYs: SY20-21: 6 foot social distancing and maintaining as small cohorts as possible by district

SY21-22 we plan to follow CDC/DHHS guidance on physical distancing

- c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette:

During SY20-21 (check one): Yes: Somewhat: No:

During SY21-22 (check one): Yes: Somewhat: No:

Description of both SYs: SY20-21: Setup handwashing, disinfecting stations with signage

SY21-22: we plan to maintain handwashing protocol

- d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation:

During SY20-21 (check one): Yes: Somewhat: No:

During SY21-22 (check one): Yes: Somewhat: No:

Description of both SYs: SY20-21: Implemented cleaning and disinfecting schedules, verified and upgraded proper ventilation in place.

SY21-22: we plan to follow CDC/DHHS guidance on cleaning facilities and providing proper ventilation.

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

During SY20-21 (check one): Yes: Somewhat: No:

During SY21-22 (check one): Yes: Somewhat: No:

Description of both SYs: SY20-21 we followed isolation and quarantine procedures in accordance with NH requirements

SY201-22 We will plan to continue to follow all isolation and quarantine procedures in accordance with NH requirements

- f. Diagnostic and screening testing:

During SY20-21 (check one): Yes: Somewhat: No:

During SY21-22 (check one): Yes: Somewhat: No:

Description of both SYs: SY20-21 We required self-screening of all students, staff, visitors and required testing based on contact or symptoms

SY21-22 We will plan to continue to follow CDC/DHHS guidance on screening and testing.

- g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities:

During SY20-21 (check one): Yes: Somewhat: No:

During SY21-22 (check one): Yes: Somewhat: No:

Description of both SYs: SY20-21 we arranged a vaccination site at the school for all staff and provided ongoing communication on vaccinations
SY21-22: we will plan to continue communicating any relevant vaccine information to community.

- h. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies:

During SY20-21 (check one): Yes: Somewhat: No:

During SY21-22 (check one): Yes: Somewhat: No:

Description of both SYs: SY20-21 We provided all accommodations and services to students with disabilities and special needs per their IEP
SY21-22 We plan to provide all accommodations and services to students with disabilities and special needs per their IEP

- i. Coordination with state and local health officials (please check one):

During SY20-21 (check one): Yes: Somewhat: No:

During SY21-22 (check one): Yes: Somewhat: No:

Description of both SYs: SY20-21 We coordinated with state and local health officials for contact tracing, positive tests, vaccine clinic onsite, etc.
SY21-22 We plan to continue coordination with health officials

IV. Continuity of Services

1. The LEA has provided continuity of services in addressing student academic needs:

Description during SY20-21: Establishment of a remote learning academy to address student need; additionally, this created space for increased levels of in-person learning.

Description during SY21-22: SAU 21 will offer summer academic recovery opportunities in a variety of subjects during the summer of 2021.

Additionally, the SAU has invested in summer programs aimed to establish social emotional connections such as ropes courses and non-academic team building.

2. The LEA has provided continuity of services in addressing student social, emotional, mental, and other health needs, which may include student health and food services:

Description during SY20-21: SAU 21 continued free meal service and delivery for all students. Additionally, a variety of altered schedules has allowed advisory models to be maintained and/ or expanded, fostering a connection both between staff and students and among students.

Description during SY21-22: Advisory models will continue. Additionally, several summer programs have been designed to foster a connectedness between students. The 2021-2022 school year will offer a "bridge" program at the high school to aid in transitions.

3. The LEA has provided continuity of services in addressing staff social, emotional, mental, and other health needs:

Description during SY20-21: SAU 21 has reated connections with UNH and Keene state to establish support for all studetns and staff.

Additionally, the SAU has established a Crisis Response Team, allowing for team members to address staff and community crises when needed.

Description during SY21-22: SAU 21 will continue its professional development activities related to social and emotional connectedness.

Additionally, structures of support, such as crisis response, the Equity committee, and the SEL committee will continue to monitor staff needs related to the pandemic.

V. Plan Review

1. The LEA will meet the federal regulatory requirement to review and, as appropriate, revise its Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan at least every six months through September 30, 2023 (the award period including the Tydings period). (Note an LEA that developed a plan before ARPA was enacted on 03/11/2021 that complied with the federal statutory requirements for public posting and comments but does not meet all of the requirements above must revise its plan no later than six months after the LEA receives LEA ESSER funds.)

Yes: No:

Description: _____

- 2. In doing so, the LEA will meet the federal statutory requirement to seek public input and take such input into account in determining whether to revise the plan and, if revisions are determined necessary, on the revisions it makes to its plan.

Yes: No:

Description: _____

- 3. In doing so, the LEA will also meet the federal regulatory requirement to address CDC safety recommendations and, if the CDC has updated its safety recommendations at the time the LEA is revising its plan, each of the updated CDC safety recommendations.
(Note federal regulation on this plan requires such reporting, but does not require adoption of CDC safety recommendations. The NH DOE recognizes schools will implement localized safety measures based on the guidance provided by the CDC, NH Public Health, and local public health officials.)

Yes: No:

Description: _____

VI. Authorization

LEA Superintendent's Signature:

Date:

DocuSigned by:


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6/1/2021

VIII. Appendices

Appendix A. ARPA Statutory Excerpt

“(i) Safe return to in-person instruction.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A local educational agency receiving funds under this section shall develop and make publicly available on the local educational agency’s website, not later than 30 days after receiving the allocation of funds described in paragraph (d)(1), a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services.

(2) COMMENT PERIOD.—Before making the plan described in paragraph (1) publicly available, the local educational agency shall seek public comment on the plan and take such comments into account in the development of the plan.

(3) PREVIOUS PLANS.—If a local educational agency has developed a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction before the date of enactment of this Act that meets the requirements described in paragraphs (1) and (2), such plan shall be deemed to satisfy the requirements under this subsection.”

Appendix B. Interim Final Requirements of ARP ESSER Excerpt

“(3) *LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services.*

(a) An LEA must describe in its plan under section 2001(i)(1) of the ARP Act for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services—

(i) how it 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.

(B) Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (*e.g.*, use of cohorts/ podding).

(C) Handwashing and respiratory etiquette.

(D) Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation.

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

(F) Diagnostic and screening testing.

(G) Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities.

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

(I) Coordination with State and local health officials.

(ii) how it will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address students’ academic needs and students’ and staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services.

(b) (i) During the period of the ARP ESSER award established in section 2001(a) of the ARP Act, an LEA must regularly, but no less frequently than every six months (taking into consideration the timing of significant changes to CDC guidance on reopening schools), review and, as appropriate, revise its plan for the safe return to in person instruction and continuity of services.

(ii) In determining whether revisions are necessary, and in making any revisions, the LEA must seek public input and take such input into account.

(iii) If at the time the LEA revises its plan the CDC has updated its guidance on reopening schools, the revised plan must address the extent to which the LEA has adopted policies, and describe any such policies, for each of the updated safety recommendations.

(c) If an LEA developed a plan prior to enactment of the ARP Act that meets the statutory requirements of section 2001(i)(1) and (2) of the ARP Act but does not address all the requirements in paragraph (a), the LEA must, pursuant to paragraph (b), revise and post its plan no later than six months after receiving its ARP ESSER funds to meet the requirements in paragraph (a).

(d) An LEA’s plan under section 2001(i)(1) of the ARP Act for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services must be—

(i) In an understandable and uniform format;

(ii) To the extent practicable, written in a language that parents can understand or, if it is not practicable to provide written translations to a parent with limited English proficiency, be orally translated for such parent; and

(iii) Upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA, provided in an alternative format accessible to that parent.”