
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.

Support for Schools: Describe how the LEA will support its schools in safely returning to in-person instruction and sustaining safe operation. This description must include:

For each mitigation strategy listed below, 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.

LEA Response Table

1) Universal and correct wearing of masks

([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

a. VTSD students, staff, and faculty will continue the universal and correct wearing of masks as designated by the Governor, Executive Orders governing schools and/or the CDC and Department of Health. b. Should the district have the opportunity to choose whether or not the wearing of masks is necessary, VTSD will not require students, staff, faculty or visitors/volunteers to wear masks.

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

([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

a. VTSD will no longer be using cohorts. All students are invited to school for full day attendance. Pods will no longer be utilized. b. Physical distancing of 3 feet will be maintained where practicable in the event of outbreaks.
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3) Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

a. Signs and reminders, directives from teachers and staff will remain for all students attending schools. Frequent handwashing prevents other colds and the flu. Handwashing and the use of hand sanitizer will be encouraged. b. Students, faculty, staff, and visitors/volunteers will be reminded to cough into the elbow. If they are unable to, hands should be washed immediately after covering a cough.

4) Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

a. VTSD will maintain regular cleaning protocols established this year. We will continue using Victory sprayers in the evening after students have left in order to kill any viruses left in the rooms. b. Windows shall be opened in classrooms (weather permitting) to maximize fresh air flow. Attention will be paid to upgrading ventilation systems to improve air flow for faculty, students, and staff.

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

([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

a. Each school will maintain a location for isolation and/or quarantine should the need arise. b. Schools will continue their ability to contact trace by utilizing seating charts and other mechanisms developed by teachers and administrators in order to assist the Department of Health in investigating COVID cases in the onset of an outbreak.

6) Diagnostic and screening testing

([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

a. During the 2022-2023 school year, staff were offered the opportunity to receive free at home Covid test kits.

7) Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible

([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

a. The vaccine is readily available that may not be necessary but VTSD is committed to providing assistance where we can, therefore the district is willing to act as a vaccine site, if needed.

8) Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies
([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

a. All students with disabilities will receive reasonable accommodations or modification as it relates to their individualized education plan. Case managers and special education personnel will continue to work with families to ensure the needs of our students with disabilities are met.

Safe Return Plan Updated

Safe Return Plan text and assurances must be agreed to every six months.

Date Plan Updated

Describe how the LEA 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. ([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

SEL programs are in place via the school counselors. We are also providing SEL training and curricular materials for the 2022-2023 school year. A focus is being placed on SEL for faculty/staff as well with training and supports in the summer and throughout the school year. We continue to work toward access for all FRC students and also are working with our food service company to provide meals to those who need them.

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. ([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

This plan will be published on the district website for stakeholder review. It will also be published via district website and reviewed and approved during Board of Education meetings. Board meetings are recorded therefore this serves as another opportunity for the public to review the plan. The website will invite public comment via email that can be reviewed and considered for revision to the plan.

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. ([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

This plan will be made available to non-English speaking families, parents, or guardians via Google Translate. It will also be accessible to those needing ADA accommodations.

Briefly describe any guidance, professional learning, and technical assistance opportunities the LEA will make

available to its schools. ([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

The VTSD will continue to provide professional development learning opportunities for faculty, staff, and administrators.

Provide current link to the district's website where the plan is posted.

www.vtsd.com

By checking this box and saving the page, the applicant hereby certifies that they will assure that the information contained in the Safe Return to School plans will be updated within this system every 6 months during this grant project period.

Assurances Fully Agreed to By:

Rosemary Gebhardt

Assurances

American Rescue Plan of 2021

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ARP- ESSER)

- By checking this box and saving the page, the applicant hereby certifies that he/she has read, understood and will comply with the assurances listed below that will apply to any subsequent application amendments of all federal programs in which the LEA participates.

The Local Educational Agency (LEA) hereby assures the New Jersey Department of Education that:

1. The LEA, as a recipient of funds under the ARP understands the general assurances agreed to in the GMS system also apply to the ARP funds.
2. The LEA, as a recipient of federal funds under the ARP will determine the most important educational needs as a result of COVID-19, propose a timeline for providing services and assistance to students and staff, determine the extent to which the LEA intends to use funds awarded under the ARP to promote the authorized purposes and uses, and determine how the LEA intends to assess and address student learning loss resulting from the disruption in educational services. This information should be documented by the LEA and be available upon request by the NJDOE;
3. The LEA will ensure that funds awarded under the ARP are used for activities allowable under section 2001. All activities and expenditures must be reasonable, necessary, allocable under section 2001 and meet the purpose of the ARP, to prepare for, prevent and respond to COVID-19. Further, the LEA, as a recipient of funds under section 2001 of the ARP, will reserve not less than twenty percent (20%) of such funds to address learning loss through the implementation of evidence-based interventions, such as summer learning or summer enrichment, extended day, comprehensive afterschool programs, or extended school year programs, and ensure that such interventions respond to the students academic, social, and emotional needs and address the disproportionate impact of the coronavirus on the student subgroups described in section 1111(b)(2)(B)(xi) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 USC 6311(b)(2)(B)(xi), students experiencing homelessness, and children in foster care;
4. The LEA, as a recipient of funds under section 2001 of the ARP agrees to develop and comply with the

requirements for a safe return to in-person instruction as required in section 2001(e) of the ARP;

5. The LEA will use such fiscal control and fund accounting procedures as will ensure proper disbursement of, and accounting for, Federal funds paid to the LEA under the ARP. LEA will utilize Grants Management System (EWEG) to budget and report financial expenditures relating to ESSER funds provided under the ARP. Further, upon request by NJDOE, the LEA will provide documentation to support claims for expenditures, including expenditure ledgers, invoices, receipts and documentation to support purchases and proof of services received;
6. The LEA will adopt and use proper methods of administering funds received under the ARP Act, including:
 - A. The enforcement of any obligations imposed by law on agencies, institutions, organizations, and other recipients responsible for carrying out each federal award; and
 - B. The correction of deficiencies in operations that are identified through audits, monitoring, or evaluation.
7. The LEA will ensure that any and all internet connectivity purchases are in compliance with the Child Internet Protection Act (CIPA);
8. The LEA, as a recipient of funds under the ARP will comply with the provisions of all applicable acts, regulations and assurances, including the New Jersey School Code, the New Jersey Administrative Code, orders and guidance from the New Jersey State Department of Education, NJDOE State Board of Education, and the following provisions of Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) 34 CFR parts 76, 77, 81, 82, 84, 97, 98, and 99; the OMB Guidelines to Agencies on Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement) in 2 CFR part 180, as adopted and amended as regulations of the Department in 2 CFR part 3485; and the Uniform Guidance in 2 CFR part 200, as adopted and amended as regulations of the Department in 2 CFR part 3474.

Assurances Fully Agreed to By:

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