



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.

Template: LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

LEA Name: Community Charter School of Paterson

Date (mm/dd/yyyy): June 21, 2021

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: Students, staff, and visitors will be required to wear face masks on any CCSP campus building. Face mask breaks will be provided to students throughout the school day. Face masks will not be required outdoors during recess, drills, and outdoor activities.

B. Physical distancing (e.g., including use of cohorts/podding): Social distancing will be encouraged by school administration; however, strict rules will not be in place to separate students and adults by a required distance.

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette: CCSP will continue to train (kindergarten students) and provide multiple opportunities for students and staff to wash their hands throughout the school day. Students and staff will also have access to hand sanitizer in portable stations and classrooms in each campus.

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation: CCSP cleaning crews will continue to provide daily cleaning on high touch areas and in classrooms, cafeterias, entryways, hallways, and offices throughout the school day. In addition to this, deep cleaning will be provided after school hours twice a week. As noted previously, CCSP campuses are upgraded with HEPA filters and UV air filters that kill airborne COVID-19 viruses.

E. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments: CCSP nurses at each campus will continue to conduct contract tracing with the local health department as COVID-19 cases arise in our school community. In addition to this, each campus will have designated quarantine rooms to isolate a member of the school community that has tested positive for COVID-19. CCSP will follow recommendations from the CDC regarding at-home quarantine time frames.

F. Diagnostic and screening testing: CSSP will not offer on campus testing for COVID-19. Staff members will be provided time as needed to get tested on outside health facilities.

G. Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible: CCSP has partnered with Hackensack Meridian Hospital to schedule COVID vaccinations for many of its staff in the 20-21 school year. We will continue this partnership in the 21-22 school year and as best as possible make similar accommodations for students as the vaccinations become available for students.

H. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies: CCSP will ensure that IEP and 504 mandates are in place for students in the 21-22 school year. As needed special accommodations will be provided to ensure that students with disabilities are supported to the fullest extent. In addition to their IEP and 504 services, additional SPED teachers will be hired to work directly with students in the 2021-22 school year.

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)

1. **Academic Needs:** Students will resume full day instruction 5 days per week for the 2021-2022 school year. Student instruction will resume for all core academic subjects: English Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, Science, Health and Physical Education, Spanish, Art, Music, and Design and Engineering as required by the NJ Department of Education. We move into year 2 of our Intervention program which services students 1 or more grade levels below in reading. This program will be expanded to include math intervention in the upcoming school year. Each grade level will be afforded a minimum of 1 Special Education Co-Teacher for reading and math in grades kindergarten through eight grade to ensure successful implementation of our inclusion program for special education students. Additionally, our Child Study team has identified the need for more specialized instruction for select students, therefore we are expanding our programming to include pull-out resource room instruction.
2. **Assessments:** During the 2020-21 school year, students in first through eighth grade were administered the NWEA Measures of Academic Progress in Reading and Math, and students in third through eighth grade were given the NWEA MAP assessment in Science. Kindergarten students' phonemic awareness skills were assessed using the Phonemic Awareness Inventory. In Math, first through eighth grade students' mastery of grade level math standards were assessed using the Into Math End of Year Assessment. In writing, students in grades first through eighth completed writing benchmark assessments from the Calkins Writer's Workshop program. This data is used to determine students' needs for Summer Programming, Tutoring, and Tiers 1, 2, and 3 Intervention. In the 2021-2022 school year, students will begin the year with the Start Strong State Assessment. All of the aforementioned assessments in reading, writing, math, and science will be administered to students in the 2021-2022 school year. The data will continue to be used to determine differentiated instruction and intervention program needs for individual students. In the upcoming school year, our Intervention Programming will be expanded to include 1:1 support provided by 10 part time retired teachers.
3. **Before and After Care:** Families will have access to before and after school care, at a minimal cost to families beginning in October and continuing through June. As a part of this after care program students will receive tutoring, homework help, and 21st Century Learning Programming.
4. **Remote Instruction:** Classrooms at both campuses will be prepared to pivot to remote instruction at the discretion of the CEO based on any staffing shortages or necessary staff or student quarantine requirements resulting from potential Covid-19 outbreaks. CCSP will continue to maintain the 1:1 technology as well as daily technology support access for staff and students that would be necessary for remote learning.
5. **Student Social Emotional and Mental Health:** CCSP recognizes the critical need for increased focus and instruction of students' emotional health. To that end, we will move into year 2 of our implementation of the Suite 360 Social Emotional Learning Program for all K-8 students. This program will offer students weekly lessons in SEL, as well as provide monthly staff training on Social Emotional Learning. Monthly training will be provided using family lessons from the Suite 360 program. Additionally, families will have continued access to the Suite 360 independent learning modules. As part of the Preservice Training, staff will receive training, as well as have dedicated time for collaborative planning around strategies for transitioning students back to school full time.
6. **Staff Wellness:** Preservice training will include opportunities for staff to engage in Wellness activities and informational sessions by choice. We understand that personal wellness is a matter of personal choice and interest and will ensure staff have such opportunities to participate by choice. Additionally, CCSP nurses lead a staff Wellness committee that makes recommendations to the staff and administration around Wellness

practices that are beneficial for emotional health and mental wellness. Lastly, our business administrator continues to share out Mental Health resources with all staff accessible through CCSP employee health care providers.

7. Food Services: All students at CCSP will be provided with breakfast and lunch at no charge Monday through Friday. In the event of a long-term campus shut down on regular school days, CCSP will reimplement the breakfast and lunch grab and go meals procedures on campus to ensure continued meal access for all students.

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)

CCSP sought public comment on this plan in two ways. First, a Google survey was developed by CCSP administrators and shared on June 10, 2021. We received 75 responses to the survey. https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Bob0IUZYFDWGePX-xndzahnEcZOuIHV6TjApoX-XV_4/edit Survey responses included several important suggestions that were taken into consideration including: healthy and safe measures, academic support solutions, and social and emotional wellness programming.

Additionally, public forums were conducted and opened for comment from CCSP Families during a Home School Council meeting on Wednesday, June 16, 2021 and Monday, June 21, 2021. We had approximately 55 parents in attendance at the first meeting and 26 at the second meeting. Parents were given the opportunity to share comments orally through the zoom meeting platform. Public comments included several suggestions that were taken into consideration on the following topics, healthy and safe measures, academic support solutions, and social and emotional wellness programming.

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)

At CCSP we translated our survey into Spanish for Spanish speaking parents, as noted below. In addition to this, we provide translation rooms for our parents on the Zoom platform during our public hearings on this topic.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Bob0lUYZFDWGePX-xndzahnEcZOuIHV6TjApoX-XV_4/edit