

**Applicant:** 03 0285 Bergen County Special Services District - Bergen

ARP Safe Return Plan 

**Application:** ARP Safe Return Plan - 00-  
**Cycle:** Amendment 4

**Project Period:**  
9/1/2021 - 8/31/2022

## 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)

Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, masks are optional except when returning to school after a positive Covid diagnosis; masks must be worn 5 days upon return.

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

([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

Maintenance of social distancing will be encouraged as practicable.

3) Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

1) Alcohol-based hand sanitizers are available to all classrooms. Children ages 5

and younger should be supervised when using hand sanitizer.

2) Students should wash hands for at least 20 seconds at regular intervals or use hand sanitizer before eating, after using the bathroom, and after blowing their nose/coughing/sneezing. Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer if washing with soap and water is not possible.

3) Cover coughs and sneezes using an elbow or a tissue when not wearing a mask. Dispose of the tissue. Clean hands immediately either with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use a hand sanitizer.

4) Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation  
([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

1) Return to pre-COVID cleaning protocols, except for areas where a person has been sick or tested positive for COVID positive case, then COVID cleaning protocols apply.

2) Schools can adopt the cleaning protocols that work to ensure the facility is clean and safe for 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)

Contact tracing was discontinued as of SY2022-2023.

6) Diagnostic and screening testing

([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

Temperature checks were discontinued as of SY2022-2023, as was the Staff Daily Health Checklist.

1) Parents will be reminded through correspondences of all COVID protocols regarding symptomatic students including the need for them to check for symptoms daily and to keep their child home if exhibiting symptoms.

2) Staff members must remain at home if exhibiting two or more symptoms of Covid.

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

([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

BCSS in conjunction with Bergen County Health Department and New Bridge Medical Center provided several opportunities for staff to receive vaccinations on our campus in Paramus and notified families of students of availability of vaccines at New Bridge Medical Center.

8) Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies


([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

Since BCSS schools provide services to medically fragile students/students with

complex disabilities, schools have implemented the following:

- 1) Obtained PPE prior to opening/maintained ongoing supplies.
- 2) Staff utilizes appropriate PPE for interactions with students, i.e. addressing student's personal care, medical and/or behavioral needs as needed.
- 3) Ensure heightened monitoring/frequent handwashing.
- 4) Implement additional health/safety protocols as specified per IEP.

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### 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)

Schools will utilize CST/district SAC to address ongoing mental health issues. They will assess students/staff regarding mental health concerns and provide resources as needed; CST/district SAC will work with students on an ongoing basis as needed.

BCSS nurses provide routine health screenings for students, and provide resources to families to assist them in obtaining medical/dental services.

BCSS continues to serve students through EYP programming and works with LEAs through IEP process to provide compensatory services if/when need is determined.

Pre-covid food service procedures returned in SY2022-2023. Our food service vendor, Chartwells, continues to follow established procedures for cleaning/disinfecting food prep areas.

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)

The draft of Safe Return plan was placed on our district website. A Google form was created for the public to comment and make suggestions regarding the plan within a one-week timeframe. An email notification was sent to families to let them know the draft plan was on our website and they were given a link to click on to enable them to comment.

Subsequent updates are posted on the BCSS website. The public have the opportunity to offer suggestions and comments at BCSS Board Meeting.

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)

The Safe Return Plan Is written in a narrative format that is understandable and uniform. The BCSS website has the Google Translate feature to translate the plan into various languages. Oral translation will be provided as needed. An alternate formatted plan will be provided for an individual with a disability upon request.

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 Bergen County Special Services district has worked with the local Bergen County Health Department and utilized the services of its Emergency Medical Services division to provide the most up-to-date information regarding health and safety procedures during the Covid pandemic, and continues to stay informed of the most up-to-date information from the CDC. Should remote learning become necessary during the 2023-2024 school year, the district will implement remote learning protocols utilizing technology implemented during school year 2020-2021. Professional development will continue to be structured to reflect changes required by Covid restrictions as needed.

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

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:

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## 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:

Howard Lerner

Assurances Fully Agreed To: 12/6/2023