



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

## **LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Service Pursuant to the Federal American Rescue Plan Act, Section 2001(i)**

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**LEA Name: South River Public School District**

**Date (06/01/2021):**

**Date Revised : 6/17/2024**

### **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**

- As of March 7, 2022, the state mandate requiring in school universal masking had expired and therefore the wearing of masks by staff, students and visitors is optional and at the discretion of the individual.
- Visitors to district schools are still encouraged to have an appointment.
- Signage will continue to be posted throughout the schools and was shared with families to show proper and safe mask wearing.
- Signage will continue to be posted around school buildings to provide hygiene advice and reminders to wear appropriate PPE.

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

- Desks may be spaced apart adhering to social distancing guidelines to the best extent possible.
- Plexiglass may be used as barriers where requested.
- Continue to minimize interaction of students between drop-off and entrance to school facilities by assigning different entrances and exits and utilizing staff, markings, and cones to ensure distancing of students.
- “One-way routes” in hallways and stairwells as appropriate will continue to be used. Signage is posted identifying travel routes.
- Recess will be held outdoors when weather permits and social distancing will be maintained to the greatest extent possible.

**C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette**

- Time will be provided during the day to allow for handwashing, mask breaks, snack, and physical movement.
- Hand sanitizer, gloves, extra masks, anti-bacterial wipes, tissues, and disinfecting spray are available to staff per their requests and are replenished as needed.
- Hand sanitizing stations are placed throughout the buildings.
- Touchless automatic water filling stations have replaced drinking water fountains in all school buildings.
- Touchless soap dispensers have been installed in all bathrooms.

**D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation**

- Classrooms will be cleaned daily with virucide multi-purpose cleaner. All schools, classrooms, and materials will be sprayed with high grade concentrated anti-bacterial sanitizer virucide products.
- Ventilation system filters have been upgraded with a MERV rating of 13.
- Custodial staff will perform daily cleaning of all classrooms, offices and common areas.
- Custodial staff will be provided appropriate PPE to be worn for cleaning and sanitizing of buildings and common areas.
- Bathrooms will be cleaned and sanitized throughout the day.
- In the event of an individual exhibiting signs/symptoms consistent with COVID -19, additional cleaning protocols will be put in place in the area used by the individual. Custodial staff will clean/disinfect all areas used by the infected person.
- Open outside windows/doors to increase fresh air into the area when applicable.

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

- Any student or staff member that has tested positive for COVID-19 or has symptoms associated with COVID-19, and is being treated as if they have COVID-19 , will continue to report this to their School Nurse or appropriate administrator as applicable.
- The district communicates appropriate timelines to both students and staff outlining quarantine dates for those who are COVID-19 positive.
- The Director of Student Services will report all positive tests to the South River Health Department if required.
- The district will adhere to all federal and state guidelines regarding the privacy of educational records.

**F. Diagnostic and screening testing**

- The district will offer rapid Covid-19 antigen testing to our staff and students as needed by request.

**G. Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible**

- We have held vaccination clinics both in-district and at a local pharmacy for students and staff.
- We have also extended this service to other school districts in Middlesex County.
- We keep track of our vaccinated district members and students.
- The district will continue to provide staff and students information regarding opportunities to receive vaccinations.

**H. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies**

- The district will continue to adhere to all legal mandates established in NJAC 6A:14, IDEA and all other applicable statutes/mandates.
- All students with a medical condition(s) will be identified and modifications/ accommodations will be provided accordingly.
- A variety of assessments will be used to determine the current level of academic functioning for all classified students. Instruction will be informed by the results of the assessments. IEP goals and objectives may be amended if warranted. IEP Teams will review student programs and placements on an on-going basis and will make changes as warranted.
- Specialized programs will offer additional safety measures to address the individual academic and social/emotional needs of all other students that require specialized instruction.
- Students attending out of district placements will follow the established protocols of the specific school they attend.

## 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)**

We offer the following services:

- Care Solace
- Expansion of ESS, Rutgers Behavioral Health Clinicians and Restorative Discipline Community Service program
- Additional staff (Behaviorist, Registered Behavior Technicians, etc.)
- Responsive Classroom
- Peer Mentorship
- Updates/upgrade to school cafeterias and HS shift to unit lunch
- Summer academic acceleration and credit completion/mentorship programs (HS)
- Review of data gained from both standardized assessments and district benchmark assessments
- Review of ACCESS/DLM assessment results
- HS/MS 1-1 devices. If needed, the district will provide 1-1 devices for PS and ES students
- Increased technical support for both devices and network issues
- Remediation via an online tutorial program (Tutor.com)
- Home Instruction via online program
- Alternative HS Credit Recovery program
- Read 180 and Systems 44 programs to ES along with additional intervention software used to address learning gaps
- PD on trauma informed teaching practices.
- Reading Interventionist at ES and PS
- Art, music, yoga, dog therapy for self contained SE classrooms
- Level I / II Wilson Reading System Training for SE, ASI, ESL Staff
- Employee Assistance Program
- New schedule with addition of (HAP) Help & Access Period at HS
- Online tutorial service accessible by students 24 hours per day in English and Spanish

### 3. Public Comment

**A. Describe how the LEA sought public comment on its plan, and how it took those public comments 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 District Task Force consists of the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, five administrators, two nurses, board members, teachers, union president, parents and students. Public comment was sought following completion of the plan prior to submission. The Superintendent will hold Q&A sessions as warranted with staff, families and community members.

The public will receive information related to COVID-19 and reopening of and/or return to schools including but not limited to:

- Review of cases in the borough, county and state.
- Review health and safety protocols put in place in each building and recommendations for any adjustments.
- Student performance data regarding student progress toward achievement of grade and content level standards.
- Communicating building level plans and other information to the community.
- Review concerns brought to their attention by members of the staff, students and community.
- Other non-specified areas that are involved in the safe operation of each building.

**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)**

- Information and updates to the plan will be sent through our district messaging system which includes phone, text, and email. It will also be posted on online platforms and social media pages which allow our families to access and view information in their preferred language.
- In addition, bilingual staff, including the district transition support coordinators, will address any specific questions and/or provide translation and clarification.
- Where possible, key information is translated and interpreted in our community's most frequently used languages.
- We will continue to make every effort to ensure that all parents have equitable access to the district's plan and any relevant updates in a comprehensible manner that best meets their needs.