

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

Section 2001(i)(1) of the ARP Act requires each local educational agency (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 Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services. In New Mexico, districts and state-chartered charter schools are LEAs.

This is a federal requirement and is not the same as the past state requirement for LEAs to submit Reentry Plans.

Pursuant to ARP requirements, LEAs must post on their website a fully compliant Plan for Safe Return to In-person Instruction and Continuity of Services by **December 24, 2021**.

This is the template we are providing for you to complete the ARP ESSER Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services. The template incorporates the federally-required components of this plan.

This template incorporates the federally-required components of the LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services.

PED hopes this template will allow LEAs to efficiently and effectively plan and to easily post their LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services on their websites as required by the ARP Act.

The 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 Safe Return to In-person Instruction and Continuity of Services through September 30, 2023**

Date of Revision

December 15, 2021

District ID	County	LEA NAME
055	Rio Arriba	Espanola Public Schools

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 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>

CDC Safety Recommendations	Has the LEA Adopted a Policy? (Y/N)	Describe LEA Policy:
Universal and correct wearing of masks	YES	Española Public Schools has established universal and correct wearing of mask requirements, protocols and compliance response as part of the

		Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Re-entry Plan 2021-22. See <i>Face Coverings for Schools</i> section, pp. 14-19.
Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)	YES	Española Public Schools has established physical distancing safety protocols as part of the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Re-entry Plan 2021-22. See <i>Logistics & Procedures</i> section, pp. 5-12.
Handwashing and respiratory etiquette	YES	Española Public Schools has established handwashing and respiratory protocols as part of the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Re-entry Plan 2021-22. See <i>Practicing Prevention</i> section, p. 3. Further, site specific school plans have established hand washing stations, reviewed training protocols and expectations with students and have posted visual cues for students and visitors to reinforce handwashing and respiratory etiquette.
Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation	YES	Española Public Schools has established cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation protocols as part of the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Re-entry Plan 2021-22. See <i>Safety</i> section, p. 31-35.
Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments	YES	Española Public Schools has established contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments protocols as part of the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Re-entry Plan 2021-22. See <i>Health</i> section, p. 20-29 to include guidance on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rapid Response to a COVID-19 Case in a School Facility, p. Error! Bookmark not defined. • Reporting of a Positive COVID-19 Case is Required, p. Error! Bookmark not defined. • What to Report for Schools, p. Error! Bookmark not defined. • NMDOH – School Health Advocate Contact List, p. Error! Bookmark not defined. • Useful Phone Numbers & Contacts, p. Error! Bookmark not defined. • School Staff and Student Decision Tree, p. Error! Bookmark not defined.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19 Symptoms, p. Error! Bookmark not defined. • Special Considerations, p. Error! Bookmark not defined. • Quarantine & Isolation Decision Tree, p. Error! Bookmark not defined. • Acute vs. Chronic COVID Symptoms in Schools, p. Error! Bookmark not defined. • COVID-19 Surveillance Testing in Public Schools, p. Error! Bookmark not defined.
Diagnostic and screening testing	YES	<p>Española Public Schools has established diagnostic and screening testing protocols as part of the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Re-entry Plan 2021-22. See sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19 Symptoms, p. Error! Bookmark not defined. • Special Considerations, p. Error! Bookmark not defined. • COVID-19 Surveillance Testing in Public Schools, p. Error! Bookmark not defined..
Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities	YES	<p>Española Public Schools has coordinated Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities with the NM Department of Health.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinated vaccination clinics for staff occurred Spring 2021 with ongoing VAX 2 and booster support to NMDOH. School nurses have coordinated the HIPPA compliant collection of staff vaccination records and reporting to Human Resources for accurate staff vaccination tracking. • Coordinated vaccination clinics for students have occurred through NMDOH in collaboration with local agencies, including El Centro Family Health, Rio Arriba Health Counsel, Espanola Presbyterian Hospital, and the City of Espanola Fire Department. Student vaccination events have occurred locally at school sites with ongoing events planned to support expanded vaccination.
Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies	YES	<p>Española Public Schools has coordinated appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies as part of the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Re-entry Plan 2021-22. See Remote</p>

		<i>Learning Accommodations, p. 4.</i> Further, IEP teams support individualized supports and review of student services as needed. <i>See Special Education, p. 48.</i>
Coordination with State and local health officials	YES	<p>Española Public Schools has established follows NMPED guidance and has coordinated with State and local health officials as part of the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Re-entry Plan 2021-22. <i>See Health section, p. 20-24 to include guidance on:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rapid Response to a COVID-19 Case in a School Facility, p. Error! Bookmark not defined. • Reporting of a Positive COVID-19 Case is Required, p. Error! Bookmark not defined. • What to Report for Schools, p. Error! Bookmark not defined. • NMDOH – School Health Advocate Contact List, p. Error! Bookmark not defined. • Useful Phone Numbers & Contacts, p. Error! Bookmark not defined. <p>EPS has coordinated vaccination and screening testing through the following agencies: NMDOH in collaboration with local agencies, including El Centro Family Health, Rio Arriba Health Counsel, Espanola Presbyterian Hospital, and the City of Espanola Fire Department.</p>

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	
How the LEA will Ensure Continuity of Services?	
<p>Española Public Schools has implemented a full re-entry plan for all students with safeguards and systems in place to ensure student support while in isolation or quarantine as needed as part of the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Re-entry Plan 2021-22. <i>See relevant sections as follows:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remote Learning Accommodations, p. 4. • Academics, pp. Error! Bookmark not defined.-38 	
How will the LEA address Students':	
Academic Needs?	Española Public Schools has implemented a full re-entry plan for all students with safeguards and systems in place to ensure students' academic needs are met as part of the Safe

	<p>Return to In-Person Instruction Re-entry Plan 2021-22. See relevant sections as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remote Learning Accommodations, p. 4. • Academics, p. Error! Bookmark not defined. • Curriculum, p. Error! Bookmark not defined. • Grading, p. Error! Bookmark not defined. • Technology, p. Error! Bookmark not defined. • Attendance, p. Error! Bookmark not defined. • Engagement and Participation, p. Error! Bookmark not defined. • High Quality Instructional Materials, p. Error! Bookmark not defined. • Electives, Specials & Extracurricular Activities, p. Error! Bookmark not defined. • Monitoring Student Progress, p. Error! Bookmark not defined. • High School & Senior Supports, pp. 40-42 <p>Additionally, Española Public Schools supports students academic, attendance, behavior (social – emotional) learning needs the Student Assistance Team (SAT) and Multi-Layered System of Support (MLSS) process.</p>
Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs?	<p>Española Public Schools has implemented a full re-entry plan for all students with safeguards and systems in place to ensure students’ social, emotional and mental health needs are met as part of the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Re-entry Plan 2021-22. See relevant sections as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Social-Emotional Learning Supports, p. Error! Bookmark not defined. • Mandatory Reporting & Wellness Checks, p. Error! Bookmark not defined. • Supporting Families, p. Error! Bookmark not defined. • Social-Emotional Services, p. Error! Bookmark not defined. • Social-Emotional Assurances, p. Error! Bookmark not defined. <p>Additionally, Española Public Schools supports students’ academic, attendance, behavior (social – emotional) learning needs the Student Assistance Team (SAT) and Multi-Layered System of Support (MLSS) process.</p> <p>The following Social Emotional curriculum and programs are in place to support students’ needs:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HLC Behavior Health Curriculum (K-6): comprehensive, sequential program provides youth with the knowledge and skills practice to make healthier choices including life skills, nutrition, fitness, safety, conflict resolution/violence prevention, substance abuse prevention. • PAX Behavior Games (K-6): The PAX Good Behavior Game is a proven, research-based classroom management model designed for use in grades K–6. Based on a strategy developed by a classroom teacher 40 years ago, the PAX Game involves student teams “competing against” each other to earn rewards for refraining from disruptive, inattentive, or aggressive behavior. • Edgenuity SEL Curriculum (6-12): Edgenuity®, in partnership with Purpose Prep, offers rich and relevant K–12 social and emotional learning (SEL) curriculum and highly practical teacher resources that help educators meet SEL prevention and intervention goals for students of all ages • Thriving Students: The Thriving Students program offers a framework to help educators work with their challenging students by moving away from punitive and authoritative actions to developing safe, empathetic relationships. • Project RACE: goals are to decrease the rates of drug and alcohol use, increase student graduation rates, reduce delinquency, reduce the city crime rate and provide life skills, career readiness assistance, local employment opportunities, and college readiness assistance. SEL services include: training in life skills such as emotional intelligence at the workplace, handling conflict, and learning to self-advocate.
Other Needs (which may include student health and food services)?	<p>Española Public Schools has implemented a full re-entry plan for all students with safeguards and systems in place to ensure students’ equity, language and cultural needs are met as part of the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Re-entry Plan 2021-22. See relevant sections as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bilingual and ELD Services, p. Error! Bookmark not defined. • HOPE - Homeless Services, p. Error! Bookmark not defined. • Indian Education, p. Error! Bookmark not defined. • Interventions, p. Error! Bookmark not defined. • MLSS, SAT & 504 Services, , p. Error! Bookmark not defined.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC), p. Error! Bookmark not defined.
How will the LEA address Staff:	
Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs?	<p>Española Public Schools has implemented a full re-entry plan for all students with safeguards and systems in place to ensure students' social, emotional and mental health needs are met as part of the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Re-entry Plan 2021-22.</p> <p>The Human Resources Department in collaboration with Insurance and Benefits effectively communicates through email with bulletins, wellness information and videos sent by NMSPIA. Bulletins and wellness information and employee challenges related to health & wellness include stress reduction, Quiet Reflection Video, Walktober Challenge, Work Life Integration, Healthy Eating (recipes), Diabetes Awareness, Ergonomic Evaluations, Building Healthy Habits Challenge, Behavioral Health Service support option, etc.</p> <p>Further, the HR Department supports staff through coordinated efforts to comply with the Family Medical Leave Act as needed and necessary and Emergency Paid Sick Leave.</p> <p>EPS has also promoted staff mental wellness through structured wellness activities as part of our scheduled Professional Learning early release learning time. As recent as December 8, 2021 and January 3, 2022, staff wellness activities have been planned.</p>
Other Needs?	

Public Input	
Describe the process used to seek public input, and how that input was taken into account in the revision of the plan.	<p>Throughout the Pandemic and through the development and revision of the Española Public Schools Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Re-entry Plan 2021-22 the district has sought out public input through regular surveys and school messenger announcements.</p> <p>Further, public input meetings have occurred and regular D-PAC meetings occur as facilitated through the Federal Programs Department. Additionally, an open Google Survey for Re-Entry Planning is available for ongoing feedback and comments.</p>

	Input from students, staff, families and community stakeholders is evaluated, reviewed and shared with EPS decision makers in updated the EPS Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Re-entry Plan 2021-22.
Understandable and Uniform Format	
Describe the process by which the LEA will, to the extent practicable, present the plan 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, describe the process for orally translating the plan for such parents.	Española Public Schools serves a diverse population. The predominant languages spoken with EPS are English and Spanish. Through written and oral communication EPS translates all correspondence to parents, families and students into Spanish as well. Relevant documents are also posted in English and Spanish, including the EPS Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Re-entry Plan 2021-22
Describe the process by which a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA, will be provided a version of the plan in an alternative format accessible to that parent.	Upon request through the Office of the Superintendent, Española Public Schools will provide a digitally editable file for individual enlargement or conversion to audio as needed to support individuals with a disability as defined by the ADA.

U.S. Department of Education Interim Final Rule (IFR)

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

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 –

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. During the period of the ARP ESSER award established in section 2001(a) of the ARP Act, an LEA must
 - a. 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.
 - b. In determining whether revisions are necessary, and in making any revisions, the LEA must seek public input and take such input into account.
 - c. 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.
4. 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).
5. 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—
 - a. In an understandable and uniform format;

- b. 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
- c. 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.

The IFR and ARP statute, along with other helpful resources, are located here:

April 2021 IFR: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2021-04-22/pdf/2021-08359.pdf>

ARP Act text: <https://www.congress.gov/117/bills/hr1319/BILLS-117hr1319enr.pdf>

ED COVID-19 Handbook Volume I: <https://www2.ed.gov/documents/coronavirus/reopening.pdf>

ED COVID-19 Handbook Volume II: <https://www2.ed.gov/documents/coronavirus/reopening-2.pdf>

ESEA Evidence-Based Guidance: <https://oese.ed.gov/files/2020/07/guidanceeusesinvestment.pdf>

ED FAQs for ESSER and Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER):

https://oese.ed.gov/files/2021/05/ESSER.GEER_FAQs_5.26.21_745AM_FINALb0cd6833f6f46e03ba2d97d30aff953260028045f9ef3b18ea602db4b32b1d99.pdf