



## 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

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LEA Name: Soaring Heights Charter School

Date (06/21/2021):

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:

The 2021-2022 school year will begin at 100% capacity and in-person as of September 1, 2021. As per CDC guidelines all staff, students and visitors who enter the school building will be required to wear masks except in extreme heat or when eating. All staff, students and visitors will be required to wear a school appropriate mask on school property throughout the day. The school will provide each student with one reusable mask. If it is not medically possible to wear a mask, a doctor's note will be required.

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

Whenever possible, all students will be seated three feet apart in classrooms, hallways, cafeteria, and shared space. Partitions will continue to be used when this is not possible. During lunchtime partitions will be used while students are eating and masks have been removed. Arrows are placed in the hallway indicating the flow of traffic. Face coverings will be worn in hallways at all times.

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette –

Purell stations are placed in every classroom, throughout the hallways and at entrances and exits. Upon entering the building students will be required to sanitize their hands. Before and after students eat a meal they will be required to sanitize/wash their hands as well as their areas and protection shield. Students will wash and/or sanitize hands frequently including but not limited to the start of the day, before and after meals, using the bathroom, after outdoor play or recess and after sneezing, wiping and blowing noses. Students are encouraged to bring water bottles to school. Sharing of any personal items is discouraged. If equipment is shared it will be sanitized in between each use.

Each HVAC unit in the school has Lennox Evaporator Coil Disinfectant Germicidal UV light and Reme-Halo In-Duct Air Purification Kits. The REME HALO by RGF is designed to eliminate sick building syndrome risks by reducing odors, ® air pollutants, VOCs (chemical odors), smoke, mold, bacteria and viruses. The Lennox Evaporator Coil Disinfectant Germicidal UV light kills bacteria, fungi and viruses such as H1N1 and Sars.

As per Jersey City Department of Health and the school's doctor, students will prep their desk/area at the beginning/end of the day. Prepping will consist of sanitizing their hands as well as wiping their area and protection shield. All personal belongings are to remain with students at their desks throughout the day including, but not limited to backpacks and jackets. All personal school supplies such as pencils, crayons, glue sticks etc, should be kept in a pencil box or gallon size baggie in their backpack.

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

Each HVAC unit in the school has Lennox Evaporator Coil Disinfectant Germicidal UV light and Reme-Halo In-Duct Air Purification Kits. The REME HALO by RGF is designed to eliminate sick building syndrome risks by reducing odors, ® air pollutants, VOCs (chemical odors), smoke, mold, bacteria and viruses. The Lennox Evaporator Coil Disinfectant Germicidal UV light kills bacteria, fungi and viruses such as H1N1 and Sars.

All classrooms and high touch areas are disinfected and sanitized daily.

Students will be directed to enter the building through the two main doors - Primary side, and Main entrance. Temperatures will be taken before entering the building. If their temperatures are 100 degrees or higher, they will be asked to leave the building until they are fever free without the aid of medication for 48 hours. Parents are required to wear a mask while waiting until their child(ren) is/are granted access to school before leaving. **Students will be asked the Pre-Check questions. If they answer yes to any questions, they will be sent home.** Parents are to wait at designated spots on the sidewalk (Primary side entrance will wait on spots towards Neptune Avenue and the Main door entrance will wait on spots towards Seaview Avenue. Students will report directly to their classrooms. Staff will also have their temperatures taken upon entering the building. Both staff and students will be encouraged to stay home when they are not feeling well.

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

The school will contact the Jersey City Department of Health when a student or staff member contracts COVID-19. Contact tracing will be completed by the local Department of Health.

Any staff or student presenting symptoms of COVID-19 such as having a fever of 100 degrees or higher, vomiting, persistent coughing, difficulty breathing and/or diarrhea should not come to school. If any of the above symptoms occur during the school day, he/she will be sent home. He/She can not return to school until fever free without the aid of medication for 48 hours. A doctor's note will be required if absent for three or more days.

- F. Diagnostic and screening testing

If a staff member has a temperature of 100 degrees or higher, is vomiting, has diarrhea, a sore throat, difficulty breathing or a cough, he/she will be asked to leave the building in a timely manner. He/She must be fever free without the aid of medication for 48 hours before returning to school. If the staff member is absent for three consecutive days, a doctor's note is required upon return.

Upon confirming that a staff member or student has tested positive for the Coronavirus, the school building will be closed for 14 days and everyone will be placed on remote learning for the duration of that time. The school will immediately notify the local board of health and follow the CDC guidelines. The entire school community will be notified through a One Call Now of such closure. After 24 hours, the building will be disinfected and will continue to be cleaned everyday thereafter.

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

In March of 2021, Soaring Heights staff were provided with the opportunity to be receive the Moderna vaccine. New employees who are not yet vaccinated will be given the same opportunity should they choose to receive one.

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

Appropriate accommodations will be made for students with disabilities in respect to the health and safety policies and guidelines.

## 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) - Soaring Heights will address the academic impact of loss of instruction by providing summer school classes, tutoring and enrichment programs beginning June 2021, and continuing through August 2022. The school counselor will be employed for an additional day to help with overwhelming need for services to help students process emotional issues and plan goals to successfully transition from remote to hybrid to in-person learning. Soaring Heights will partner with *Shine Your Light* to help school leaders, teachers, and students to maintain their social-emotional wellness and readiness in order to teach and learn during this extremely stressful transition back into the classroom.

## 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) – A public meeting was held on June 3 to discuss the Safe Reopening Plan for the 2021-2022 school year. The plan was presented at the June 21, 2021 Board Meeting and will be available on the school's website for future viewing.

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)