

Frelinghuysen Township School

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Frelinghuysen Township School District

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

May 27, 2021

Background and Explanation:

“On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the Federal American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) Fund, Public Law 117-2, into law. ARP ESSER provides an additional \$122 billion to States and school districts to help safely reopen, sustain the safe operation of schools, and address the impact 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 impact of COVID-19 on educators, students, and families.

The interim final requirements published by the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) on April 22, 2021 state, “each LEA that receives ARP ESSER funds must develop, submit to the SEA... and make publicly available on the LEA's website, a plan for the LEA's use of ARP ESSER funds... [u]nder this requirement, an LEA must engage in meaningful consultation with stakeholders and give the public an opportunity to provide input in the development of its plan.” -New Jersey Department of Education

In accordance with the above, FTS has developed a Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services for the 2021-2022 school year, outlining the topics requested in the grant application for the ARP ESSER. In addition, because FTS has been open for in-person learning since September, 2020 with a plan that included input from multiple community stakeholders, we will be continuing with our plan, making changes as necessary. Please note that updates will continue throughout the summer as changes are made to the guidelines from the CDC, New Jersey Department of Health and New Jersey Department of Education. Beginning now, the school community can review this information and provide public comment on the plan. If you have input you would like to share, you may email Bonaparte@frelinghuysenschool.org with your comments.

Frelinghuysen Township School District

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

LEA Name: Frelinghuysen Township School District

Date (mm/dd/yyyy): 05/27/2021

Date Revised (mm/dd/yyyy): 12/20/2021

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.

Funding may be used to support any of the safety measures listed below.

A. Universal and correct wearing of masks

- Students and staff will be instructed on the proper wearing of masks and the appropriate types of masks.
- The school will provide masks to anyone in need.
- The most current guidelines from the New Jersey Department of Health will be followed.

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

Classrooms

- Desks and seats at tables will maintain 3-6 feet of distance.
- Small group work areas will maintain 3-6 feet of distance.
- The most current guidelines from the New Jersey Department of Health will be followed.

Hallways

- Hallways are marked with 3-6 feet of distance.
- Distance will be maintained while walking in the hallway.
- The most current guidelines from the New Jersey Department of Health will be followed.

Cafeteria

- Students will maintain 6 feet of distance while eating lunch.
- Schedules will divide lunch periods into 2 cohorts to minimize crowding in the cafeteria.
- Extra tables and chairs will be added as necessary.
- The most current guidelines from the New Jersey Department of Health will be followed.

Gym

- The gymnasium is marked with 6x6 feet boxes for students to participate in gym activities.
- The most current guidelines from the New Jersey Department of Health will be followed.

C. Hand washing and respiratory etiquette

- Students have scheduled hand washing time that includes before eating, after being outside and bathroom breaks. Other times may be scheduled in as necessary, depending on classroom activities.
- All students will be instructed by the school nurse and/or health teacher on proper hand washing techniques.
- Students will be instructed by the school nurse for respiratory etiquette (ex: covering coughs, sneezes, etc.)

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

- Daily disinfection will continue to be a priority including desks, tables, bathrooms, and commonly touched surfaces.
- Classrooms are equipped with Medify Air Purifiers and will have filters changed as recommended by the manufacturer specs.
- Classroom univents will have filters changed periodically or as necessary.
- Classrooms are able to allow for fresh air flow with open windows.
- Ventilation will continually be assessed and upgraded as needed.
- The most current guidelines from the New Jersey Department of Health will be followed.

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

- Contact tracing is done in collaboration with the County Health Department
- Isolation and quarantine times are determined by most current CDC and/or New Jersey Department of Health guidelines

F. Diagnostic and screening testing

- Diagnostic testing for Covid-19 will not be done in the district.
- Symptom screening and recommendations for testing will be done by the school nurse
- The most current guidelines from the New Jersey Department of Health will be followed.

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

- Every effort will be made to provide resources, time and information to educators and families regarding the vaccine
- The most current guidelines from the New Jersey Department of Health will be followed.

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

- Children with disabilities will have appropriate accommodations to health and safety policies as needed

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)

Frelinghuysen Township School District will take the following steps to ensure a continuity of services:

- Assess student's academic needs to provide instructional materials to address both students in need of intervention and students in need of enrichment. Assessments will be standardized using research based assessments, benchmarks for grade level standards, classroom formative assessments and instructional summative assessments. Based on these assessments, funding will be used for additional instructional programs, materials and/or staffing will be provided as determined by need.
- Address students and staff social, emotional and mental health needs through appropriate mental health services such as an on-staff guidance counselor, research based SEL program, and professional development for staff. In addition, resources will be provided to any member of the school community in need of services, including health or food services. Funding will be used for these purposes as well.

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)

This plan is posted on the Frelinghuysen Township School webpage, with an explanation of the open public comment period. Comments were solicited electronically through email and through Board of Education meetings on May 26, 2021 and June 16, 2021. Moving forward, each revision will follow the same standard public comment practice.

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)

This plan is designed to be user friendly and accurately describe, in plain language, the measures that will be taken for safe re-opening in September, 2021. Many of these practices have been in place since September, 2020, when the district re-opened for in-person learning. Translations can be made available in any language using google translate and an individual with a disability can be provided with appropriate accommodations such as read-aloud technology, etc.