



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

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that upon the conclusion of the 2020-2021 school year, portions of Executive Order 175 allowing remote learning will be rescinded, meaning that schools will be required to provide full-day, in-person instruction, as they were prior to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.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

LEA Name: Lawrence Township School District (Cumberland County)

Date 06/24/2021

Date **REVISED- 08/31/2021** Portions of the document revised on 8/31 are highlighted in yellow

1. Maintaining Health and Safety

A. Universal and correct wearing of masks

Per Executive Order 251, school-aged students, and school staff are required to wear masks inside the building, with exceptions for health concerns. Keeping in compliance with the mandate, we will have our students and staff remove their masks for "cases of extreme heat in outdoor settings and for situations indoors or outdoors where wearing a mask would inhibit the individual's health." Myron L. Powell School has clearly marked signage on our doors and entrances to the school. We have informed our students, parents/guardians, and staff about universal and correct wearing of masks.

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

We will plan to have students seated at minimum 3 feet from one another in the classrooms.

- For students in primary and elementary grades, they will remain in one group throughout the day.
- For students with an IEP in self-contained classrooms, they will combine with regular education students for special area classes, recess, and lunch times.

- For students with an IEP in mainstreamed classrooms, they may combine with students in their same grade, from other homerooms for Language Arts and Math classes.
- For students in middle school, they will be in grade-level cohorts, not homeroom cohorts.
- The sharing of classroom supplies such as pencils, glue, crayons, markers and books will be minimized. We will continue to avoid sharing electronic devices.
- Lunch periods have been staggered to reduce the number of students in the cafeteria. Students will be instructed to social distance themselves at the cafeteria tables.

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

We will continue the visual reminders throughout the school for students to cover their coughs and wash their hands. Signs with proper handwashing steps will be displayed above all bathroom sinks, portable sinks in the hallways, and sinks located in the classrooms. Follow these five steps every time: Wet hands with clean, running water; lather hands by rubbing them together with the soap; scrub hands for at least 20 seconds; rinse hands well; dry hands using a clean towel or air dry them. When students are not able to wash their hands, the use of hand sanitizer will be encouraged.

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

Our school's standard procedures for routine cleaning and disinfecting typically mean daily sanitizing surfaces and objects that are touched often, and all preschool and kindergarten toys will be disinfected. Additional daily procedures include disinfecting bathrooms, **disinfecting lunch tables between periods**, removing trash and recycling from the building, vacuum all floor surfaces, sweeping, mopping of all restrooms, bathrooms, and the nurse's office. Custodians began using Clorox Total 360 System. Our school has improved airflow by opening windows, when possible, students have lunch outdoors when circumstances allow; students open windows on buses. Buses and child restraint devices for transportation will be cleaned and disinfected as well in accordance with the transportation companies' procedures.

E. Contact tracing with isolation & quarantine, in collaboration with State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments:

We continue to follow the guidelines set by the NJDOE, NJ Department of Health, and the CDC. We implemented procedures to ensure students and staff who become sick at school or arrive at school sick, are sent home as soon as possible to ensure that sick students and staff are separated from well students and staff until they can leave. If a student or staff member is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 at school the school along with the local health department will collaborate to determine the source of illness. The school will make every effort to institute

and maintain adequate control measures until the illness is declared over. Specific exclusion guidelines will be dependent on the color of risk that our region is assigned by the NJDOH.

F. Diagnostic and screening testing:

We will continue our same daily symptom screening for students and staff. Our system is located on our district data information home page. Parents/caregivers should be strongly encouraged to monitor their children for signs of illness every day as they are the front line for assessing illness in their children. Students who are sick should not attend school. On site screening upon arrival includes checking temperatures. If it is deemed that a staff member or student is symptomatic, the school nurse will guide them to get a test.

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

Teachers and staff who are not vaccinated will continue to receive information from the school to inform them of any upcoming vaccination sites. The school will excuse any time students or staff need to take off from school to receive their vaccination.

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

The main issue that often concerns families with special education children is the mask requirement. Some students with disabilities simply cannot tolerate wearing a mask, due to physical limitations, sensory intolerance, or behavioral concerns. Therefore, we will offer accommodations such as face shields, plexiglass dividers, increased distancing between students and staff within a room, smaller class sizes, etc. In addition, IEP teams may consider adding a goal for increased mask tolerance and, until that goal is achieved, adding an accommodation so that the student will enter the hallways (changing classes/entering and exiting the building) a few minutes either before or after large masses of students do so, to limit unmasked exposure, by and to the unmasked student.

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)

The students' academic needs will be met by placing the attention on their grades and effort by tracking assessments, attendance, and assignment completion. First, teachers will communicate with parent/guardians. Then, instructional aides or supplemental staff will reach out

to families to offer extra help for the student. Next, the positive behavior teacher will contact the parent or the child to give them encouragement or determine if there is any underlying issue to address. Lastly, administration will get involved to help bring resolution to the problem. For students' emotional and mental health, the positive behavior teacher will teach social skills and character education classes on an as needed basis therefore being available to provide conflict resolution when needed. Additional classes in Social Emotional Learning (SEL) will be taught by a certified guidance counselor as a Special Area class in kindergarten-3rd grade, and by certified teaching staff in all other grade levels. Our commitment remains to healing the trauma, withdrawal, and isolation many children suffered during the pandemic.

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)

At the monthly Board meeting on June 10th, the CSA provided an outline of the plan to the public who was in attendance. Each section was reviewed. The CSA explained that the plan is entitled Safe Return to In-Person Instruction, even though the district has been providing in-person instruction since October 13th, 2020 for 2-days per week, then beginning March 1st, 2021 for 5-days per week. With our commitment to follow the guidance of the CDC, NJ DOH and the County Education specialists, it was explained to the public that this plan will be revised multiple times throughout the summer as mandates are constantly changing. At the time of the meeting, wearing masks was a specific concern of many parents on social media. The CSA explained prior to opening the floor for public comment that the plan was written based on the current mandates and will be revised to reflect any amendments. Since then, in August 2021, the Governor mandated the wearing of masks inside schools for all students and staff.

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)

The CSA used the format provided by the Department of Education. If that format is not clear, the following accommodations can be made:

- The entire document can be translated into any language needed upon request by having a staff member of the school use Google Translate.
- If a parent or guardian has a reading disability and cannot read the plan as posted on the district's website, a staff member of the school can read the plan to that individual upon request.