

## LEA Plan on the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

This document is intended to meet the federal statutory requirement that, within 30 days of receiving ARP ESSER LEA allocation (anticipated May 24th), an LEA shall publish an LEA Plan on the Safe Return to In Person Instruction and Continuity of Services, which is often called a “school district reopening plan.”

Note, if an LEA developed a plan before *The American Rescue Plan Act* (ARPA) was enacted on 03/11/2021 that complied with the federal statutory requirements for public posting and comments but does not meet all of the requirements below, then the LEA must revise its plan no later than six months after receiving ARP ESSER funds

For further context, please reference ARPA (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/1319/text>) or the Interim Final Requirements of ARP ESSER (<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2021-04-22/pdf/2021-08359.pdf>).

### I. General Information

1. LEA Name: Mason School District - SAU 89

2. Date of Publication: June 21, 2021

### II. Transparency and Accessibility

1. This plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services was published and made publicly available online here: [www.mason.sau89.org](http://www.mason.sau89.org)

Description: The plan was placed on the district Website on June 22, 2021

2. Before making the plan publicly available, the LEA sought public comment on the plan and took such comments into account in the development of the plan (please check one).

Yes: Somewhat: No:

Description: Mason School Community was surveyed on May 13, 2021 to gather feedback on current and future reopening plans.

3. The plan is in an understandable and uniform format (please check one):

Yes: Somewhat: No:

4. The plan, to the extent practicable, is written in a language that parents can understand or, if not practicable, orally translated (please check one):

Yes: Somewhat: No:

5. The plan, upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability, is provided in an alternative format accessible to that parent (please check one):

Yes: Somewhat: No:

### III. Health and Safety

1. How the LEA will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other school and LEA staff:

**Description during SY20-21:** We started the year in a hybrid model with cohorts so that we could provide students with high quality remote and in person instruction. In October we started bringing students back into the building 4 days a week. By December, all students that wanted in person instruction were in the building. We were able to provide in person instruction for the remainder of the 20-21 school year. We followed all mitigation strategies according to NH -DDHS and CDC recommendations.

**Description during SY21-22:** We will provide 100% in person instruction in the fall of 2021. We will keep some mitigation strategies in place and will base any mitigation strategy decisions on the COVID numbers in our community.

2. The LEA's adoption of the following CDC health and safety strategies are described below: (Note federal regulation on this plan requires such reporting, but does not require adoption of CDC safety recommendations. The NH DOE recognizes schools will implement localized safety measures based on the guidance provided by the CDC, NH Public Health, and local public health officials.)

**a. Universal and correct wearing of masks:**

During SY20-21 (check one): **Yes:** Somewhat: No:

During SY21-22 (check one): **Yes:** Somewhat: No:

**Description of both SYs:**

20-21 Masks were worn when 6 feet of distance could not be maintained throughout the school day inside and outside for both children and adults.

21-22 Masks will be optional for fully vaccinated individuals. Masks will be optional for unvaccinated individuals based on current guidance from the NH DHHS as long as 3 feet of social distance is maintained inside the building and on school busses. When 3 feet can't be maintained masks will be recommended. Masks will not be required for children or adults when outside. Mask guidelines will adjust as needed based on local infection rates.

**b. Physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding and modifying facilities):**

During SY20-21 (check one): **Yes:** Somewhat: No:

During SY21-22 (check one): **Yes:** Somewhat: No:

**Description of both SYs:**

20-21 Individuals maintained 6 feet of distance throughout the school day. Desks were 6 feet apart in all classrooms. Throughout the day 6 feet was maintained in all settings. Visual reminders were placed in halls and verbal reminders were provided at recess.

21-22 - Based on new guidelines from NH DHHS 3 feet of social distance will be required when inside the school building or the school bus.

**c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette:**

During SY20-21 (check one): **Yes**: Somewhat: No:

During SY21-22 (check one): **Yes**: Somewhat: No:

**Description of both SYs:**

20-21 Hand washing/sanitizing stations were placed at every entrance. Students and adults were asked to sanitize when leaving and entering rooms within the building. Hand washing was done before eating and after outdoor play. Students and staff were educated on hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette and this was reviewed constantly throughout the year.

21-22 Hand washing/sanitizing stations will be placed at every entrance. Students and adults will be asked to sanitize when leaving and entering rooms within the building. Hand washing will be done before eating and after outdoor play. Students and staff will continue to be educated on hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette and it will be reviewed throughout the year.

**d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation:**

During SY20-21 (check one): **Yes**: Somewhat: No:

During SY21-22 (check one): **Yes**: Somewhat: No:

**Description of both SYs:**

20-21 Windows were encouraged to be opened throughout the year. cleaning throughout the day was increased. cleaning logs were maintained. air filters were changed quarterly. building air exchange was completed at the end of every day and extra cleaning staff was hired.

21-22 Windows will be opened throughout the year. increased cleaning throughout the day will continue. cleaning logs will be maintained. air filters will be changed quarterly. the building air exchange will be completed at the end of every day and extra cleaning staff will be on staff.

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

During SY20-21 (check one): **Yes**: Somewhat: No:

During SY21-22 (check one): **Yes**: Somewhat: No:

**Description of both SYs:**

20-21 - Seating charts and checklists were maintained for recess to assist in contact tracing. Assigned seats on the bus were required and classroom seating charts were maintained. Individual in depth interviews with any family/staff that reported illness was completed as well as working with NH-DHHS when necessary.

21-22 Assigned seats will be maintained and seating charts will be provided to the school nurse in the case we need to contact trace. We will continue to work closely with parents and staff when any illness is present. We will follow NH-DHHS guidelines around isolation and quarantine. We will reach out to NH -DHHS as needed.



**f. Diagnostic and screening testing:**

During SY20-21 (check one): Yes: Somewhat: **No:**

During SY21-22 (check one): Yes: Somewhat: **No:**

**Description of both SYs:**

20-21 - N diagnostic or screening testing was done on the school grounds. Any testing was done privately by staff and students.

21-22 No diagnostic or screening testing will be done on the school grounds. Any testing will be done privately by staff and students.

**g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities:**

During SY20-21 (check one): **Yes:** Somewhat: No:

During SY21-22 (check one): **Yes:** Somewhat: No:

**Description of both SYs:**

20-21 All staff were invited to join a POD clinic that was provided by the Nashua Department of Health. Staff were given time off to receive vaccines or recover from side effects without penalty. We shared information with families on where to obtain vaccines and vaccine safety.

21-22 We will continue to educate families and staff about the importance of vaccinations and provide staff with information and or access to any future booster that becomes available.

**h. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies:**

During SY20-21 (check one): **Yes:** Somewhat: No:

During SY21-22 (check one): **Yes:** Somewhat: No:

**Description of both SYs:**

20-21 We worked with all families that were concerned with in person learning and provided remote instruction until they were comfortable sending their child back to school. All special education services were provided throughout the pandemic either remotely or in person.

21-22 We will continue to provide all children with the services and accommodations they need to access their education. This will be done on an individual basis when necessary.

**i. Coordination with state and local health officials (please check one):**

During SY20-21 (check one): **Yes:** Somewhat: No:

During SY21-22 (check one): **Yes:** Somewhat: No:

**Description of both SYs:**

20-21 Weekly/Monthly webinars with NH DOE and NH DHHS to stay up to date with the most recent information.

21-22 We will continue to participate in any offered webinars/training with the DOE or NH DHHS.

#### **IV. Continuity of Services**

1. The LEA has provided continuity of services in addressing student academic needs:

**Description during SY20-21:** Our students received a full year of academic instruction. They received 5 days of instruction from a certified educator either in person or remotely. All students were fully in person by December of 2020.

**Description during SY21-22:** All students will receive in person instruction for the 21-22 school year.

2. The LEA has provided continuity of services in addressing student social, emotional, mental, and other health needs, which may include student health and food services:

**Description during SY20-21:** As school we used a schoolwide social emotional program (Choose Love). Any children needing additional support were provided that by the school psychologist. The school psychologist supported classroom teachers in implementing many coping and stress reducing strategies. All students had access to free breakfast and lunch throughout the 20-21 school year.

**Description during SY21-22:** We will continue to use a school wide social emotional program and all children will have access to the school psychologist. Free breakfast and lunch will be provided for the 21-22 school year.

3. The LEA has provided continuity of services in addressing staff social, emotional, mental, and other health needs:

**Description during SY20-21:** We supported the staff both personally and professionally. They were given time off when needed for any COVID related illness or incident without penalty. They had access to the school psychologist. We provided staff with morale boosting events throughout the year. Professional development was provided to strengthen their ability to teach remotely.

**Description during SY21-22:** We will continue to support the staff both personally and professionally. They will be given time off when needed for any COVID related illness or incident. They will continue to have access to the school psychologist. We provided staff with morale boosting events throughout the year. Professional development was provided to strengthen their ability to teach remotely.

## V. Plan Review

1. The LEA will meet the federal regulatory requirement to review and, as appropriate, revise its Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan at least every six months through September 30, 2023 (the award period including the Tydings period). (Note an LEA that developed a plan before ARPA was enacted on 03/11/2021 that complied with the federal statutory requirements for public posting and comments but does not meet all of the requirements above must revise its plan no later than six months after the LEA receives LEA ESSER funds.)

Yes: No:

**Description:** This plan will be reviewed frequently throughout the 21-22 school year as more information develops. We currently are not receiving any funds but will continue to maintain this plan.

2. In doing so, the LEA will meet the federal statutory requirement to seek public input and take such input into account in determining whether to revise the plan and, if revisions are determined necessary, on the revisions it makes to its plan.

Yes: No:

**Description:** We will continue to survey our families and staff as needed for revision.

3. In doing so, the LEA will also meet the federal regulatory requirement to address CDC safety recommendations and, if the CDC has updated its safety recommendations at the time the LEA is revising its plan, each of the updated CDC safety recommendations.  
(Note federal regulation on this plan requires such reporting, but does not require adoption of CDC safety recommendations. The NH DOE recognizes schools will implement localized safety measures based on the guidance provided by the CDC, NH Public Health, and local public health officials.)

Yes: No:

**Description:** We will continue to stay abreast of CDC and NH DHHS recommendations throughout the year and consider those recommendations when updating or revising the plan.

## VI. Authorization

LEA Superintendent's Signature: Date:

 6/22/2021

## VIII. Appendices

### Appendix A. ARPA Statutory Excerpt

“(i) Safe return to in-person instruction.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A local educational agency receiving funds under this section shall develop and make publicly available on the local educational agency’s website, not later than 30 days after receiving the allocation of funds described in paragraph (d)(1), a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services.

(2) COMMENT PERIOD.—Before making the plan described in paragraph (1) publicly available, the local educational agency shall seek public comment on the plan and take such comments into account in the development of the plan.

(3) PREVIOUS PLANS.—If a local educational agency has developed a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction before the date of enactment of this Act that meets the requirements described in paragraphs (1) and (2), such plan shall be deemed to satisfy the requirements under this subsection.”

### Appendix B. Interim Final Requirements of ARP ESSER Excerpt

**“(3) LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services.**

(a) 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—

(i) 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.

(ii) 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.

(b) (i) During the period of the ARP ESSER award established in section 2001(a) of the ARP Act, an 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 the safe return to in person instruction and continuity of services.

(ii) In determining whether revisions are necessary, and in making any revisions, the LEA must seek public input and take such input into account.

(iii) 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.

(c) 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).

(d) 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—

- (i) In an understandable and uniform format;
- (ii) 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
- (iii) 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.”

