

**OLD BRIDGE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

JUNE 23, 2021

**LEA PLAN FOR SAFE RETURN TO IN-PERSON
INSTRUCTION AND CONTINUITY OF SERVICES**

OVERVIEW

- As announced by the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) on April 28th, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act into law. The ARP provides additional funding to schools in Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) to States and school district to help safely reopen, sustain safe operations in schools, and address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the nations' students. The purpose is to support local educational agencies (LEAs) in preparing and responding to the impacts on COVID-19 on educators, students, and families. Additional information on ARP ESSER may be found on the NJDOE's funding comparison fact sheet:
- <https://www.nj.gov/education/esser/docs/ESSERFactSheet.pdf>

OVERVIEW CONTINUED:

- The ARP Act requires each LEA (school district) that receives ARP ESSER funds develop and make public on the District website a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services for all schools.
- Additionally, the ARP Act requires that the LEA seek public comment on the Safe Return Plan and take those comments into account when finalizing its Safe Return Plan. The District must periodically, but no less frequent than every six months, through September 20, 2023 review and revise its Safe Return Plan as appropriate.
- Pursuant to those requirements, the LEAs (school districts) must submit to the NJDOE and post on its website their Safe Return Plans by June 24, 2021 using the template provided by the NJDOE.
- *This presentation and plan is reflective of the NJDOE template and all information included is subject to change based on the changing parameters provided by the state and federal guidelines.*

SUMMARY OF DISTRICT SURVEY RESULTS

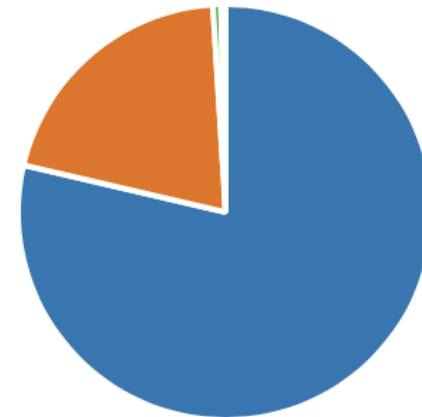


PARTICIPANTS

1. Stakeholder Role

[More Details](#)

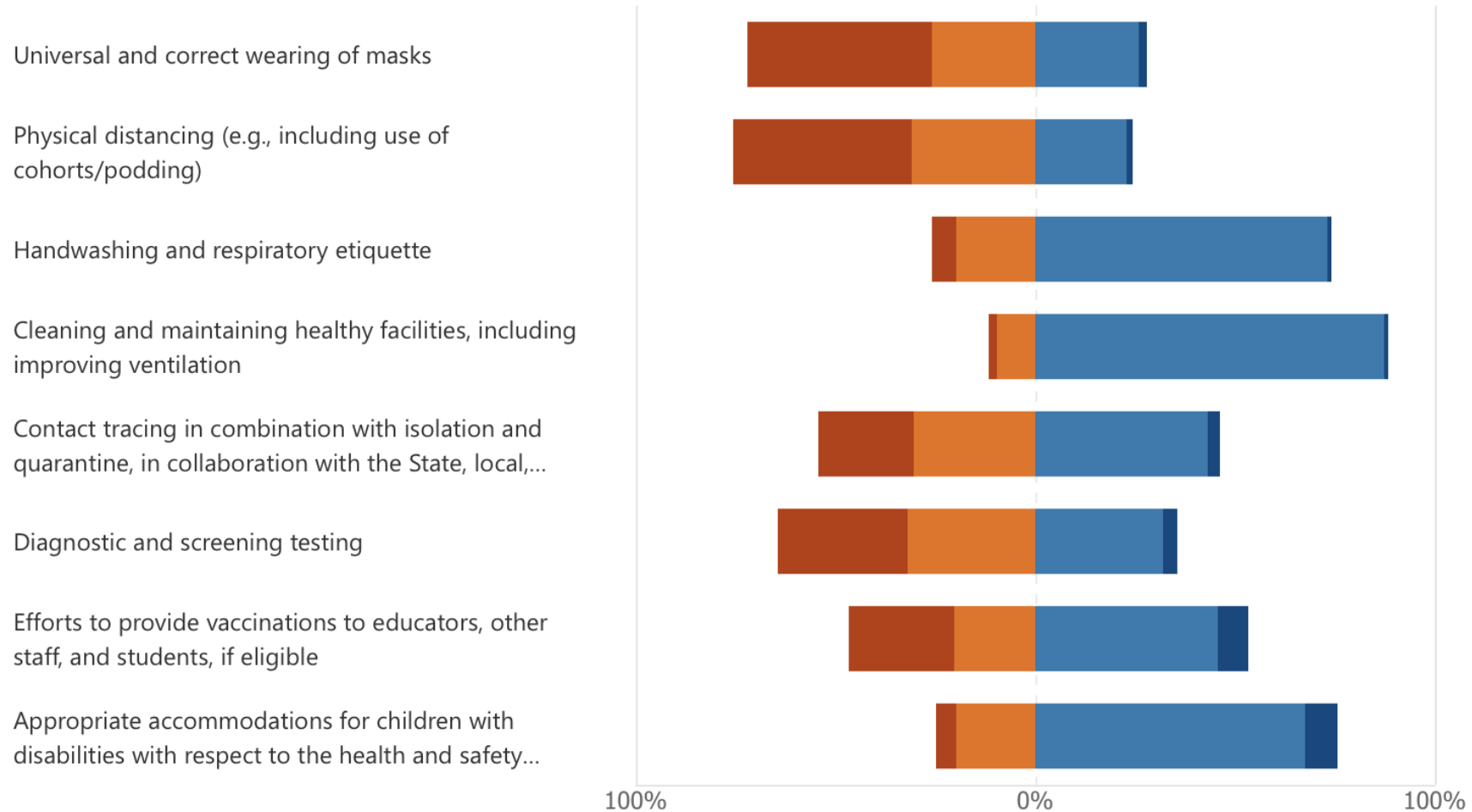
● Parent/Guardian	1520
● Staff Member	394
● Community Member	12
● Other	7



2. Regarding the maintenance of a healthy school environment, please rate the areas below according to your priority level for implementation in September 2021

[More Details](#)

■ Low Priority ■ Moderate Priority ■ High Priority ■ No Opinion



COMMENTS SUMMARY HEALTH AND SAFETY

STAFF

- Need better ventilation systems and AC
- The district was transparent and high level of cleanliness should continue
- Masks should be worn vs removal of mask mandate
- Reinforce parental response to sending a child to school who is ill
- Continue with distancing







PARENTS

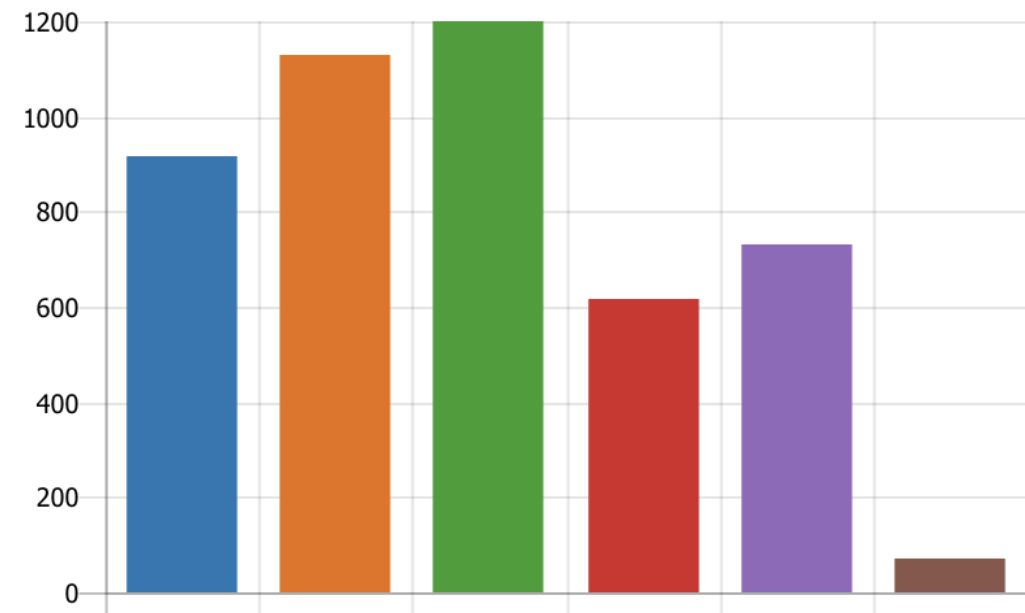
- Need better ventilation systems and AC
- Mandate vaccines vs vaccines should not be required
- Test students for covid in schools
- Remove masks for students in schools
- Lower class sizes
- Enforce proper hand washing

ADDRESSING LEARNING LOSS

4. To address learning loss, I feel the following measures would benefit the students and staff (Check all that apply)

[More Details](#)

 Summer learning activities	916
 Before/after school programs	1130
 Intervention services during t..	1200
 Parent trainings/resources	616
 Staff professional development	729
 Other	73



COMMENTS SUMMARY: ADDRESSING LEARNING LOSS

STAFF

- Bridge time in September for instruction
- Assess students at the start of the school year
- Increased parent collaboration/communication
- Looking forward to block scheduling
- Smaller class sizes

PARENTS

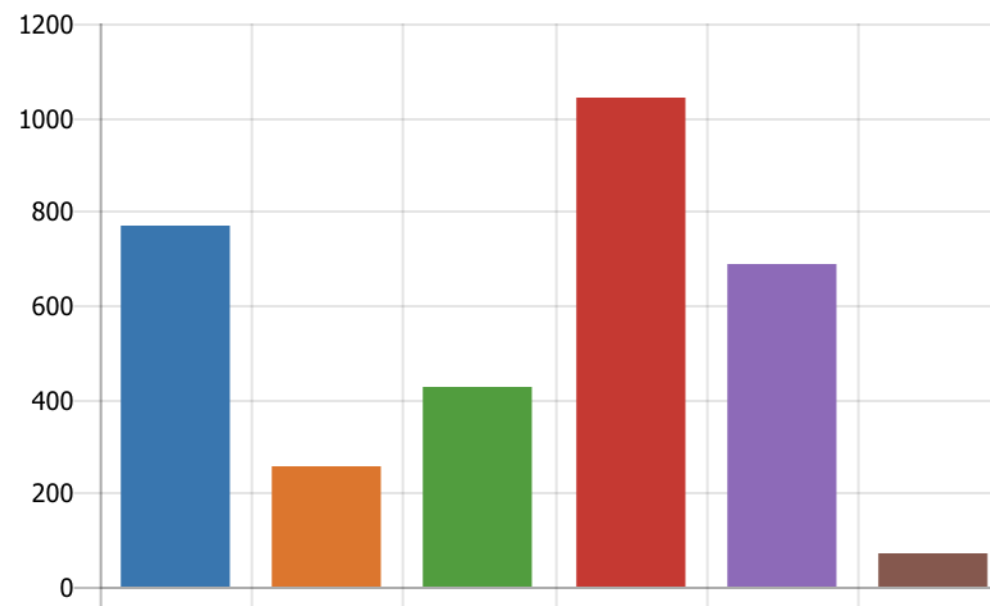
- Assess students in September to guide decisions
- Thankful for the school district and efforts
- Not seeing learning loss for their child vs learning loss is indicated
- Summer programs/after school programs should be offered to ALL students vs parents who feel these programs should be for students
- Lower expectations in September

MENTAL HEALTH/SEL

6. Please check off which areas around mental health/social-emotional learning that could benefit from ESSER-III funding

[More Details](#)

Comprehensive School Mental...	767
Trauma-Informed Practices	259
Equitable and Culturally Resp...	428
Social-Emotional Learning	1044
Mental Health Training for Staff	689
Other	69



COMMENTS SUMMARY: MENTAL HEALTH

STAFF

- Mental health supports for staff
- Increase SEL and lessons from counselors
- Increase in culturally responsive practices
- Additional staff training

PARENTS

- Increase student social time
- Trauma/anxiety concerns for students due to the pandemic
- Mental health supports for staff

PRIORITIES 2021-2022

8. Please rate the areas below according to priority level for the 2021-2022 school year

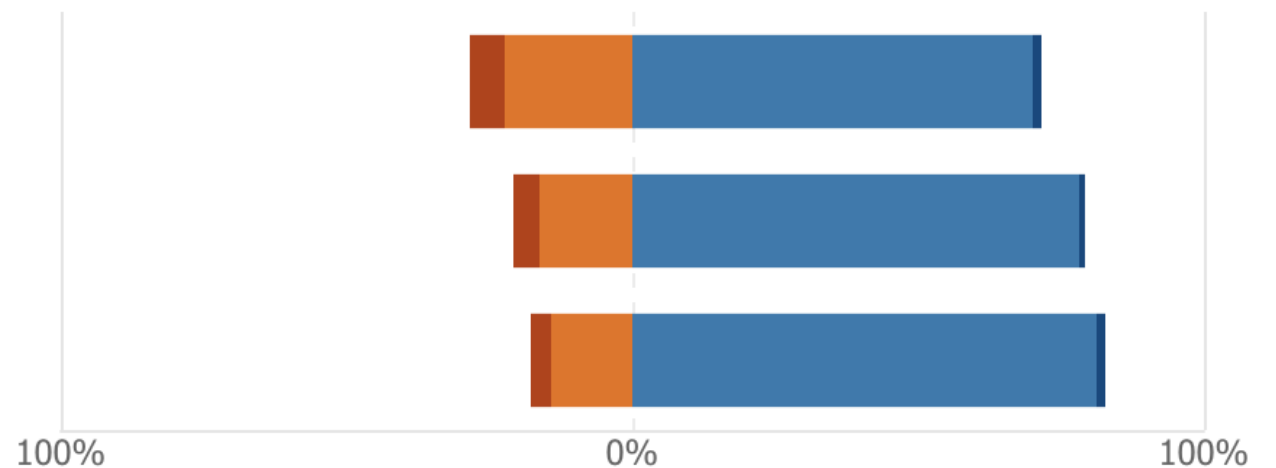
[More Details](#)

■ Low Priority ■ Moderate Priority ■ High Priority ■ No Opinion


Addressing learning loss

The health of staff and students

The mental health of staff and students



OVERVIEW OF PLAN- JUNE 24, 2021


- Section I: Maintaining the Health and Safety of Students and Staff
 - Universal and correct wearing of masks
 - Physical distancing
 - Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
 - Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities
 - Contact tracing
 - Diagnostic and screening testing
 - Efforts to provide vaccinations
 - Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities
 - Section II: Ensuring Continuity of Educational and SEL services across the District
 - Section III: Public Comment
 - Describe how LEA sought public comment and how those public comments accounted for the development of the plan
 - Describe how LEA ensured the plan is in an understandable and uniform format
- 



SECTION ONE

MAINTAINING HEALTH AND SAFETY

UNIVERSAL AND CORRECT WEARING OF MASKS, PHYSICAL DISTANCING AND CONTACT TRACING IN COMBINATION WITH ISOLATION AND QUARANTINE

- The district continues to follow the mandate from the Governor of New Jersey concerning the use of masks on school grounds as outlined in Executive Order # 242.
 - The district shall adhere to New Jersey Department of Health guidance and/or Executive Order for social distancing in schools, contract tracing and quarantine procedures.
 - Schools will allow for social distancing within the classroom to the maximum extent practicable
 - The District will continue to review the use of all individual PPE (plexiglass, desk shields, etc) and apply those PPE supplies when and if social distancing can not be implemented as outlined by NJDOH and/or Executive Order
- 

HANDWASHING AND RESPIRATORY ETIQUETTE

CDC signage on proper handwashing techniques will be posted throughout our schools. The district shall provide stakeholders the opportunity to wash hands often.

The six steps to follow for proper handwashing

- Wet hands with warm water.
- Use enough soap to produce lather.
- Rub hands together for 15-20 seconds.
- Wash hands thoroughly under running water to remove the soap.
- Pat hands dry with paper towel.
- Use towel to turn off the tap

Hand Sanitizer with 60% or greater alcohol content will be made available in all classrooms, common places, and offices.

The following measures to contain respiratory secretions are recommended for all individuals with signs and symptoms of a respiratory infection.

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing;
- Use in the nearest waste receptacle to dispose of the tissue after use;
- Perform hand hygiene (e.g., hand washing with non-antimicrobial soap and water, alcohol-based hand rub, or antiseptic handwash) after having contact with respiratory secretions and contaminated objects/materials.

CLEANING AND MAINTAIN HEALTHY FACILITIES (I.E. IMPROVING VENTILATION)

The district is working with air purification vendors to have application of the most effective environmental technology. Plans to investigate all options for climate control are also currently underway.

Use Diversey Disinfectant: Virex II 256 or Alpha **HP** only.


Daily Surface Disinfection of the following:

- Door handles
- Toilet fixture handles
- Light switches
- Elevator buttons
- Student desks
- Café tables
- Exercise equipment/ mats
- Phones
- Keyboards

DIAGNOSTIC AND SCREENING TESTING

- All Staff will complete a self-check for signs of illness prior to arriving at school
- All Parents will complete self-check of students for signs of illness prior to arriving at school
- Additionally:
 - The district has partnered with Synergy Laboratories to provide on-site COVID testing.
 - The district applied through the NJ Department of Health for the ability to utilize K-12 BinaxNOW Rapid Antigen Tests within our schools.

EFFORTS TO PROVIDE VACCINATIONS TO EDUCATORS, OTHER STAFF, AND STUDENTS (IF ELIGIBLE)

- The district has provided on-site Moderna vaccination clinics for Board employees and contracted staff on April 8, 2021 and May 6, 2021.
 - The district provided on-site Pfizer vaccination clinics for students age 12 and up on June 2, 2021 and June 23, 2021.
- 

APPROPRIATE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

- The District has provided all academic and related services to students throughout the school year and when necessary the IEP team provided appropriate accommodations for students identified as needing special education and/or related services.
- The District will continue to monitor progress in each students' goals and objectives in the 21-22 school year and continue to make accommodations if and when necessary.
- At the current time, any student who is considered medically fragile can maintain a remote instructional environment
- Our district BCBA's work to ensure mask compliance for students based individual needs and in accordance with their IEPs
- All classrooms have been equipped with necessary PPE to ensure the health and safety of staff and students in order to deliver necessary accommodations and related services



SECTION TWO

ENSURING CONTINUITY OF SERVICES

ENSURING CONTINUITY OF SERVICES

- Student Academic needs
 - The district used monies from the Digital Divide grant to purchase computers for every student in the district. The district also supplied Hot Spots to ensure students had access to the necessary internet connections to complete their assignments.
 - The district utilized CARES money to have a six (6) week before and afterschool program from April 5th until May 15th for students identified as being struggling learners due to lack of school attendance or difficulty (planning to continue before/after school programs for the 2021-2022 school year)
 - The district utilized ESSER money to create a robust summer program for Kindergarten through Grade 8 students(planning to continue summer programs for summer 2022)
 - The district utilized ESSER money to provide comprehensive credit recovery through APEX on-line learning to ensure OBHS students will have the opportunity to recover necessary high school credits
 - Expansion of the District's Multi-tiered system of support (aka Intervention Services):
 - The district utilized ESSER funding to include 12 new intervention classes at the high school level for the 2021-2022 school year
 - The district is expanding and enhancing our comprehensive response to intervention program K-8 to include additional interventionist teachers, resources and trainings

ENSURING CONTINUITY OF SERVICES

- Student and Staff social and emotional well-being and mental health
 - For the Secondary level, the district is contracting with Effective School Solutions to provide mental health Tier 2 and Tier 3 services to Middle and High School Students
 - For the Elementary level, the district is hiring a Mental Health Coach to facilitate training for school counselors and provide consistent support to parents and district staff in using outside resources
 - Examining options to develop a long-range Social and Emotional Learning Platform for Professional Development and SEL, Diversity, and Inclusion Curriculum implementation
 - The district is expanding and enhancing our multi-tiered systems of support framework to provide more comprehensive supports to students for behavioral, mental health and social and emotional needs.
 - The district is re-writing our SEL curriculum for the elementary level for the 2021-2022 school year to ensure higher quality supports for students
- Student Food Services
 - Currently, the District continues to actively distribute 10,000 meals per week through a collaboration between Aramark and the district's transportation
 - The District has developed a comprehensive plan for elementary, middle, and high school food distribution for the 2021-2022 school year which might equate to 7,000 per day

PROGRAM IMPACT ON THE STUDENTS

	Summer 2019	Summer 2020	Spring/Summer 2021
Before/After School CARES Program	N/A	N/A	328 students (815 invitees)*
Extended School Year (ESY)	145	195	260
Title I Summer Program	76 students (296 invitees)	70 students (293 invitees)	69 students (255 invitees)
ESSER Summer Program			
K-8	N/A	N/A	402 students (708 invitees)
APEX Credit Recovery	N/A	N/A	200 students (340 total courses)
Total	221 students	265 students	1259 students*



SECTION THREE

PUBLIC COMMENT

PUBLIC COMMENT

- How did the district seek public comment?
 - The district utilized parent and staff surveys to seek stakeholder comment
 - The district continues to work with stakeholders through committee meetings
 - Administrators, parent groups, and school community members
 - The district mandated to survey staff and parents every 60 days to obtain updated information and feedback

PUBLIC COMMENT

- 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.
 - The district's ELL program includes translation and interpreting services as needed. To this end, we assure that parent communication (where indicated as necessary) is delivered in the preferred home language. District website information is available in Spanish and English.
 - The district uses Talking Points language translating software as a two-way multilingual family engagement platform helping teachers and families to stay connected via text message/email.
 - Documents are translated in-house with interpreting services from staff members when necessary. Additionally, interpreters are provided during meetings to assure parent understanding of information being shared.



**OTHER NEEDS
IDENTIFIED**

OTHER IDENTIFIED NEEDS BEING INVESTIGATED

- Curriculum updates
- Resources for teachers/departments
- Technology