

Franklin Township School District (Warren County, New Jersey)

American Rescue Plan/ ESSER Safe Return to In-Person Instruction

Pursuant to the Federal American Rescue Plan Act Section 2001 (i)

Date – June 24, 2021 Date Revised – June 20, 2023

Maintaining Health and Safety Part A –

Universal and correct wearing of masks

Masking is no longer required. However FTSD will follow guidance from the New Jersey Health Department dated October 7, 2022. Students, faculty and staff members who wish to continue wearing a mask may do so without fear of being teased, bullied, and/or harassed. Behaviors of this nature will be addressed according to Board of Education Policy 5600, Student Conduct and/or Policy 5512 Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying.

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

Physical distancing is no longer required as per the guidance from the New Jersey Health Department dated October 7, 2022. However, we still operate an isolation room for students that exhibit symptoms of COVID - 19.

Part C – Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

As per the NJDOH, the Franklin Township School District will reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol will be used. The district will encourage students and staff to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue if not wearing a mask. Used tissues will be thrown in the trash and hand hygiene as outlined above should be performed immediately. The school district will have adequate supplies including soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol, paper towels, tissues, and no-touch trash cans. Hand hygiene will take place: upon arrival at school; before and after meals and snacks; after going to the bathroom; before leaving for the day; after blowing nose, sneezing, or coughing into tissue; and when hands are visibly soiled. Younger children will be shown the proper methods. Classroom windows may be opened to provide additional fresh air.

Part D – Cleaning and maintaining health facilities, including improving ventilation

Shared workspaces and equipment will be cleaned daily. Hand sanitizer will be placed in each room. Disinfectant wipes will be available in every area. FTSD will continue to follow all maintenance to ensure all HVAC units servicing all areas are maintained. All classrooms have operational windows for fresh air as well as operational exhaust fans in hallways and lower level classrooms. Routine cleaning schedules will be enhanced to ensure the sanitizing and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces, objects, items, etc. All cleaning/sanitizing products will meet prescribed CDC and EPA guidelines for COVID-19 effectiveness. Water fountains will be shut down. Air cleaning units have been placed in each classroom to remove viruses and allergens.

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

All guidance recommended by the New Jersey Health Department dated October 7, 2022 is being followed. At this time, contact tracing is not required.

Part F – Diagnostic and screening testing

Franklin Township School District encourages families to screen their child prior to entering school using the screening tool provided by the New Jersey Department of Health. District faculty are also encouraged to self-screen prior to entering the building using the screening tool provided by the New Jersey Department of Health.

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

The district, in collaboration with the Warren Hills Cluster, provided faculty and staff with the opportunity to be vaccinated. Other faculty and staff were vaccinated, prior to or through different agencies, outside of the collaboration between the district and the Warren County Department. Communication was sent via the school district's mass notification system and social media platforms to all families regarding the opportunity available to students aged 12-15 for vaccination appointments at a local pharmacy. Location and appointment instructions were provided as part of the communication. Per the State of NJ, NJDOH, and WCDOH, individuals 5 years of age and older are strongly encouraged to be vaccinated. At this time, vaccinations are NOT a requirement to attend school.

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

Franklin Township School District will provide appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities as needed. Our Child Study Team, in conjunction with administration and teachers, will develop these accommodations based on testing results and/or a medical diagnosis from a doctor.

Describe how the LEA 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.

The district will utilize in-person learning models to support students. Students now attend via a regular school schedule 5 days per week. Students who demonstrate a gap in academic areas based on district assessments will have tiered interventions in place through our RTI process. Students who have struggled during the school year, will have the opportunity to attend the Franklin Acceleration Summer Program, where students' academic needs will be met. FTSD will provide students with services to support their SEL needs including school counseling services, social-emotional learning curriculum, and positive school-wide behavioral support. Staff will be offered health and wellness activities throughout the school year that focus on mental and physical health.

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.

The Franklin Township School District invites public comment during all public meetings of the Franklin Township Board of Education.

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 Franklin Township School District will have the ability to translate the document into languages other than English upon request. In addition, the plan can be orally translated upon request by reaching out directly to the school. The district will adjust the document to meet the needs of any community member to ensure their full understanding of the Safe Reopening Plan.

Briefly describe any guidance professional learning and technical assistance opportunities the LEA will make available to its schools.

Professional learning will be administered based on discussion with the district School Improvement Panel. This learning will be provided during Professional Development Days allotted during the course of the year. We will also utilize Staff Meeting time over fifteen sessions after school during the course of the year. Technical Assistance for the school and the community will be provided by contractors for technical services as needed.