



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

Introduction and Background

As announced in the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE)'s [April 28, 2021 broadcast](#), in March 2021 President Biden signed the Federal [American Rescue Plan \(ARP\) Act](#), Public Law 117-2, into law. The ARP Act provides an additional \$122 billion in Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) to States and school districts to help safely reopen, sustain the safe operation of schools, and address the impacts 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 impacts of COVID-19 on educators, students, and families. Additional information on ARP ESSER may be found in the NJDOE's [funding comparison fact sheet](#).

Section 2001(i)(1) of the ARP Act requires each LEA that receives ARP ESSER funds to develop and make publicly available on the LEA's website, no later than 30 days after receiving ARP ESSER funds, a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services for all schools (Safe Return Plan). A Safe Return Plan is required of all fund recipients, including those that have already returned to in-person instruction. Section 2001(i)(2) of the ARP Act further requires that the LEA seek public comment on the Safe Return Plan and take those comments into account in finalization of the Safe Return Plan. Under the interim final requirements published in [Volume 86, No. 76 of the Federal Register](#) by the U.S. Department of Education (USDE), an LEA must periodically, but no less frequently than every six months through September 30, 2023, review and, as appropriate, revise its Safe Return Plan.

Pursuant to those requirements, **LEAs must submit to the NJDOE and post on their website their Safe Return Plans by June 24, 2021.** The NJDOE intends to make LEA ARP ESSER Fund applications available in EWEG on May 24, 2021 and LEAs will submit their Safe Return Plans to the NJDOE via EWEG. To assist LEAs with the development of their Safe Return Plans, the NJDOE is providing the following template.

This template incorporates the federally-required components of the Safe Return Plan. The questions in the template below will be included in the LEA ARP ESSER Fund application in EWEG. LEAs will submit responses to the questions within the LEA ARP ESSER Fund application in EWEG by June 24, 2021. The NJDOE hopes that this template will allow LEAs to effectively plan for that submission and to easily post the information to their websites as required by the ARP Act.

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: Foundation Academy Charter School

Date (06/24/2021):

Date Revised (mm/dd/yyyy):

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.

A. Universal and correct wearing of masks

While required by state and/or CDC guidelines, all school staff, students and visitors are required to wear face coverings unless doing so would inhibit the individual's health or the individual is under two years of age.

- Parents and students should refer to the CDC guidance [linked here](#) when selecting a mask for school.
- Gaiters and balaclavas may not be worn. Face shields may be worn in addition to, but not instead of a mask.

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

While required by state and/or CDC guidelines, staff and students will maintain social distancing to the greatest extent possible. Where social distancing is not possible, physical barriers such as plexiglass will be used. Students will remain in one cohort/pods for the majority of their day, as appropriate according to grade and educational requirements with lunch eaten in the classroom or in cafeterias with assigned and socially distanced seating. When students need to transition to another area, such as to physical education, recess, or small group/sheltered instruction, they will do so in accordance with the social distancing requirements in effect at the time.

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette will be reinforced with all staff and students in accordance with the CDC guidance [linked here](#). This guidance includes, but is not limited to:

- Washing/sanitizing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
 - before and after meals
 - after blowing nose
 - after using the toilet
- Covering coughs and sneezes, and washing/sanitizing hands after

In addition, staff and students will sanitize their hands upon entry to the school and when changing classes.

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

Foundation Academies has invested heavily in improving ventilation and ensuring clean and healthy facilities. Air scrubbers have been installed in every classroom and office and the HVAC units at our K-8 campus were replaced prior to returning students to the building. (HVAC units at the high school were replaced prior to the 2019-20 school year.) Hard surfaces are disinfected daily with electrostatic disinfectant sprayers, additional custodial staff have been hired to clean bathrooms and high touch areas multiple times daily, and teachers will sanitize the spaces they used prior to exiting the classroom. Non-touch hand sanitizer stations are located throughout the school buildings, and hand sanitizer is available in classrooms and offices.

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

School nurses have developed contact tracing procedures in accordance with board policy **5141.2 - Illness**, and educate the broader school community on the importance of contact tracing.

The school nurse will report all students, staff and visitors to our facilities who are known to test positive for COVID-19 to the local health department. The local health department will conduct the contact tracing. Individuals will be required to isolate or quarantine in accordance with the State and local guidelines in effect at the time.

F. Diagnostic and screening testing

Foundation Academies is partnering with a local health agency to offer regular, optional COVID-19 testing to interested staff and students at no cost.

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

Foundation Academies coordinated with a local health care agency to provide COVID-19 vaccinations to staff prior to returning students to the buildings. We are working toward providing optional COVID-19 vaccines to eligible students at the beginning of the 2021-22 school year through a partnering organization.

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

Students with disabilities are provided with appropriate accommodations with respect to the health and safety policies in accordance with their individual plans.

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)

Foundation Academies recognizes the potential trauma that students have faced during the pandemic. We are focused on building resilience and have trained all staff on trauma-informed practices. A third social worker has been hired to provide mental health support to students.

During the summer break, Academic instruction will occur daily to support scholars who have demonstrated learning loss as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Students will be grouped into developmental bands and divided into cohorts based on academic need to target and support the development of skills from an interventionist lens. Students will engage in center-based learning to leverage targeted instruction.

For the upcoming school year, we will support students' academic needs through after school tutoring programs and by offering the opportunity to participate in an Accelerated Spring Break program, which will provide at-risk students with an additional week of intensive academic instruction.

We contract with Maschio's Food Services, Inc. and will continue to participate in the NSLP Seamless Summer Option for the 21-22 school year.

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)

Foundation Academy conducted several interactive parent information sessions and surveyed families prior to returning students to our buildings. Our families' suggestions and the concerns they expressed were incorporated into our final operating logistics. Our reopening plan is posted on the school website and public comment on the plan is encouraged during all school board meetings.

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).

Foundation Academies' Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Service Pursuant to the Federal American Rescue Plan Act, Section 2001(i) may be found in both English and Spanish versions on our website, at foundationacademies.org/parent-resources/. The document will be translated into other languages upon request, using Google Translate. Oral translation will be provided as needed.

On request to the school, a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA, can obtain Foundation Academies' Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Service Pursuant to the Federal American Rescue Plan Act, Section 2001(i) in an format that is accessible to them. Foundation Academies will provide the requestor with an accessible format that may include Rich Text Format ("RTF") or text format ("txt"), a thumb drive, an MP3 file, large print, or other format.

Plan para el regreso seguro a la instrucción en persona y la continuidad de los servicios

LEA Nombre: Foundation Academy Charter School

Fecha (06/24/2021):

Fecha de revisión (mm/dd/yyyy):

1. Mantener la salud y la seguridad

Para cada estrategia de mitigación enumerada a continuación (A – H), describa cómo la LEA mantendrá la salud y seguridad de los estudiantes, educadores y otro personal y hasta qué punto ha adoptado políticas, y una descripción de tales políticas, en cada una de las siguientes recomendaciones de seguridad establecidas por los CDC.

A. Uso universal y correcto de máscaras

Si bien lo exigen las pautas estatales y / o de los CDC, todo el personal de la escuela, los estudiantes y los visitantes deben usar cubiertas para la cara a menos que hacerlo inhiba la salud de la persona o que la persona sea menor de dos años.

- Los padres y los estudiantes deben consultar la guía de los CDC [vinculada aquí](#) al seleccionar una máscara para la escuela.
- No se pueden usar polainas ni pasamontañas. Los protectores faciales se pueden usar además de una máscara, pero no en lugar de ella.

B. Distanciamiento físico (p. Ej., Incluido el uso de cohortes / agrupaciones)

Si bien lo exigen las pautas estatales y / o de los CDC, el personal y los estudiantes mantendrán el distanciamiento social en la mayor medida posible. Donde no sea posible el distanciamiento social, se utilizarán barreras físicas como el plexiglás. Los estudiantes permanecerán en una cohorte / cápsulas durante la mayor parte del día, según corresponda de acuerdo con el grado y los requisitos educativos, y el almuerzo se tomará en el aula o en cafeterías con asientos asignados y socialmente distanciados. Cuando los estudiantes necesiten hacer la transición a otra área, como educación física, recreo o instrucción en grupos pequeños / protegidos, lo harán de acuerdo con los requisitos de distanciamiento social vigentes en ese momento.

C. Lavado de manos y etiqueta respiratoria

El lavado de manos y la etiqueta respiratoria se reforzarán con todo el personal y los estudiantes de acuerdo con la guía de los CDC [vinculada aquí](#). Esta guía incluye, pero no se limita a:

- Lavarse / desinfectar las manos con agua y jabón durante al menos 20 segundos
 - antes y después de las comidas
 - después de sonarse la nariz
 - después de usar el baño
- Cubrirse al toser y estornudar, y lavarse / desinfectarse las manos después

Además, el personal y los estudiantes se desinfectarán las manos al ingresar a la escuela y al cambiar de clase.

D. Limpieza y mantenimiento de instalaciones saludables, incluida la mejora de la ventilación.

Foundation Academies ha invertido mucho en mejorar la ventilación y garantizar instalaciones limpias y saludables. Se instalaron depuradores de aire en cada salón de clases y oficinas y las unidades de HVAC en nuestro campus K-8 fueron reemplazadas antes de que los estudiantes regresaran al edificio. (Las unidades de HVAC en la escuela secundaria fueron reemplazadas antes del año escolar 2019-20). Las superficies duras se desinfectan diariamente con rociadores desinfectantes electrostáticos, se ha contratado personal de conserjería adicional para limpiar baños y áreas de alto contacto varias veces al día, y los maestros desinfectarán los espacios que usaban antes de salir del aula. Las estaciones de desinfectante de manos sin contacto están ubicadas en todos los edificios de la escuela y hay desinfectante de manos disponible en los salones de clases y oficinas.

E. Rastreo de contactos en combinación con aislamiento y cuarentena, en colaboración con los departamentos de salud estatales, locales, territoriales o tribales.

Las enfermeras escolares han desarrollado procedimientos de rastreo de contactos de acuerdo con la **política de la junta 5141.2 - Enfermedad**, y educan a la comunidad escolar en general sobre la importancia del rastreo de contactos.

La enfermera de la escuela informará al departamento de salud local de todos los estudiantes, personal y visitantes a nuestras instalaciones que se sepa que dan positivo en la prueba de COVID-19. El departamento de salud local realizará el rastreo de contactos. Se requerirá que las personas se aíslen o se pongan en cuarentena de acuerdo con las pautas estatales y locales vigentes en ese momento.

F. Pruebas de diagnóstico y detección

Foundation Academies se está asociando con una agencia de salud local para ofrecer pruebas COVID-19 opcionales y regulares al personal y estudiantes interesados sin costo alguno.

G. Esfuerzos para proporcionar vacunas a los educadores, otro personal y estudiantes, si son elegibles.

Foundation Academies se coordinó con una agencia de atención médica local para proporcionar vacunas COVID-19 al personal antes de devolver a los estudiantes a los edificios. Estamos trabajando para proporcionar vacunas COVID-19 opcionales a los estudiantes elegibles al comienzo del año escolar 2021-22 a través de una organización asociada.

H. Adaptaciones adecuadas para niños con discapacidades con respecto a las políticas de salud y seguridad.

Los estudiantes con discapacidades reciben las adaptaciones adecuadas con respecto a las políticas de salud y seguridad de acuerdo con sus planes individuales.

2. Garantizar la continuidad de los servicios

A. Describa cómo la LEA garantizará la continuidad de los servicios, incluidos, entre otros, los servicios para abordar las necesidades académicas de los estudiantes y las necesidades sociales, emocionales, de salud mental y otras necesidades de los estudiantes y del personal, que pueden incluir la salud de los estudiantes y los servicios alimentarios. (Límite de 1000 caracteres)

Foundation Academies reconoce el trauma potencial que los estudiantes han enfrentado durante la pandemia. Estamos enfocados en desarrollar la resiliencia y hemos capacitado a todo el personal en prácticas informadas sobre el trauma. Se ha contratado a un tercer trabajador social para brindar apoyo de salud mental a los estudiantes.

Durante las vacaciones de verano, la instrucción académica se llevará a cabo todos los días para apoyar a los estudiantes que han demostrado una pérdida de aprendizaje como resultado de la pandemia de COVID-19. Los estudiantes se agruparán en bandas de desarrollo y se dividirán en cohortes según la necesidad académica para apuntar y apoyar el desarrollo de habilidades desde una perspectiva intervencionista. Los estudiantes participarán en el aprendizaje basado en el centro para aprovechar la instrucción específica.

Para el próximo año escolar, apoyaremos las necesidades académicas de los estudiantes a través de programas de tutoría después de la escuela y ofreciendo la oportunidad de participar en un programa acelerado de vacaciones de primavera, que brindará a los estudiantes en riesgo una semana adicional de instrucción académica intensiva.

Tenemos un contrato con Maschio's Food Services, Inc. y continuaremos participando en la Opción de verano sin interrupciones de NSLP durante el año escolar 21-22.

3. Comentario público

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)

Foundation Academy llevó a cabo varias sesiones interactivas de información para padres y encuestó a las familias antes de que los estudiantes regresaran a nuestros edificios. Las sugerencias de nuestras familias y las preocupaciones que expresaron se incorporaron a nuestra logística operativa final. Nuestro plan de reapertura se publica en el sitio web de la escuela y se anima a que el público comente el plan durante todas las reuniones de la junta escolar.

B. Describa cómo la LEA se aseguró de que el plan esté en un formato comprensible y uniforme; en la medida de lo posible, está escrito en un idioma que los padres puedan entender o, si no es posible proporcionar traducciones escritas a un padre con dominio limitado del inglés, se traducirá oralmente para dicho padre; ya petición de un padre que es una persona con una discapacidad según lo define la ADA, se proporcionará en un formato alternativo accesible para ese padre. (Límite de 1000 caracteres).

El Plan de Foundation Academies para el regreso seguro a la instrucción en persona y la continuidad del servicio de conformidad con la Ley Federal del Plan de Rescate de los Estados Unidos, Sección 2001 (i) se puede encontrar en versiones en inglés y en español en nuestro sitio web, en <https://foundationacademies.org/parent-resources/>. El documento se traducirá a otros idiomas a pedido, utilizando Google Translate. Se proporcionará traducción oral según sea necesario.

A solicitud de la escuela, un padre que sea un individuo con una discapacidad según lo definido por la ADA, puede obtener el Plan de las Academias de la Fundación para el regreso seguro a la instrucción en persona y la continuidad del servicio de conformidad con la Ley Federal del Plan de Rescate de los Estados Unidos, Sección 2001 (i) en un formato que sea accesible para ellos. Foundation Academies proporcionará al solicitante un formato accesible que puede incluir formato de texto enriquecido ("RTF") o formato de texto ("txt"), una memoria USB, un archivo MP3, letra grande u otro formato.