

LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

LEA Name: Piscataway Township Schools

Date: 11/02/2023

Date Revised: 11/02/2023

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

- Face coverings will be optional for all teachers and staff members, including bus aides and food service workers.
- Face coverings will be optional for all students.
- The District will monitor safety recommendations from the CDC and NJ Department of Health and make adjustments as necessary.

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

- High traffic areas will be monitored and adjusted as needed.
- The District will monitor safety recommendations from the CDC and NJ Department of Health and make adjustments as necessary.

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

- Hand sanitizer stations will continue to be open across the District.
- Hand washing procedures have been established and will continue to be implemented at each school.
- The District will monitor safety recommendations from the CDC and NJ Department of Health and make adjustments as necessary.

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

- Cleaning of all schools and facilities will continue.
- Increased cleaning protocols were instituted and will continue in all buildings and classrooms, with an emphasis on high touch/high traffic areas.
- Sanitizer is readily available to all staff so cleaning can take place throughout the day.
- Equipment is cleaned and sanitized regularly.
- Areas used by a sick person will be properly cleaned and disinfected.
- Ventilation systems are regularly cleaned and serviced to ensure the cleanest air possible.
- The District will monitor safety recommendations from the CDC and NJ Department of Health and make adjustments as necessary.

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

- The District will monitor safety recommendations from the CDC and NJ Department of Health and make adjustments as necessary.

F. Diagnostic and screening testing

- Arrival and dismissal procedures are set at each school. Protocols were developed for symptomatic instances throughout the school day.
- School nurses are well-versed in updated protocols and nurse's offices are well-equipped with proper PPE.
- The District will monitor safety recommendations from the CDC and NJ Department of Health and make adjustments as necessary.

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

- The Health Services Department is able to assist regarding information concerning the availability of vaccines and booster shots within the community.
- The district will follow State directives for vaccinated and unvaccinated employees.

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

- IEP's were, and continue to be, modified as necessary to include the health and safety as needed.
- The District will monitor safety recommendations from the CDC and NJ Department of Health and make adjustments as necessary.

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)

- School counselors will assess and address mental health and social/emotional needs through additional counseling groups and school-wide SEL activities.
- NJ Tiered System of Supports will include enhanced SEL programming at each school.
- Students will be assessed as needed for mental health or social/emotional needs. Counselors will be attuned to any student needs.
- Information for parents on helping their students will be provided through information on school websites and information from individual schools.
- Peer mentor programs in the middle schools and high school will provide extra support for students.
- Professional development will continue for counseling staff and teachers on how to help students in anxious situations.
- Freshman Seminar continues to help students with ninth grade transition.
- High School and Middle School provide information about clubs and activities to encourage community connections and social transitions.
- Develop programs to foster kindness and positive safe community.
- Individual school athletics and extra-curricular activities are being held.

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)

- The plan was posted on the district website prior to the June Board Meeting (www.piscatawayschools.org)
- The Board took comment at the November 2, 2023 Board Meeting.
- An email address was provided for Parents/Guardians who have Comments/Concerns/Questions (jsimmonds@pway.org)

- Parent and community comments/suggestions are always welcome by contacting school and central offices.

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)

- In order to provide consistency, the district has formatted and communicated this plan in the same manner as all preceding district plans regarding health, safety, security and instruction. This format has proven to be a concise approach to the dissemination of information as well as effective in procuring feedback. It's formatting and design are used solely for communicating plans that relate to changes in curriculum and instruction, health, safety and security necessitated by the Coronavirus outbreak, effectively branding District Communications for this issue.

