

Wayne Public Schools: Safe Return to School / Safe Reopening Plan

June 24, 2021 - Board of Education Meeting

Dr. Mark Toback - Superintendent of Schools

Mrs. Donna Reichman - Assistant Superintendent of Schools



Reopening of Schools Plan

American Rescue Plan / ESSER



On May 24, 2021, the New Jersey Department of Education released guidance for the federal funding included for schools in the American Rescue Plan (Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief)

The plan requires school districts to conduct a needs assessment of all stakeholders, inclusive of public comment to develop a safe return to school plan for the 2021-2022 school year.

The plan must be consistent with current CDC and NJDOH guidance and updated every 6 months or as new guidance is released. It is important to note that this is an initial draft based on current guidance and will be updated prior to our students return in September inclusive of stakeholder and public feedback.

Through this source of funding, Wayne will have access to \$4,145,853 of federal funding - of which \$2,763,903 will be made available upon completion of this plan and its subsequent submission for approval from the NJDOE.

Timeline for ARP Return to School Plan Development and Submission



- May 2021 - Received allocation. District begins collecting information from available sources and stakeholders based on Board of Education meeting feedback, union and administrative team communications, parent meetings, and Thought Exchange surveys.
- Early June 2021 - Initial draft, based on current guidance, available resources, and recommendations.
- June 10 , 2021- Board of Education ARP presentation with public comment feedback
- June 24, 2021 - Submission of revised Safe Return Plan, inclusive of new stakeholder feedback.
- June/July - Utilize planning, data, and feedback to submit the federal grant to the NJDOE to access funding.
- July/August - secure materials, staffing, and ensure maintenance areas of the plan are addressed for a safe return to school.
- August (tentatively) - Update the plan for reopening based on updated CDC/NJDOE/NJDOH/WTBOH guidance.

Section 1 – Maintaining Health and Safety

At this time, the Wayne Public Schools are planning a full return to in person instruction for September 2021 per the most recent guidance released by the Governor. We are required to comply with the CDC and NJDOE/NJDOH guidelines as they stand currently. At the present time, this means all students, full day with no cohorts. A minimum of 3 feet of physical distancing between students should be maintained in classrooms with strict adherence to mask-wearing.

The Wayne Public Schools are prepared to open under these requirements, but will continue to monitor updated guidance and executive orders as they are released. Updated guidance will be included in future versions of this plan and released to the public in a timely manner.

For the most recent presentation of our Return School plan which was approved by the NJDOE, [please click here](#) and more information can be found in the [2020 version of our Safe Return to School Plan](#) - Section A.2. - Academic, Social, and Behavioral Supports and Appendix K of that document.

Section 1 – Maintaining Health and Safety (Cont.)

Mask Guidance (Current for public schools as of 6/2/21)

The district will follow all state and local guidance regarding masks. Current NJ guidance suggests students will still need to be masked for the onset of the 21-22 school year. This plan is also required to be updated every 60 days as new guidance is issued. All buildings have signage and picture displays requiring and modeling proper mask wearing. This information is also distributed regularly to parents through superintendents letters, COVID notification correspondence, and website updates.

Wayne Township Public school's nursing supervisor is also in continual communication, consultation, and collaboration with the Wayne Township Board of Health. Nursing and educational staff consistently reinforce the appropriate mask wearing as necessary throughout the school day. PPE, sanitation supplies, and disinfection procedures are all in place and will continue for all schools, offices, and buses in Wayne.

Physical Distancing (Current for public schools as of 6/2/21)

The Wayne Public Schools continue to observe all guidance provided by the Governor, CDC, NJ Department of Health, NJ Department of Education, and the Wayne Township Board of Health. Due to the changing nature of transmission risk and guidance, updates are monitored regularly so as to best inform building administrators, staff, and parents with regards to best practices and requirements. At this time, the Wayne Public Schools is planning a full return to school for September 2021 per the most recent guidance released by the Governor. **At the present time, this means all students, full day in person instruction with no cohorts for all grade levels. The physical distancing requirements are currently 3 feet and require masks and/or use of desk shields and other protective equipment. The Wayne Public Schools are prepared to open under these requirements, but will continue to monitor updated guidance and executive orders as they are released. Updates will be added to this plan every 60 days or earlier per the NJDOE and will be provided to the public in a timely manner.**

Section 1 – Maintaining Health and Safety (Cont.)

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Good hygiene and other health preventative measures are publicized through parent and student correspondence and reminders are posted throughout the building. School Nurses teach hand and respiratory hygiene within their buildings. The buildings and grounds department has provided ample hand sanitizer throughout each of the buildings as well as classroom PPE kits. Hand sanitation is also factored into all extracurricular events and district transportation. The District will provide adequate restroom supplies to allow for continuous hand washing. In addition, the district maintains a substantial inventory of quality PPE including surgical masks.

Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

The facilities department has increased overtime for custodial staff, purchased and utilized industry standard sanitation, disinfection, and air filtration systems, and has plans through the ARP funding to significantly upgrade ventilation throughout all school buildings. These areas have been documented through feedback sessions with parents, staff, and union representatives. In addition we are running building ventilation systems around the clock to supplement the HEPA air scrubbers and air purifiers.

Section 1 – Maintaining Health and Safety (Cont.)

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

The Wayne Township Schools nursing supervisor is also in continual communication, consultation, and collaboration with the Wayne Township Board of Health to make determinations and issue guidance on isolation and quarantine cases. Nurses and principals are well versed in best practices for contact tracing and notification happens in a timely and efficient manner.

We also utilize internal documents to ensure reports and tracing are recorded immediately and tracked to ensure the safety of our staff and students at all times. Trends or potential outbreak circumstances result in immediate consultation with local health officials to provide guidance on cohort quarantine and/or school closure decisions.

Diagnostic and screening testing

The school district has a screening process for all students and staff. The Student Information System (SIS - OnCourse) and Google platform are used to collect, analyze, and report testing related data for school based operational decisions. Diagnostic testing has been done through referral to Passaic County testing sites, and other available locations as identified by the Wayne Township Department of Health.

Section 1 – Maintaining Health and Safety (Cont.)

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

Wayne Township is one of only twelve communities (as of late May) in New Jersey with a local vaccine clinic. The Wayne Township Public Schools has worked closely with the township to secure reserved vaccination appointments for staff.

We have also publicized state and county vaccination opportunities and allowed flexibility for staff to request time off to go to vaccination appointments. In addition, in collaboration with the mayor, we were able to offer a staff vaccination clinic and more recently, we have made available a family vaccination clinic so our students could be immunized.

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

Students, teachers, and paraprofessionals follow CDC and local universal precautions to prevent COVID exposure within their classrooms. Students have been given mask breaks outside to ensure that the tolerance for mask wearing increased and continued. Teachers utilize social stories and provide mask education to students.

Teachers and paraprofessionals assist students with mask wearing and hand washing when needed. Transportation for these students also follows universal precautions. As with other areas in this plan, when new guidance or best practices are established Wayne will implement updated support and procedures for our classified students and special education staff.

Section 2 – Ensuring Continuity of Services

The Wayne Public Schools has Spring and Summer planning committees collecting data on the academic and socioemotional impact of the COVID pandemic. Throughout the closure, additional instructional supplemental support hours have been provided and plans are to offer summer programs for basic skills needs for targeted students, learning acceleration in literacy and STEM, SEL support offerings, extended year and day programs for classified students and EL's, and credit recovery for secondary students.

The district is also planning to provide professional development and tools for universal screening and enhancement of our tiered intervention system for academic and non-academic concerns identified through data collected. Food Service for various student groups and other supplemental assistance programs will continue to be offered as approved by the NJDOE.

Fall programs are also planned to provide on-going SEL support and to address academic concerns identified in the district's benchmarks and the Start Strong Assessments in the Fall.

Please also see the districts [Phase V Return to School](#) and the [2020 version of our Safe Return to School Plan](#) - Section A.2. - Academic, Social, and Behavioral Supports and Appendix K presentation for more information

Section 3 – Public Comment

Describe how the LEA sought public comment on its plan, and how it took those public comments 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.

The district has been using the Thought Exchange program, public board meetings, employee feedback, and staff sub committees to regularly collect and analyze stakeholder feedback to adapt Restart and Recovery Plans. The full draft of this plan was made public on June 11th on the district's website and a district wide communication was sent to the public to invite them to comment through a Google Form. The plan was available to the community several weeks in advance of the June 24, 2021 meeting where a final vote on the plan is scheduled. The district plans to, in accordance with the provisions of The American Rescue Plan legislation, revise this plan on an ongoing basis as new information becomes available, new executive orders or NJDOE guidance is released, and/or as COVID infections rate change.

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 utilizes Google as its website and communication platform, which allows parents to translate any website document, posting, announcement, or plan posted on our website. For detailed and mandatory information dissemination, the district has contracted a certified translation company to translate parent communications into up to 31 languages according to our home language surveys in our student information system (SIS).

Additional Considerations and Planning

We will continue to keep you informed as we receive any new information from the New Jersey Department of Education and Wayne Department of Health.

We are extremely grateful for our illustrious team of nurses, counselors, CST members, teachers, support staff, and principals who were on the front lines every day to keep our buildings open and students safe.

