

Return to In-person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

Section 2001(i) of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) requires all LEAs receiving ARP ESSER funds, within 30 days of receiving the funds, to make publicly available on its website a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services. Before making the plan publicly available, the LEA must seek public comment on the plan and take such input into consideration.

Due Date

- The NDDPI must make the ESSER III funds available to LEAs by May 24, 2021, which means they have access to their signed grant award/contract by that date. Therefore, 30 days from May 24, is the deadline by which all districts must have their plan posted on their website (June 24, 2021).

The Plan Must Include the Following Information

- How the LEA will ensure continuity of services
- How the LEA is addressing the students' academic needs, and students' and staffs' social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services; and
- How the LEA has adopted policies and a description of any such policies on each of the strategies listed below:
 - Universal and correct wearing of masks
 - Physical distancing (e.g., including use of cohorts/podding)
 - Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
 - Cleaning and maintain healthy facilities, including improving ventilation
 - Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the state, local, territorial, or tribal health departments
 - Diagnostic and screening testing
 - Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible
 - Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies

Additional Requirement

- Districts need to update the In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan at least every six months through September 20, 2024, and must seek ongoing public input on the plan.
- Even if districts claim all their ESSER III funding, the requirement to update this plan every six months still applies.