

# Montclair Public Schools

## Safe Return Town Hall

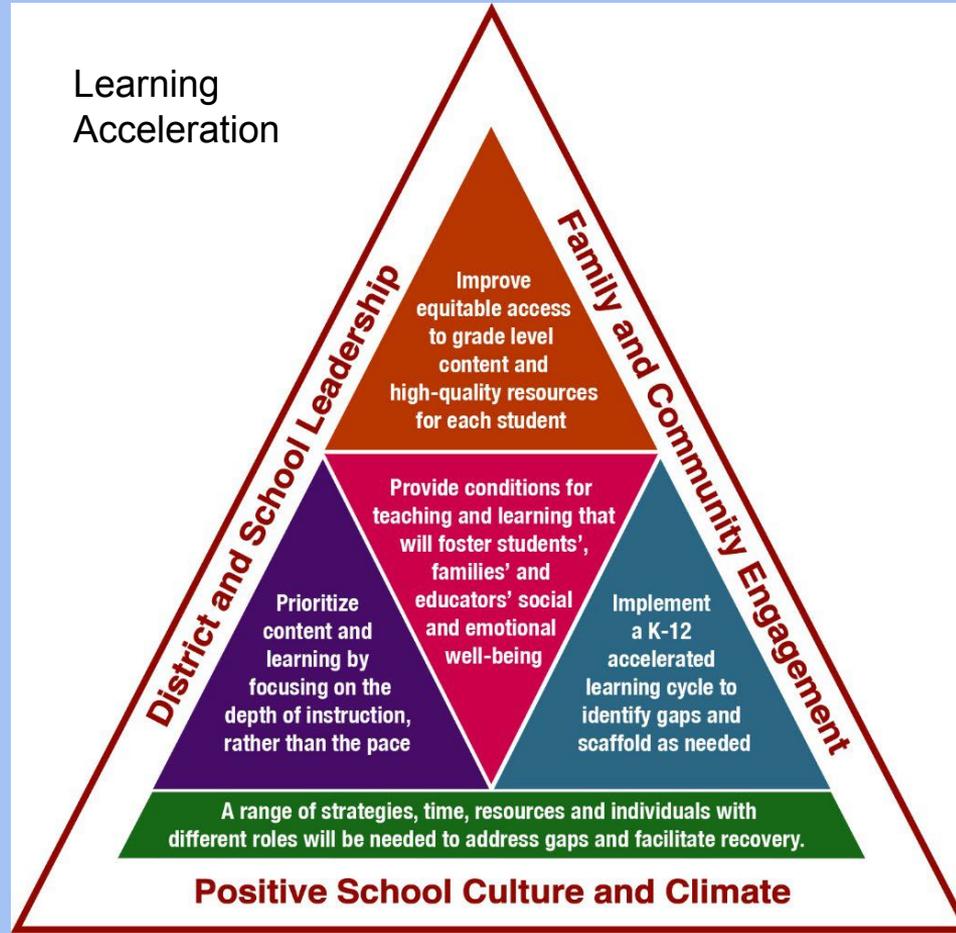
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What Families Can Expect When Schools Reopen  
August 12, 2021

# Purpose

Section 2001(i)(1) of the American Rescue Plan(ARP) Act requires each Lead Education Agency (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.

# Continuity of Services



# Continuity of Services

The District will ensure that learning principles and practices are supporting student learning.

Summer Learning

Extended Day/Extended Learning Opportunities

One-to-one Tutoring

- i. Availability of transportation for all students.

Learning Principles and Practices

- ii. Social Emotional Learning Support for Students, Families, and Educators
- iii. Equitable Access to Grade Level Content and High-quality Resources
- iv. Focus on depth of Instruction, rather than the pace
- v. Accelerated Learning

# Continuity of Services

1. **Professional Development (PD)**: The District has scheduled several days of PD opportunities that focus on the health and wellness of our staff and identification of support for our students. (i.e. Wellness Seminar, Rebuilding Connections with students, SEL, and Trauma Informed Training). Additionally, PD to support the need for learning acceleration while addressing compensatory learning needs and ensuring equitable access to grade-level content will be delivered specifically in the areas of the prerequisite concept and skills, scaffolding strategies, push-in, co-teaching models and culturally responsiveness.

# Continuity of Services

## **Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and Mental Health**

Each building's I&RS Team will meet at a minimum of once a month to review students/families to identify areas of need and/or support. Counselors will work with students and families who have emergent needs.

School counselors will review students' progress, attendance, and discipline weekly.

Coordination by building administration of school counselors, CST to discuss student trending needs.

CST members will support current caseloads but may be made available to support other classified students and staff. Following Tier Two strategies, forms will be available for students, parents, staff to complete if a student needs assistance. Students who have emergent needs will be addressed by district support services and referrals for outside services.

Students who were full-remote during the 2020-2021 school year will participate in building orientation activities.

Restorative Justice services, especially focusing on SEL.

# Continuity of Services

## Remote instruction:

Districts may be confronted with the incidence of COVID-19 positive cases amongst staff and/or students. If a district is required to exclude a student, group of students, a class, or multiple classes as a result of COVID-19 related reasons, while the school itself remains open for in-person instruction, the district should be prepared to offer virtual or remote instruction to those students in a manner commensurate with in-person instruction to the extent possible. Teachers will provide synchronous instruction when students are able to participate while in quarantine. Staff and students are expected to keep their cameras on.

Note, students with underlying health conditions that may make them more susceptible to or exacerbate the symptoms of COVID-19 may be eligible for home instruction per the process outlined at N.J.A.C. 6A:16-10.1 or as required by the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or 504 plan.

In circumstances when the school facilities remain open and in-person instruction continues in those classrooms that are not required to quarantine, those days in session will also count towards the district's 180-day requirement in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9.

# Continuity of Services

## Handling of Supplies

Per our district physician, supplies will not be shared among students. Students can receive individual papers from their teachers, only.

# Appropriate Accommodations for Children with Disabilities

**In-Class Support:** Students will attend school with their general education peers and remain in their respective classroom(s) for all subjects. They will follow the school's start and end time each day. The in-class support teacher will support students in the classroom utilizing social distancing guidelines. This may include modifying work, individualized support (from a distance), suggesting appropriate accommodations, and other activities as indicated in student IEPs. For students with paraprofessional support, please see the section below regarding the role of the paraprofessional during instruction.

**Pull out Resource:** Students will attend school with their general education peers and remain in their respective classroom(s) for all subjects. They will follow the school's start and end time each day. The pull-out resource room teacher will bring the students to their designated classroom(s). For students with paraprofessional support, please see the section below regarding the role of the paraprofessional during instruction.

# Appropriate Accommodations for Children with Disabilities

**Self-Contained**: Students will attend school for **5** days per week. They will follow the school's start and end time each day. Students within the self-contained setting will receive instruction in general education classrooms in accordance with their IEPs (ie. mainstreamed subjects/activities).

**Preschool (DLC)**: Students will attend school for 5 days per week. They will follow the school's start and end time each day

**Community Based Instruction (CBI)**: Students in the CBI program will attend school for 5 days per week. They will follow MHS's start and end time each day. Students, Instructors and/or Job Coaches will wear appropriate PPE. Instructors/Job Coaches will provide necessary support as outlined in IEP's.

# Appropriate Accommodations for Children with Disabilities

## **Related Services:**

Related service providers will provide in person services for all students. Related Service providers will participate in all required meetings as per NJAC 6A:14. Evaluations as well as services will be in person. Related Service Providers will follow the protocols outlined in the *Evaluation* section of this document.

## **Child Study Team (CST):**

CST members will complete/perform their in-person job responsibilities inclusive of evaluations in their designated space/location. For staff who travel between buildings, the same protocols should be adhered to.

# Appropriate Accommodations for Children with Disabilities

## **Role of the Paraprofessional**

Paraprofessionals will support students through participating in classroom activities, reinforcing individual student skills as directed by classroom teachers. For those students who require an increased level of 1:1 support, paraprofessionals will utilize the maximum level of PPE required (e.g. mask, face shield, scrubs, gloves, etc.). Building administrators will provide specific information to individuals that will provide the necessary support.

# Appropriate Accommodations for Children with Disabilities

## Evaluations during COVID-19

**In-Person Testing Protocols:** All MPS Related Service Providers and CST are required to conduct in-person evaluations at their designated locations utilizing the health and safety guidelines below.

### **Testing Procedures:**

- All PPEs, 3 ply cloth mask and/or shield must be worn throughout the evaluation and sneeze guards are available if necessary.
- Upon completion of the evaluation student will sign out and be escorted to designated outside pick-up area
- Testing materials will be sanitized before next evaluation
- If additional evaluation(s) are scheduled an alternative room should be utilized
- Evaluators will thoroughly wash their hands before performing next evaluation

# Appropriate Accommodations for Children with Disabilities

Students who have a documented disability which makes it difficult for the student to wear a mask, will not be required to wear one. Caregivers should speak with their case manager.

# Maintaining Health and Safety

## Pooled Testing

Concentric by Ginkgo, a service provided by Ginkgo Bioworks, Inc. (“Ginkgo”), has provided COVID-19 testing in the form of “pooled testing” to our students and staff of the Montclair Public Schools, by consent. Again this year, information and consent forms will be communicated to parents and staff, through the Genesis Parent Portal and a centralized staff distribution. The Program involves collecting nasal swabs from each participant on-site at individual schools. The test detects whether the virus that causes COVID-19 is present in that pooled sample. The purpose of this Program is to help the District make informed decisions about school safety and operations.

If there are positive COVID19 results, the district protocols for COVID19 communication to staff and parents will take place.

(pg. 11-12, The Road Forward)

# Maintaining Health and Safety

## Mask Mandate

Masking requirements will be determined on an ongoing basis in accordance with current CDC Guidance for COVID Prevention in K-12 Schools, as well as with the directives and guidance issued by State, County and Local public health authorities, and in consultation with our district physician. As of this writing, CDC Guidance recommends and the Governor has ordered universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students and visitors, regardless of vaccination status.

(pg. 5, The Road Forward)

- Students with a documented disability who cannot wear a cannot wear a mask, will not be required to wear one.

# Maintaining Health and Safety

## **Lunch**

Lunch will take place outside as much as possible. During inclement weather, lunch will take place in alternative locations such as gyms and auditoriums.

Social Distancing: Per the NJDOE “The Road Forward,” we will maintain three feet of distance between students in classrooms settings to the extent possible while offering full-time, in person learning to all students.

(pg. 7, The Road Forward)

# Maintaining Health and Safety

## **Transportation**

Masks must be worn by all students and staff on buses, regardless of vaccination status per CDC's Federal Order

If occupancy allows, physical distance between students will be maintained to the extent possible

Windows will be open to increase airflow in buses and other transportation, to the extent possible

Regular cleaning, including high touch surfaces on school buses, will occur daily, and is the responsibility of the contracted transportation vendor.

Additionally, District buses will be regularly cleaned in accordance with the CDC's guidelines.

(pg. 7, The Road Forward)

# Maintaining Health and Safety

## COVID Cases:

- If and when we have a positive case in school, Human Resources will work with the building principal and district nurse to ensure contact tracing is completed. Once contact tracing is completed the building principal will send a communication to the families impacted. The letter will also be sent to the building staff. We will work in conjunction with our district medical doctor and the Montclair Department of Health. We will continue to follow guidance from the CDC as well and our local health providers. We are also working on a voluntary survey for all staff to determine who has been fully vaccinated.
- A designated area has been identified in each building to isolate individuals who become ill with symptoms of COVID-19 (please see page 10 in the Road Forward)

# Maintaining Health and Safety

## Staff Check-in

- All MPS staff will be required to complete the daily health screening form located on our district home page : [Daily Staff Health Screening Form](#) prior to the start of the school day
- The form will be monitored daily by designated district staff members

# Maintaining Health and Safety

## Student check-in

- We will be requiring our students / families to complete our daily Health Screening Form in Parent Access twice a week:

**Mondays And Wednesdays - All elementary schools will complete the form**

**Tuesdays and Thursdays - All middle schools and our high school will complete the form**

**Friday - no schools will be required to complete the form.**

- Daily alerts / reminders will be sent out even on off days. For example, elementary schools required to complete the form on Mondays and Wednesdays will receive alerts/reminders to complete the form . Please disregard the alerts/ reminders on off days.
- Although your check in with the district may reside on designated days, parent / guardians are required to monitor daily for symptoms.
- Students who come to school without filling the daily health screening form will be directed to a designated area to complete a temperature check . There will also be chromebook kiosks on hand for students to log in and complete.

# Maintaining Health and Safety

## Cleaning

### Daily routine:

Clean high and low touch surfaces area with EPA registered cleaning products (which is in line with The Road Forward cleaning and disinfecting section)

Locations to be cleaned multiple times daily:

Classroom, hallways, nurses suites, isolation rooms, restrooms, cafeteria, main offices, lobbies, vestibules.

High touch surfaces include but not limited to, door handles and push plates, light switches, desk and chairs, countertops, shelving, handrails, buttons, telephones, faucet handles, toys and testing equipment.

# Maintaining Health and Safety

## Disinfecting

Schools will follow standard procedures for disinfecting with an EPA-registered product for use against SARS-CoV-2.

# Maintaining Health and Safety: Air Flow

**Improve airflow to the extent possible to increase circulation of outdoor air, increase the delivery of clean air, and dilute potential contaminants (The Road Forward pg 9)**

**Bring in as much outdoor air as possible (The Road Forward pg 9)**

**Strategies: working mechanical ventilation, open windows and doors (The Road Forward), exhaust fans in restrooms and kitchens**

**Have activities, as much as possible outside such as classes and lunches**

**In addition to increasing air flow as in The Road Forward**

**\*\*\*EnviroKlenz Airpurifier are in rooms were windows are open**

**\*\*\*\*Phase 1 plan increasing mechanical ventilation in areas were needed**

**\*\*\*\*Improving our facilities: we are committed to improving our facilities and more to come**

# Resources

<https://www.nj.gov/education/roadforward/docs/HealthAndSafetyGuidanceSY2122.pdf>

<https://www.nj.gov/education/acceleration/docs/LearningAccelerationGuide.pdf>

**THANK YOU!**