

New Boston School District Plan on the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

This document is intended to meet the federal statutory requirement that, within 30 days of receiving ARP ESSER LEA allocation (anticipated May 24th), an LEA shall publish an LEA Plan on the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services, which is often called a “school district reopening plan.”

Note, if an LEA developed a plan before *The American Rescue Plan Act* (ARPA) was enacted on 03/11/2021 that complied with the federal statutory requirements for public posting and comments but does not meet all of the requirements below, then the LEA must revise its plan no later than six months after receiving ARP ESSER funds

For further context, please reference ARPA (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/housebill/1319/text>) or the Interim Final Requirements of ARP ESSER (<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR2021-04-22/pdf/2021-08359.pdf>).

I. General Information

1. LEA Name: SAU 19 – New Boston
2. Date of Publication: June 14, 2021

II. Transparency and Accessibility

1. This plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services was published and made publicly available online here:
Description: SAU19 (Goffstown and New Boston) Re-Opening Plan is posted on the SAU 19 Website: <https://www.goffstown.k12.nh.us/index.php/covid-19-home/471-reopening-presentation>
2. Before making the plan publicly available, the LEA sought public comment on the plan and took such comments into account in the development of the plan (please check one).

Yes: X Somewhat: ☐ No: ☐

Description: Educational Community (New Boston and Goffstown) provided input via an online survey: 2,039 responses; 1,248 views
<https://www.goffstown.k12.nh.us/index.php/covid-19-home/467-school-reopening-survey-results>

3. The plan is in an understandable and uniform format (please check one):

Yes: X Somewhat: ☐ No: ☐

Description: The District Plan is organized in a graphic template that was replicated and completed for the New Boston Central School (the District’s only school) and each of the five Goffstown Schools. There is alignment in both format and content.

4. The plan, to the extent practicable, is written in a language that parents can understand or, if not practicable, orally translated (please check one):

Yes: ☒ X Somewhat: ☐ No: ☐

Description: The Educational Community Survey (see #2) and the plan for the safe return to in-person were designed so that the documents were aligned in language and free of "education speak."

5. The plan, upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability, is provided in an alternative format accessible to that parent (please check one):
Yes: X Somewhat: ☐ No: ☐

Description: All SAU19 (New Boston and Goffstown) websites are ADA compliant. The District utilizes a translator service so that the documents can be provided in multiple languages when requested as well.

III. Health and Safety

1. How the LEA will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other school and LEA staff:

Description during SY20-21: The LEA complied with federal, CDC, and state guidelines and recommendations. Local documents were revised in response to state and CDC COVID19 updates.

Description during SY21-22: This summer, LEA Administration will stay informed of the status of federal, CDC and state guidelines and recommendations. Local documents will be revised to align with current guidelines and updates and publicly posted on district and school websites in advance of the start of the 2021-2022 school year.

2. The LEA's adoption of the following CDC health and safety strategies are described below: (Note federal regulation on this plan requires such reporting, but does not require adoption of CDC safety recommendations. The NH DOE recognizes schools will implement localized safety measures based on the guidance provided by the CDC, NH Public Health, and local public health officials.)

- a. Universal and correct wearing of masks:

During SY20-21 (check one): Yes: X Somewhat: ☐ No: ☐
During SY21-22 (check one): Yes: X Somewhat: ☐ No: ☐

Description during SY20-21: The LEA complied with federal, CDC, and state guidelines and recommendations. Local documents were revised in response to state and CDC COVID19 updates. Revised documents were posted on the SAU 19 website and linked to the New Boston School District website. School specific education/instruction for students was developed for mask wearing expectations including signage, videos, demonstrations and in-class instruction.

Description during SY21-22: This summer, LEA Administration will stay informed of the status of federal, CDC and state guidelines and recommendations. Local documents will be revised to align with current guidelines and updates and publicly posted on district and school websites in advance of the start of the 2021-2022 school year.

- b. Physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding and modifying facilities):

During SY20-21 (check one): Yes: X Somewhat: ☐ No: ☐
During SY21-22 (check one): Yes: X Somewhat: ☐ No: ☐

Description during SY20-21: The LEA complied with federal, CDC, and state guidelines and recommendations. Local documents were revised in response to state and CDC COVID19 updates. Revised documents were posted on the SAU 19 website and linked to the New Boston School District website. Plexiglas barriers were deployed in classrooms, lunch rooms and all public areas. Schools were configured and marked with social distancing signage for one-way hallways/stairwells. Parents

were encouraged to transport students to school to support less student riders on buses. Schools defined separate areas for arrivals and dismissals with school specific protocols. Individual student desks were purchased for all classrooms replacing tables for three-foot social distancing allowances. Whenever possible, outdoor spaces were strategically designated for instruction and recess to minimize the mixing of cohorts.

Description during SY21-22: This summer, LEA Administration will stay informed of the status of federal, CDC and state guidelines and recommendations. Local documents will be revised to align with current guidelines and updates and publicly posted on district and school websites in advance of the start of the 2021-2022 school year.

c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette:

During SY20-21 (check one):	Yes: X	Somewhat: <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>
During SY21-22 (check one):	Yes: X	Somewhat: <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>

Description during SY20-21: The LEA complied with federal, CDC, and state guidelines and recommendations. Local documents were revised in response to state and CDC COVID19 updates. Revised documents were posted on the SAU 19 website and linked to the New Boston School District website. Hand sanitizer was made available in all classrooms/hallways and throughout the schools. Time for hand washing was built into each school's master schedule. School nurses provided education on respiratory etiquette to all staff, students and parents.

Description during SY21-22: This summer, LEA Administration will stay informed of the status of federal, CDC and state guidelines and recommendations. Local documents will be revised to align with current guidelines and updates and publicly posted on district and school websites in advance of the start of the 2021-2022 school year.

d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation:

During SY20-21 (check one):	Yes: X	Somewhat: <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>
During SY21-22 (check one):	Yes: X	Somewhat: <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>

Description during SY20-21: The LEA complied with federal, CDC, and state guidelines and recommendations. Local documents were revised in response to state and CDC COVID19 updates. Revised documents were posted on the SAU 19 website and linked to the New Boston School District website. The District Facilities Department initiated the following protocols to address the safe reopening of all schools: 1) reviewed and analyzed the ASHRAE standards for each school within the district and added an additional filter change (quarterly) to all HVAC units. (<https://www.ashrae.org/technical-resources/reopening-of-schools-and-universities#determining>), 2) enhanced cleaning and sanitization during the school day. 3) electrostatic spraying every night using recommended CDC recommended chemicals. 4) the New Boston Central School uses MERV 13 filters in about 75% of the building, others are MERV 8.5) conducted internal airflow testing of HVAC equipment (air handling) and made adjustments to airflow that resulted in exchanges occurring over 3.5 times per hour. 6) added hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes in every classroom. 7) encouraged windows to be opened/partially opened to increase airflow. 8) purchased air purifiers in smaller spaces that did not meet the 3.5 air exchange rate. 9) installed desk shields and plexiglass dividers in classrooms, office areas, etc. 10) purchased touchless bathroom cleaner machines to increase frequency of cleaning these areas. 11) Classroom procedures for cleaning established and taught to both students and staff and reinforced by custodial staff.

Description during SY21-22: This summer, LEA Administration will stay informed of the status of federal, CDC and state guidelines and recommendations. Local documents will be revised to align

with current guidelines and updates and publicly posted on district and school websites in advance of the start of the 2021-2022 school year.

- e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, and/or Tribal health departments:

During SY20-21 (check one): Yes: ☒ Somewhat: ☐ No: ☐
During SY21-22 (check one): Yes: ☒ Somewhat: ☐ No: ☐

Description during SY20-21: The LEA complied with federal, CDC, and state guidelines and recommendations. SAU19 Senior Staff and nurses completed the Johns Hopkins Contact Tracing Course. Collaboration between NH DHHS to determine close contacts, set quarantine and isolation parameters. Documentation and tracking of COVID-19 cases (anonymous) available on SAU19 website on the COVID Dashboard. SAU wide quarantine and isolation guidelines developed, revisions occurred in a timely manner secondary to changing pandemic recommendations from CDC and NH DHHS. Collaboration between teachers, nurses, administration, SAU administration and parents to ensure adequate educational resources for students out of school on quarantine/ isolation protocols.

Description during SY21-22: This summer, LEA Administration will stay informed of the status of federal, CDC and state guidelines and recommendations. Local decisions will be revised to align with current guidelines and updates and publicly posted on district and school websites as appropriate during the 2021-2022 school year.

Diagnostic and screening testing:

During SY20-21 (check one): Yes: ☐ Somewhat: ☐ No: ☒
During SY21-22 (check one): Yes: ☐ Somewhat: ☐ No: ☒

Description during SY20-21: School nurses and administration provided resources to available to parents indicating testing sites, accessibility. Clinical evaluation performed by school nurses, recommendations to parents made for testing and evaluation by PCP. SAU19 did not perform onsite COVID testing.

Description during SY21-22: This summer, LEA Administration will stay informed of the status of federal, CDC and state guidelines and recommendations. Local decisions will be revised to align with current guidelines and updates and publicly posted on district and school websites as appropriate during the 2021-2022 school year.

Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities:

During SY20-21 (check one): Yes: ☒ Somewhat: ☐ No: ☐
During SY21-22 (check one): Yes: ☒ Somewhat: ☐ No: ☐

Description of SY20-21: In collaboration with the Manchester Public Health Department, SAU19 hosted six vaccination clinics offering COVID-19 vaccination to all eligible SAU 19 employees, students aged 16 and up, students aged 12-15, and family members of staff and students. Approximately 1,600 vaccinations were administered.

Description during SY21-22: This summer, LEA Administration will stay informed of the status of federal, CDC and state guidelines and recommendations. Local decisions will be revised to align with current guidelines and updates and publicly posted on district and school websites as appropriate during the 2021-2022 school year.

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

During SY20-21 (check one): Yes: X Somewhat: ☐ No: ☐
During SY21-22 (check one): Yes: X Somewhat: ☐ No: ☐

Description for SY 20-21: Students who were unable to access instruction via connected learning due to complex needs, were offered additional services in the home or via the internet. Behaviorists visited homes and communicated frequently with families to ensure improved academic and social emotional growth. Staff members were provided with increased and specialized PPE, such as window masks, bucket hat masks, gowns, in order to serve students who were unable to mask, required close proximity to staff, or had difficulty controlling oral secretions. Special education staff collaborated with building administration, nurses, case-managers to ensure safety for special education students as well as other students in classroom. (Reference: [https://goffstown.k12.nh.us/attachments/article/500/Special Education Remote Plan 2021-1-14.pdf](https://goffstown.k12.nh.us/attachments/article/500/Special%20Education%20Remote%20Plan%202021-1-14.pdf))

Description for FY21-22: This summer, LEA Administration will stay informed of the status of federal, CDC and state guidelines and recommendations. Local decisions will be revised to align with current guidelines. Special education staff will continue to collaborate with building administration, nurses, case-managers to ensure safety for special education students as well as other students in classroom.

Coordination with state and local health officials (please check one):

During SY20-21 (check one): Yes: X Somewhat: ☐ No: ☐
During SY21-22 (check one): Yes: X Somewhat: ☐ No: ☐

Description of FY20-21: The Superintendent maintained communication with all stakeholders through audio and video presentations and "live" interactive social media forums. He participated in weekly Zoom Emergency Management calls with police, fire, local town officials and organizations. He also participated in weekly and monthly COVID information webinars presented by the NH Commissioner of Education.

Description of FY21-22: This summer, LEA Administration will stay informed of the status of federal, CDC and state guidelines and recommendations. Local decisions will be revised to align with current guidelines and updates

1. The LEA has provided continuity of services in addressing student academic needs:

Description during SY20-21: Minimally, the LEA has provided continuity of services for technology (instruction for students and parent/guardians specific to digital platforms, core programs, device/browser usage and video conferencing, increased school-family partnerships through enhanced opportunities to connect); provided a robust and year long food support program for all families with a focus on those with food insecurities, specifically prioritized and standardized learning goals (power standards) for all content areas both vertically (between grade levels) and horizontally (within grade levels) and implemented a districtwide (school and developmental level specific) student specific focus on social/emotional learning with an emphasis on connections and relationships.

Description during SY21-22: The district will maintain a consistent and persistent focus on addressing and servicing student needs through an articulated and comprehensive approach to remediation and acceleration through the use of ESSER III funds. Plans are currently under development.

2. The LEA has provided continuity of services in addressing student social, emotional, mental, and other health needs, which may include student health and food services:

Description during SY20-21: Minimally, the LEA has provided continuity of services for technology (instruction for students and parent/guardians specific to digital platforms, core programs, device/browser usage and video conferencing, increased school-family partnerships through enhanced opportunities to connect); provided a robust and year long food support program for all families with a focus on those with food insecurities, specifically prioritized and standardized learning goals (power standards) for all content areas both vertically (between grade levels) and horizontally (within grade levels) and implemented a districtwide (school and developmental level specific) student specific focus on social/emotional learning with an emphasis on connections and relationships.

Description during SY21-22: The district will maintain a consistent and persistent focus on addressing and servicing student needs through an articulated and comprehensive approach to remediation and acceleration through the use of ESSER III funds. Plans are currently under development.

The LEA has provided continuity of services in addressing staff social, emotional, mental, and other health needs:

Description during SY20-21: In accordance with all federal and state guidelines, the LEA reviewed and considered all COVID-19 related employee leaves and ADA accommodations. Additionally, the LEA set up staff vaccine clinics in conjunction with the Manchester Department of Health. The LEA has an employee assistance program that is available at no cost to staff members. A memorandum of understanding was developed between the LEA and the two bargaining units to address issues regarding employee health, safety and working conditions.

Description during SY21-22: The LEA will continue to provide support to staff in accordance with all state and federal guidelines. Additionally, the LEA will reinstitute wellness initiatives for staff and continue to promote employee benefits that support social emotional needs.

V. Plan Review

1. The LEA will meet the federal regulatory requirement to review and, as appropriate, revise its Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan at least every six months through September 30, 2023 (the award period including the Tydings period). (Note an LEA that developed a plan before ARPA was enacted on 03/11/2021 that complied with the federal statutory requirements for public posting and comments but does not meet all of the requirements above must revise its plan no later than six months after the LEA receives LEA ESSER funds.)

Yes: X No:

Description: This summer, LEA Administration will stay informed of the status of federal, CDC and state guidelines and recommendations. Local decisions will be made regarding alignment with the current guidelines and updates as deemed appropriate. Re-opening procedures will be developed and posted publicly to the district and school websites. The Re-opening Plan will be revised and reposted within the required six-month compliance window. Thereafter, the District and School level re-opening Committees will solicit feedback from the educational community and affirm or revise the Plan as appropriate.

In doing so, the LEA will meet the federal statutory requirement to seek public input and take such input into account in determining whether to revise the plan and, if revisions are determined necessary, on the revisions it makes to its plan.

Yes: X No:

Description: This summer, LEA Administration will stay informed of the status of federal, CDC and state guidelines and recommendations. Local decisions will be made regarding alignment with the current guidelines and updates as deemed appropriate. Re-opening procedures will be developed and posted publicly to the district and school websites. The Re-opening Plan will be revised and reposted within the required six-month compliance window. Thereafter, the District and School level re-opening Committees will solicit feedback from the educational community and affirm or revise the Plan as appropriate.

2. In doing so, the LEA will also meet the federal regulatory requirement to address CDC safety recommendations and, if the CDC has updated its safety recommendations at the time the LEA is revising its plan, each of the updated CDC safety recommendations.
(Note federal regulation on this plan requires such reporting, but does not require adoption of CDC safety recommendations. The NH DOE recognizes schools will implement localized safety measures based on the guidance provided by the CDC, NH Public Health, and local public health officials.)

Yes: X No:

Description: This summer, LEA Administration will stay informed of the status of federal, CDC and state guidelines and recommendations. Local decisions will be made regarding alignment with the current guidelines and updates as deemed appropriate. Re-opening procedures will be developed and posted publicly to the district and school websites. The Re-opening Plan will be revised and reposted within the required six-month compliance window. Thereafter, the District and School level re-opening Committees will solicit feedback from the educational community and affirm or revise the Plan as appropriate.

VI. Authorization

LEA Superintendent's Signature:

Date:

Brian Balke

06 / 14 / 2021

VIII. Appendices

Appendix A. ARPA Statutory Excerpt

“(i) Safe return to in-person instruction. —

(1) IN GENERAL. —A local educational agency receiving funds under this section shall develop and make publicly available on the local educational agency’s website, not later than 30 days after receiving the allocation of funds described in paragraph (d)(1), a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services.

(2) COMMENT PERIOD.—Before making the plan described in paragraph (1) publicly available, the local educational agency shall seek public comment on the plan and take such comments into account in the development of the plan.

(3) PREVIOUS PLANS.—If a local educational agency has developed a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction before the date of enactment of this Act that meets the requirements described in paragraphs (1) and (2), such plan shall be deemed to satisfy the requirements under this subsection.”

Appendix B. Interim Final Requirements of ARP ESSER Excerpt

“(3) *LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services.*

(a) An LEA must describe in its plan under section 2001(i)(1) of the ARP Act for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services—

(i) how it 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.

(B) Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (*e.g.*, use of cohorts/ podding).

(C) Handwashing and respiratory etiquette.

(D) Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation. (E) Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments.

(F) Diagnostic and screening testing.

(G) Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities.

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

(I) Coordination with State and local health officials.

(ii) how it will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address students’ academic needs and students’ and staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services.

(b) (i) During the period of the ARP ESSER award established in section 2001(a) of the ARP Act, an LEA must regularly, but no less frequently than every six months (taking into consideration the timing of significant changes to CDC guidance on reopening schools), review and, as appropriate, revise its plan for the safe return to in person instruction and continuity of services.

(ii) In determining whether revisions are necessary, and in making any revisions, the LEA must seek public input and take such input into account.

(iii) If at the time the LEA revises its plan the CDC has updated its guidance on reopening schools, the revised plan must address the extent to which the LEA has adopted policies, and describe any such policies, for each of the updated safety recommendations.

(c) If an LEA developed a plan prior to enactment of the ARP Act that meets the statutory requirements of section 2001(i)(1) and (2) of the ARP Act but does not address all the requirements in paragraph (a), the LEA must, pursuant to paragraph (b), revise and post its plan no later than six months after receiving its ARP ESSER funds to meet the requirements in paragraph (a).

(d) An LEA’s plan under section 2001(i)(1) of the ARP Act for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services must be—

(i) In an understandable and uniform format;

- (ii) To the extent practicable, written in a language that parents can understand or, if it is not practicable to provide written translations to a parent with limited English proficiency, be orally translated for such parent; and
- (iii) Upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA, provided in an alternative format accessible to that parent.”

Signature Certificate

Document Ref.: TZJFT-Y2PWI-JVQMT-VMT46

Document signed by:

	<p>Brian Balke</p> <p>Verified E-mail: brian.balke@sau19.org</p> <p>IP: 216.107.199.70 Date: 14 Jun 2021 16:22:19 UTC</p>	<p><i>Brian Balke</i></p> 
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Page 1 of 1



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