

RESTART & RECOVERY PLAN

Restart and Recovery Plan to Reopen Schools

West Essex Regional
Board of Education

Fall 2020

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Introduction

On June 26, 2020, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) published “The Road Back – Restart and Recovery Plan for Education” (NJDOE Guidance), a Guidance document to assist New Jersey school districts to develop, in collaboration with community stakeholders, a Restart and Recovery Plan (Plan) to reopen schools in September 2020 that best fits the school district's local needs. The NJDOE Guidance presents information for New Jersey public school districts related to four key subject areas: Conditions for Learning; Leadership and Planning; Policy and Funding; and Continuity of Learning.

The Board of Education Restart and Recovery Plan (Plan) has been developed to be consistent with the requirements in the NJDOE Guidance with consideration to the school district's local needs in order to ensure school(s) in the district reopen safely and are prepared to accommodate students' unique needs during this unprecedented time.

To ensure consistency with respect to the health and safety of school communities across the State, the NJDOE Guidance speaks specifically to health and safety measures identified as "anticipated minimum standards." These “anticipated minimum standards” are items the NJDOE Guidance recommends a school district incorporate into the Plan as definite components related to health, safety, and operations. Through this established set of Statewide standards, the NJDOE can ensure the State's educational health does not come at the expense of public health. The “anticipated minimum standards” in the NJDOE Guidance are listed and have been incorporated into the school district's locally developed Plan.

The NJDOE Guidance also provides “considerations” that may help school officials in strategizing ways to adhere to the “anticipated minimum standards”, but do not represent necessary components of the Plan. These “considerations” are not listed in the school district Plan, but school officials have reviewed and incorporated the “considerations” included in the NJDOE Guidance when developing the Plan.

The NJDOE Guidance uses the term “should” throughout the document when referencing “anticipated minimum standards ... that school districts should incorporate into their reopening plans as definitive components related to health, safety, and operations.” Therefore, those provisions in the NJDOE Guidance listed as “anticipated minimum standards” have been interpreted to be required components in the Plan.

The NJDOE Guidance uses the term “school districts” or “schools” or “districts” when referring to the completion of tasks. For example, “districts must develop a schedule for increased routine cleaning and disinfection.” This Plan assigns the responsibility for completing tasks to “school officials” which would be the Superintendent of Schools or a designee of the Superintendent of Schools.

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The NJDOE Guidance requires a Board Policy to address several elements outlined in the NJDOE Guidance. The Board of Education has adopted Board Policy 1648 – Restart and Recovery Plan that includes the policies required in the NJDOE Guidance.

This Plan is aligned with the requirements outlined in the NJDOE Guidance. The Appendices section of this Plan include the school district’s unique and locally developed protocols to ensure school(s) in the district reopen safely and are prepared to accommodate staff and students' unique needs during this unprecedented time. Also included in the Appendices section is a chart that includes all websites and outside guidance information that are listed in the NJDOE Guidance.

The requirements outlined in the NJDOE Guidance and incorporated into this Plan are controlled by Executive Order of the Governor of New Jersey and are subject to change.

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THE BOARD OF EDUCATION'S RESTART AND RECOVERY PLAN

The Board of Education's Restart and Recovery Plan addresses four key subject areas:

- A. Conditions for Learning;
 - B. Leadership and Planning;
 - C. Policy and Funding; and
 - D. Continuity of Learning.
- A. Conditions for Learning

Conditions for learning involve the social, emotional, and environmental factors that can impact educator capacity to teach and student capacity to learn, including standards for maintaining healthy and safe school conditions. As schools reopen, the impact of social isolation on both educators and students is a key area of concern.

Conditions for Learning include: Health and Safety – Standards for Establishing Safe and Healthy Conditions for Learning; and Academic, Social, and Behavioral Supports

1. Health and Safety – Standards for Establishing Safe and Healthy Conditions for Learning; and Academic, Social, and Behavioral Supports

The Health and Safety Section of the Board's Plan identifies Ten Critical Areas of Operation which the Board has addressed in the Plan: General Health and Safety Guidelines; Classrooms, Testing, and Therapy Rooms; Transportation; Student Flow, Entry, Exit, and Common Areas; Screening, PPE, and Response to Students and Staff Presenting Symptoms; Contact Tracing; Facilities Cleaning Practices; Meals; Recess/Physical Education; and Field Trips, Extra-Curricular Activities, and Use of Facilities Outside School Hours.

Throughout this Health and Safety Section, the provisions marked "anticipated minimum standards" as outlined in the NJDOE Guidance have been incorporated into the Board's Plan and related protocols, as applicable.

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The Health and Safety section of the NJDOE Guidance also provided "additional considerations" to assist school officials in considering ways to adhere to the anticipated minimum standards. These provisions are also consistent with the Board's general obligation to ensure the health and safety of its students and staff pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40-6 and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.1. District officials should abide by the advice of local health officials to determine the safest course of action based on local circumstances, which will change as the public health landscape evolves. The health and safety of students and staff is the number one priority and has guided all decisions of the Board's Plan.

Ten Critical Areas of Operation

- a. Critical Area of Operation #1 - General Health and Safety Guidelines – Anticipated Minimum Standards Incorporated into the Plan
 - (1) In all stages and phases of pandemic response and recovery, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends the following actions:
 - (a) School officials will establish and maintain communication with local and State authorities to determine current mitigation levels in the community.
 - (b) School officials will ensure staff and students who are at higher risk for severe illness are protected and supported, such as providing options for telework and virtual learning.
 - (c) The CDC's Guidance for Schools and Childcare Programs, if applicable, will be followed.
 - (d) The Board promotes behaviors that reduce the spread of COVID-19 such as encouraging staff and students to stay home when appropriate; encouraging the practice of hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette; requiring the use of face coverings; and signs and messages in and around school buildings.

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- (e) Reasonable accommodations will be provided for individuals that the CDC identifies as having a higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19, including older adults (aged 65 years and older) and individuals with disabilities or serious underlying medical conditions, which may include:
 - (i) Chronic lung disease or asthma (moderate to severe);
 - (ii) Serious heart conditions;
 - (iii) Immunocompromised;
 - (iv) Severe obesity (body mass index, or BMI, of 40 or higher);
 - (v) Diabetes;
 - (vi) Chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis;
 - (vii) Liver disease;
 - (viii) Medically fragile students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs);
 - (ix) Students with complex disabilities with IEPs; or
 - (x) Students who require accommodations under a Plan in accordance with the Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (504 Plan).

[See Appendix A – Critical Area of Operation #1 – General Health and Safety Guidelines]

- b. Critical Area of Operation #2 – Classrooms, Testing, and Therapy Rooms – Anticipated Minimum Standards Incorporated into the Plan

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- (1) Schools in the district will allow for social distancing within the classroom to the maximum extent practicable. This will be achieved by ensuring students are seated at least six feet apart. If a school in the district is not able to maintain this physical distance, additional modifications should be considered including using physical barriers between desks, turning desks to face the same direction (rather than facing each other), and/or having students sit on only one side of the table, spaced apart.
- (2) Face coverings will be required for students, and face coverings are always required for visitors and staff unless it will inhibit the individual's health.
 - (a) Enforcing the use of face coverings may be impractical for young children or individuals with disabilities.
- (3) In a classroom setting where social distancing can take place (e.g., desks are 6 feet apart) or physical barriers are in place, face coverings must remain on while students are seated at desks and continue to be worn when moving about the classroom (students may request a mask break outside of the classroom).
- (4) All instructional and non-instructional rooms in schools and district facilities must comply with social distancing standards to the maximum extent practicable.
- (5) Use of shared objects should be limited when possible or cleaned between use.
- (6) All indoor facilities will have adequate ventilation, including operational heating and ventilation systems where appropriate. Recirculated air must have a fresh air component, windows will be opened, if practical, if air conditioning is not provided, and filter(s) for A/C units must be maintained and changed according to manufacturer recommendations.
- (7) School districts will prepare and maintain hand sanitizing stations with alcohol-based hand sanitizers (at least 60% alcohol). Such stations should be:

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- (a) In each classroom (for staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer).
 - (b) At entrances and exits of buildings.
 - (c) Near lunchrooms and toilets.
 - (d) Children ages five and younger should be supervised when using hand sanitizer.
 - (e) For classrooms that have existing handwashing stations, stations should be prepared with soap, water, and alcohol-based hand sanitizers (at least 60% alcohol).
- (8) School officials should develop a school-wide plan where students are required to wash hands for at least twenty seconds at regular intervals during the school day and always before eating, after using the bathroom, and after blowing their nose, coughing, and/or sneezing.
- (a) If washing with soap and water is not possible, washing with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol) should be used.

[See Appendix B – Critical Area of Operation #2 – Classroom, Test, and Therapy Rooms]

c. Critical Area of Operation #3 – Transportation – Anticipated Minimum Standards Incorporated into the Plan

- (1) If the school district is providing transportation services on a school bus a face covering must be worn by all students who are able to do so upon entering the bus.
- (2) Accommodations for students who are unable to wear a face covering should be addressed according to that student's particular need and in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.

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- (3) Every school bus, either district-owned or contracted, should be cleaned and disinfected before and after each bus route.

[See Appendix C – Critical Area of Operation #3 – Transportation]

d. Critical Area of Operation #4 – Student Flow, Entry, Exit, and Common Areas – Anticipated Minimum Standards Incorporated into the Plan

- (1) The Board’s Plan should establish the process and location for student and staff health screenings.

(2) Physical distancing (six feet apart) will be maintained for individuals in line waiting to enter or exit a building, and face coverings shall be worn while in the line.

- (3) Each school in the district will provide physical guides, such as tape on floors or sidewalks and signs on walls, to help ensure that staff and students remain at least six feet apart in lines and at other times (e.g. guides for creating "one-way routes" in hallways).

[See Appendix D – Critical Area of Operation #4 – Student Flow, Entry, Exit, and Common Areas]

e. Critical Area of Operation #5 – Screening, Personal Protection Equipment (PPE), and Response to Students and Staff Presenting Symptoms – Anticipated Minimum Standards Incorporated into the Plan

- (1) The school district will adopt Board Policy 1648 regarding the screening procedures for students and employees upon arrival at school or work location for symptoms and history of exposure. These screening procedures must include the following:

- (a) Staff must visually check students for symptoms upon arrival (which may include temperature checks) and/or confirm with families that students are free of COVID-19 symptoms.

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- (b) Health checks must be conducted safely and respectfully, and in accordance with any applicable privacy laws and regulations.
 - (c) Results must be documented when signs/symptoms of COVID-19 are observed.
 - (d) Any screening policy/protocol must take into account students with disabilities and accommodations that may be needed in the screening process for those students.
- (2) The Board must adopt procedures for symptomatic staff and students, which shall include the following:
- (a) Students and staff with symptoms related to COVID-19 must be safely and respectfully isolated from others. School officials will follow current Communicable Disease Service guidance for illness reporting.
 - (b) If the school district becomes aware that an individual who has spent time in a district facility tests positive for COVID-19, officials must immediately notify local health officials, staff, and families of a confirmed case while maintaining confidentiality.
 - (c) The procedures the district will use when someone tests positive for COVID-19 will include written procedures detailing the district's COVID-19 related response for symptomatic students and staff. The procedures must be consistent with the district's contact tracing procedures (see "Critical Area of Operation #6 – Contact Tracing") to the maximum extent practicable. The procedure includes:
 - (i) Establishment of an isolation space. Students and staff with symptoms related to COVID-19 must be safely and respectfully isolated from others. Students should remain in isolation with continued

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- supervision and care until picked up by an authorized adult.
 - (ii) Following current Communicable Disease Service guidance for illness reporting.
 - (iii) An adequate amount of PPE shall be available, accessible, and provided for use.
 - (iv) Methods to assist in contact tracing including records of groups/cohorts, assigned staff, and daily attendance.
 - (v) Continuous monitoring of symptoms.
 - (vi) Re-admittance policies consistent with Department of Health guidance and information for schools and Department of Health/Communicable Disease Service's Quick Reference Guidance on Discontinuation of Transmission-Based Precautions and Home Isolation for Persons Diagnosed with COVID-19.
 - (vii) Written protocols to address a positive case.
- (3) School officials will encourage parents to be on alert for signs of the illness in their children and to keep their child home when they are sick.
- (4) School staff and visitors are required to wear face coverings unless doing so would inhibit the individual's health or the individual is under two years of age.
- (5) Students are required to wear face coverings, unless doing so would inhibit the student's health. It is also necessary to acknowledge that enforcing the use of face coverings may be impractical for young children or individuals with disabilities.
- (a) Accommodation for students who are unable to wear a face covering should be addressed according

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to that student's need and in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.

- (6) Exceptions to requirements for face coverings shall be as follows:
 - (a) Doing so would inhibit the individual's health.
 - (b) The individual is in extreme heat outdoors.
 - (c) The individual is in water.
 - (d) A student's documented medical condition, or disability as reflected in an IEP, precludes the use of face covering.
 - (e) The student is under the age of two and could risk suffocation.

(7) If anyone in a district facility refuses to wear a face covering for non-medical reasons and if such a covering cannot be provided to the individual at the point of entry, the individual's entry to the school/district facility may be denied.

[See Appendix E – Critical Area of Operation #5 – Screening, PPE, and Response to Students and Staff Presenting Symptoms]

f. Critical Area of Operation #6 – Contact Tracing

- (1) The NJDOE Guidance does not include any “anticipated minimum standards” for contact tracing. However, all school and district administrators, school safety specialists, counselors, and any other staff deemed appropriate by the Superintendent or designee should be provided information regarding the role of contact tracing conducted by State, county, and local officials.
- (2) School officials should engage the expertise of their school nurses on the importance of contact tracing.

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- (3) The NJDOE will credit certified School Safety Specialists with three hours of training upon completion of Johns Hopkins University's COVID-19 Contact Tracing course.

[See Appendix F – Critical Area of Operation #6 – Contact Tracing]

g. Critical Area of Operation #7 – Facilities Cleaning Practices –Anticipated Minimum Standards Incorporated into the Plan

- (1) School officials must continue to adhere to existing required facilities cleaning practices and procedures, and any new specific requirements of the local health department as they arise.

- (2) The Board’s Plan and Policy will establish cleaning/disinfecting schedules, targeted areas to be cleaned, and methods and materials to be used including:

- (a) A schedule for increased routine cleaning and disinfection.

- (b) Routinely cleaning and disinfecting surfaces and objects that are frequently touched. This may include cleaning objects/surfaces not ordinarily cleaned daily (e.g. doorknobs, light switches, classroom sink handles, countertops).

- (c) Use of all cleaning products according to the directions on the label. For disinfection, most common EPA-registered household disinfectants should be effective. A list of products that are EPA-approved for use against the virus that causes COVID-19 is available on the EPA's website.

- (d) Follow the manufacturer's instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products (e.g. concentration, application method, and contact time, etc.). Examples of frequently touched areas in schools are:

- (i) Classroom desks and chairs;

- (ii) Lunchroom tables and chairs;

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- (iii) Door handles and push plates;
 - (iv) Handrails;
 - (v) Kitchens and bathrooms;
 - (vi) Light switches;
 - (vii) Handles on equipment (e.g. athletic equipment);
 - (viii) Buttons on vending machines and elevators;
 - (ix) Shared telephones;
 - (x) Shared desktops;
 - (xi) Shared computer keyboards and mice;
 - (xii) Drinking fountains; and
 - (xiii) School bus seats and windows.
- (e) Sanitize bathrooms daily, or between use as much as possible, using protocols outlined by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

[See Appendix G – Critical Area of Operation #7 – Facilities Cleaning Practices]

- h. Critical Area of Operation #8 – Meals – Anticipated Minimum Standards Incorporated into the Plan
- (1) If cafeterias or group dining areas are used in the school district, the school district will incorporate the following into the Board’s Plan, if applicable:
 - (a) Stagger times to allow for social distancing and clean and disinfect between groups.
 - (b) Discontinue family style, self-service, and buffet.

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- (c) Clean and sanitize tables/surfaces between each meal service, pursuant to the protocols outlined by the EPA.
- (d) Space students at least six feet apart.
- (e) Require individuals must wash their hands after removing their gloves or after directly handling used food service items.

[See Appendix H – Critical Area of Operation #8 – Meals]

i. Critical Area of Operation #9 – Recess/Physical Education – Anticipated Minimum Standards Incorporated into the Plan

- (1) The Board’s Plan regarding recess and physical education should include protocols to address the following:
 - (a) Stagger recess, if necessary.
 - (b) If two or more groups are participating in recess at the same time, there will be at least six feet of open space between the two groups.
 - (c) The use of cones, flags, tape, or other signs to create boundaries between groups.
 - (d) A requirement that all individuals always wash hands immediately after outdoor playtime.
 - (e) Stagger the use of playground equipment and establish a frequent disinfecting protocol for all playground equipment used by students.
 - (f) Complete an inventory of outdoor spaces (athletic fields, track, green spaces, open space, and local parks) and designate zones, use stations, mark off areas, floor markers, floor tape, poly spots, etc., to ensure separation among students (six feet apart for social distancing).
 - (g) Locker rooms may be closed to mitigate risk and prohibit students and staff from confined spaces

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with limited ventilation and/or areas with large amounts of high contact surfaces.

- (i) If it is not feasible to close locker rooms the district will stagger the use and clean and disinfect between use.
 - (ii) Students may be encouraged to wear comfortable clothing and safe footwear to school that allows for safe movement and is appropriate for the weather in order to participate in physical education without the use of a locker room.
- (2) The school district will mitigate risk, limit and/or eliminate direct contact with equipment (lessons with no equipment), and will not allow sharing of equipment. If equipment must be shared, the equipment will be cleaned and disinfected between each use.
 - (3) The school district will designate specific areas for each class during recess to avoid cohorts mixing.

[See Appendix I – Critical Area of Operation #9 – Recess/Physical Education]

j. Critical Area of Operation #10 – Field Trips, Extra-Curricular Activities, and Use of Facilities Outside of School Hours – Anticipated Minimum Standards Incorporated into the Plan

- (1) The Board’s Plan should adhere to all applicable social distancing requirements and hygiene protocols during any extra-curricular activities.
- (2) The Board of Education requires any external community organizations that use school/district facilities to follow district guidance on health and safety protocols.

[See Appendix J – Critical Area of Operation #10 – Field Trips, Extra-Curricular Activities, and Use of Facilities Outside of School Hours]

2. Academic, Social, and Behavioral Supports

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In addition to taking the steps listed in the Health and Safety Guidelines section to protect students’ and educators’ physical health, leaders must also consider the impact of social isolation on both educators and students. School officials are not mandated to develop protocols for these elements as these elements are not “anticipated minimum standards” in the NJDOE Guidance. However, the NJDOE recommends school officials consider the following elements while developing the Board’s Plan.

While only a small introduction to these elements is included in this Plan, a more detailed explanation and further considerations in the NJDOE Guidance are under the Academic, Social, and Behavioral Supports section to reference as the Plan is being developed. School officials may use the supports listed in the NJDOE Guidance.

The elements listed below in A.2.a. through A.2.e. provide an explanation for school officials to indicate if the strategy is:

- Not being utilizing
- Being developed by school officials
- Currently being utilizing

There is space provided below in A.2.a. through A.2.e. for a brief explanation of the school district’s status for each element.

[See Appendix K – Supplemental Materials and Explanations for Academic, Social, and Behavioral Supports]

a. Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and School Culture and Climate

SEL will be critical in re-engaging students, supporting adults, rebuilding relationships, and creating a foundation for academic learning.

Not Being Utilized

Being Developed by School Officials

Currently Being Utilized

b. Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)

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MTSS is a systematic approach to prevention, intervention, and enrichment in grades Pre-K through twelve for academics and behavior that offers educators and families a mechanism to identify individual students who need extra support.

Not Being Utilized

Being Developed by School Officials

Currently Being Utilized

c. Wraparound Supports

Wraparound services differ from traditional school-based services in their comprehensive approach to addressing the academic, behavioral, and social-emotional needs of students with interventions both inside and outside of the school environment.

Not Being Utilized

Being Developed by School Officials

Currently Being Utilized

d. Food Service and Distribution

School meals are critical to student health and well-being, especially for low-income students. The NJDOE considers it a moral imperative to ensure the seamless and continuous feeding of students during all phases of school reopening.

Not Being Utilized

Being Developed by School Officials

Currently Being Utilized

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e. Quality Child Care

Child care will be needed as schools reopen, particularly in instances where modified school schedules may increase the likelihood that families who otherwise would not utilize child care will now require it.

Not Being Utilized

Being Developed by School Officials

Currently Being Utilized

The District will provide employees with 4 local child care providers. These are options employees can pursue if seeking childcare facilities in close proximity to West Essex; Early Learning Center (Roseland), Kiddie Academy (West Caldwell), Lightbridge Academy (West Caldwell), and Pampered Child (Roseland).

[See Appendix K – Supplemental Materials and Explanations for Academic, Social, and Behavioral Supports]

B. Leadership and Planning

The Leadership and Planning Section of the Board’s Plan references guidance, requirements, and considerations for the school district regarding district and school-wide logistical and operational issues with which administrators will contend in planning to reopen schools.

The provisions marked "anticipated minimum standards" as outlined in the Guidance have been incorporated into the Board’s Plan and corresponding protocols, as applicable.

The Leadership and Planning section of the Guidance also provided "additional considerations" that assisted school officials in considering ways to adhere to the “anticipated minimum standards”.

1. Establishing a Restart Committee

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- a. A Restart Committee should be established as collaboration is critical to the development of the Board's Plan.
- b. The Restart Committee should include school district and school-level administrators, members of the local Board of Education or Charter School Board of Trustees, the Presidents of the local education associations or their designees of the local education associations, and a diverse set of content experts, educators, parents, and students.
- c. The Restart Committee should work closely with the School Pandemic Response Teams, Local Health Department, and others in municipal and county government as necessary to develop the district Plan. Restart Committees and Pandemic Response Teams should help address policies and procedures for the Board's Plan.
- d. The Restart Committee should reflect the diversity of the school community, including those representing students with disabilities, whose families speak languages other than English at home, and who reflect diverse racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic demographics.
- e. The Restart Committee may consider developing subcommittees to focus on age or grade-level specific needs, school specific needs, or to address issues of importance such as medically fragile students or staff.

[See Appendix L – Restart Committee]

2. Pandemic Response Teams

- a. School-based Pandemic Response Teams should be established in each school in the district to centralize, expedite, and implement COVID-19 related decision-making.
- b. Each school team will have a liaison that reports to district-level administrators to ensure coordinated actions across the district.
- c. Members of the school teams should include a cross section of administrators, teachers, staff, and parents.

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- d. Pandemic Response Teams should represent a cross-section of the school and district, including its gender and racial diversity, as decision-making and communication will be more effective if decision-makers reflect the make-up of the community.
- e. If a school has an existing Crisis Response Team, that Team may serve as the Pandemic Response Team.
- f. Pandemic Response Team should be comprised of, at a minimum, the following members, if applicable:
 - (1) School Principal or Lead Person;
 - (2) Teachers;
 - (3) Child Study Team member;
 - (4) School Counselor or mental health expert;
 - (5) Subject Area Chairperson/Director;
 - (6) School Nurse;
 - (7) Teachers representing each grade band served by the school district and school;
 - (8) School safety personnel;
 - (9) Members of the School Safety Team;
 - (10) Custodian; and
 - (11) Parents.
- g. The Pandemic Response Team is responsible for:
 - (1) Overseeing each school's implementation of the Plan, particularly health and safety measures, and providing safety and crisis leadership.
 - (2) Adjusting or amending school health and safety protocols as needed.

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- (3) Providing staff with needed support and training.
 - (4) Reviewing school level data regarding health and safety measures and the presence of COVID-19 and reporting that data to the district as required.
 - (5) Developing and implementing procedures to foster and maintain safe and supportive school climates as necessitated by the challenges posed by COVID-19.
 - (6) Providing necessary communications to the school community and to the school district.
 - (7) Creating pathways for community, family, and student voices to continuously inform the Team's decision-making.
- h. The Pandemic Response Team should meet regularly and provide the community with timely updates and any changes to protocols.

[See Appendix M – Pandemic Response Team]

3. Scheduling

- a. The Board's Plan must account for resuming in-person instruction. Scheduling decisions should be informed by careful evaluation of the health and safety standards and the most up-to-date guidance from the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH), as well the input of stakeholders about the needs of all students and the realities unique to this district.
- b. Virtual learning will continue to be guided by P.L. 2020, c.27 and the school district's updated Emergency Closure School Preparedness Plan if schools are required to deliver instruction through a fully virtual environment during limited periods throughout the school year due to a local or Statewide public health emergency.
 - (1) In accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:32-8.3, a school day shall consist of not less than four hours, except that one continuous session of two and one-half hours may be considered a full day in Kindergarten.
 - (2) School district policies for attendance and instructional contact time will need to accommodate opportunities for

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both synchronous and asynchronous instruction, while ensuring the requirements for a 180-day school year are met.

- c. The school district will meet the needs of their special populations in alignment with the New Jersey Specific Guidance for Schools and Districts regarding student accommodations.
 - (1) For special education and ELL students, the Board of Education will provide educators with professional development to best utilize the accessibility features and accommodations tools made available through technology-based formats. The school district will continue to ensure students receive individualized supports that meet the requirements of the IEP and 504 Plans.
 - (2) For medically fragile staff, virtual instruction is ideal for staff who are at greater risk for the impacts of COVID-19. Accommodations may need to be made for staff with health issues which are exacerbated by viewing content on screens for an extended period.

- d. The school district should accommodate educators teaching in-person, hybrid, and virtual learning, in a way that allows all students to meet their required instructional hours for the day, which may include remote students completing independent work while students in classroom receive instruction. School officials may:
 - (1) Provide teachers common planning time.
 - (2) Ensure school district policies are reviewed and confirmed to support in-person and remote instruction.
 - (a) Virtual learning may create privacy challenges which school districts and schools have not yet faced.
 - (b) The NJDOE strongly recommends engaging communities to better understand the landscape of challenges and opportunities when crafting policies.
 - (3) Secure a steady supply of resources necessary to ensure the safety of students and staff.

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- (4) Develop protocols for social distancing on buses and ensure that students understand social distancing best practices while awaiting pickup at bus stops.
 - (5) Scheduling will support a combination of synchronous and asynchronous instruction which allows for contact time between educators and their students, as well as time for students to engage with their peers. The NJDOE encourages the school district to evaluate instructional activities based on what is developmentally appropriate for each grade band.
- e. School officials will consider implementation strategies provided in the Scheduling Section of the NJDOE Guidance in developing the Board's Plan.

[See Appendix N – Scheduling of Students]

4. Staffing

- a. The school district should consider access and equity for all staff to ensure continuity of student learning. The Board's Plan and decision-making throughout the school year should consider unique needs of each staff member, such as access to technology, social and emotional health, and child care concerns.
- b. When making staffing scheduling and assignments, the school district must comply with all applicable employment laws including, but not limited to, the American Disabilities Act (ADA) and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), and all applicable State laws. Additionally, prior to finalizing any COVID-19 related changes for the 2020-2021 school year, school districts should also consult with the local bargaining units and legal counsel.
- c. The Board's Plan should identify roles and responsibilities of school administrators, teachers, instructional assistants, educational services professionals, and student teachers that will ensure continuity of learning and leverage existing resources and personnel to maximize student success.

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- d. As schedules are adjusted, educators must maintain quality instruction for students and abide by the minimum requirements set forth in NJDOE regulations.
- e. In response to COVID-19, the NJDOE has provided flexibilities for implementation of certain regulatory requirements during the public health emergency. While the relevant Executive Orders are in effect, these flexibilities will apply:
 - (1) Mentoring Guidance – Outlines requirements and flexibilities for nontenured teachers with an induction to the teaching profession and to the school district community through differentiated supports based on the teachers' individual needs.
 - (2) Educator Evaluation Guidance – Provides a description of flexibilities and requirements for educator evaluation necessitated by the state mandated school closures caused by COVID-19. This Guidance applies to all Teachers, Principals, Assistant Principals (APs), Vice Principals (VPs), and Other Certificated Staff for School Year (SY) 2019-2020, and is differentiated for educators with a provisional certification, in the process of earning tenure, and on a corrective action plan (CAP).
 - (3) Certification
 - (a) Performance Assessment (edTPA) Guidance Provides a description of the NJDOE's waiver of the teacher certification performance assessment (edTPA) requirement as necessitated by the COVID-19 state of emergency and related limitations.
 - (b) Additional COVID-19 Certification Guidance – Additional flexibilities are expected to be extended to candidates for certification in response to the logical constraints posed by the COVID-19 state of emergency and related limitations.

[See Appendix O – Staffing]

5. In-Person and Hybrid Learning Environments: Roles and Responsibilities

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- a. In a fully in-person or hybrid learning environment districts should leverage staff to monitor student movement, hallway traffic, and maintain safety according to guidelines. Instructional and non-instructional staff schedules can include designated time to support school building logistics required to maintain health and safety requirements.

- b. Instructional staff should:
 - (1) Reinforce social distancing protocol with students and co-teacher or support staff.
 - (2) Limit group interactions to maintain safety.
 - (3) Support school building safety logistics (entering, exiting, restrooms, etc.).
 - (4) Become familiar with district online protocols and platforms.
 - (5) Plan standards-based lessons to meet the needs of students at various levels, ensuring versatility of lessons to apply to both fully in-person and hybrid learning environments.
 - (6) Develop predictable routines and structures for students while maintaining student engagement through varied instructional strategies/modalities.
 - (7) Provide regular feedback to students and families on expectations and progress.
 - (8) Set clear expectations for remote and in-person students.
 - (9) Assess student progress early and often and adjust instruction and/or methodology accordingly.
 - (10) Develop opportunities for real-time interactions with students (office hours, virtual meetings, etc.).
 - (11) Instruct and maintain good practice in digital citizenship for all students and staff.

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- (12) Instructional staff with additional capacity or limited time spent with students may assist with school building and safety logistics.
 - (13) Teacher leaders or instructional coaches should support teachers in making necessary curricular adjustments and continuously improving the quality of instruction in remote and hybrid environments.
 - (14) Providing materials, manipulatives, and items for at-home activities at no cost to families (particularly in pre-school).
 - (15) Limiting on-line activities for pre-school students.
- c. Mentor teachers should:
- (1) Plan for "in-person" contact with the mentee using agreed upon communication methods and schedules that provide confidentiality and sufficient support.
 - (2) Identify the most immediate issues to address with the mentee considering technology needs and how to provide effective remote instruction.
 - (3) Establish observation protocols for remote environments that protect confidentiality, respect student privacy, and provide the mentee with relevant support.
 - (4) Integrate self-care, for mentor and mentee, into mentoring scheduling and practices.
 - (5) Continue to maintain logs of mentoring contact.
 - (6) Mentor teachers should consider all health and safety measures when doing in-person observations.
 - (7) Plan for "in-person" contact with the mentee using agreed upon communication methods and schedules that provide confidentiality and sufficient support.
 - (8) Consider alternative methods for classroom observations and avoiding in-person contact where possible.

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- d. Administrators - In addition to administrators' non-instructional responsibilities, to ensure quality of continued learning in-person or virtually, administrators should:
- (1) Consider roles for staff with health concerns, leveraging them to enhance the virtual learning environment and inform in-person instruction.
 - (2) Provide time for staff collaboration and planning (See Scheduling section). Prioritize practical science and practical CTE areas for on-site opportunities.
 - (3) Prioritize vulnerable student groups for face-to-face instruction.
 - (4) Identify teachers and teacher leaders that may provide support to staff to continuously improve instruction in a virtual environment.
 - (5) Work with staff and faculty to ensure that teaching and learning, and all student services are effectively and efficiently developed, planned, and delivered.
 - (6) Hone collaboration, cooperation, and relationship building skills using alternative methods to remain connected to virtual instruction.
 - (7) Define and provide examples of high-quality instruction given context and resources available.
 - (8) Assess teacher, student, and parent needs regularly.
 - (9) Ensure students and parents receive necessary supports to ensure access to instruction.
 - (10) Communicate expectations for delivering high-quality instruction, assessing, and monitoring student progress in the virtual environment, in accordance with NJDOE's Professional Standards for Teachers and NJ Professional Standards for Leaders (N.J.A.C. 6A:9).

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- (11) Plan a process to onboard students and reestablish the classroom environment through emphasizing relationships with students and parents and resetting routines.
 - (12) Collaborate on curriculum planning and assessing student academic and social emotional well-being when students return to school.
 - (13) Create feedback loops with parents and families about students' academic and social emotional health and well-being, through use of remote learning conferences and/or surveys to parents about their child's experience and learning while out of school.
 - (14) Share a comprehensive account of academic interventions and social emotional and mental health support services available through the district.
 - (15) Create and communicate realistic student schedules to increase student engagement and accountability for both hybrid and remote learning models.
 - (16) Collaborate in determining expectations for differentiated instruction and rigor in hybrid and remote learning models.
 - (17) Support families in connecting with teachers and other services they need to be successful in navigating the virtual environment.
 - (18) Ensure the Pre-school Director/Contact Person is involved in the planning in order that development activities and supports are in place for Pre-school and supports transition to Kindergarten.
- e. Educational services staff members should:
- (1) Lead small group instruction in a virtual environment.
 - (2) Facilitate the virtual component of synchronous online interactions.
 - (3) Manage online platform for small groups of in-person students while teacher is remote.

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- (4) Assist with the development and implementation of adjusted schedules.
 - (5) Plan for the completion of course requests and scheduling (secondary school).
 - (6) Assist teachers with providing updates to students and families.
 - (7) Support embedding of SEL into lessons.
 - (8) Lead small group instruction to ensure social distancing.
 - (9) Consider student grouping to maintain single classroom cohorts.
 - (10) Consider alternative methods for one-on-one interactions avoiding in-person contact where possible.
- f. Support staff/paraprofessionals may:
- (1) Lead small group instruction to ensure social distancing.
 - (2) Consider student grouping to maintain single classroom cohorts.
 - (3) Consider alternative methods for one-on-one interactions avoiding in-person contact where possible.
 - (4) Pre-record read-alouds and videos around SEL activities and routines (Grades Pre-K through two). Caption pre-recorded instructional videos from general education teachers.
 - (5) Provide real-time support during virtual sessions.
 - (6) Research websites, videos, and links for accessible activities that teachers can incorporate into lessons.
 - (7) Support families and students in accessing and participating in remote learning. Paraprofessionals can be added to online classes as co-teacher.

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- (8) Lead small group instruction in a virtual environment.
- (9) Facilitate the virtual component of synchronous online interactions.
- (10) Family Workers will need to provide support to parents via virtual platforms (Pre-school).

g. Substitutes

- (1) Develop contingency staffing plans in case of sudden long-term absences and/or vacancies.
- (2) Develop roles and responsibilities for substitute teachers in both virtual and hybrid settings.
- (3) Designate substitutes to a single school building or grade level to avoid too much movement between schools.
- (4) Identify areas where additional staff may be necessary: school nurses, counselors, school psychologist.

[See Appendix O – Staffing]

6. Educator Roles Related to School Technology Needs

- a. To ensure all staff supporting virtual learning are prepared to provide or support instruction on day one, the school officials should:
 - (1) Designate staff members to provide ongoing support with technology to students, teachers, and families. Consider developing a schedule and assigning a technology point person to teachers by grade level or content area.
 - (2) Survey teachers and families to determine technology needs/access (consider those that have access, but may be sharing personal devices with others).
 - (3) To the extent possible, provide district one-to-one instructional devices and connectivity.

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- (4) Prior to the start of the school year, provide district email addresses and access to online platforms (usernames/passwords/organizational credentials).
- b. To ensure student teachers are prepared to start supporting instruction on day one, districts should:
- (1) Train student teachers to use technology platforms.
 - (2) Communicate district expectations/guidelines regarding professional online etiquette/interactions with students.
 - (3) Survey assistant teachers to determine technology needs/access (Pre-school).
 - (4) Virtual instruction is ideal for staff who are at greater risk for the impacts of COVID-19. Accommodations may need to be made for staff with health issues which are exacerbated by viewing content on screens for an extended period.
- c. Student teachers should:
- (1) Obtain a substitute credential to gain the ability to support students without supervision as needed.
 - (2) Lead small group instruction (in-person to help with social distancing).
 - (3) Co-teach with cooperating teacher and maintain social distancing.
 - (4) Manage online classroom for asynchronous hybrid sessions while the cooperating teacher teaches in-person.
 - (5) Implement modifications or accommodations for students with special needs.
 - (6) Facilitate one-to-one student support.
 - (7) Lead small group instruction virtually while the classroom teacher teaches in-person.

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- (8) Provide technical assistance and guidance to students and parents.
 - (9) Develop online material or assignments.
 - (10) Pre-record direct-instruction videos.
 - (11) Facilitate student-centered group learning connecting remote and in-person students.
- d. Additional Staff Concerns - Districts should also be prepared to navigate additional staffing concerns and topics and may also consider:
- (1) Best practice and guidance from the American Academy of Pediatrics is to limit screen time for students in grades Pre-K through two. Developmentally appropriate practices show that young learners are most successful with hands-on learning, rather than worksheets or computer-based activities. In this grade band, interactive learning activities are the most effective.
 - (2) Develop and communicate a plan of accountability that identifies how teachers will monitor and assess student performance. This includes how they grade students (Grades Pre-K through twelve).
 - (3) Districts may also consider developing a plan to leverage community organizations, community partners, faith-based communities, or volunteers to support families outside of the school building. Utilizing community volunteer support that will interact directly with students may require criminal history background checks.
 - (4) Roles and responsibilities of teacher leaders or instructional coaches in supporting teachers in making necessary curricular adjustments and continuously improving quality of instruction through remote and hybrid structures.
 - (5) Increase need for all staff to address student trauma, social emotional learning, and digital citizenship.

[See Appendix O – Staffing]

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7. Athletics

Under Executive Order 149, high school sports under the jurisdiction of the NJSIAA may resume only in accordance with reopening protocols issued by NJSIAA and cannot resume earlier than June 30, 2020.

[See Appendix P – Athletics]

C. Policy and Funding

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic presents many fiscal challenges to the school district for delivery of instruction and related services to students in addition to other basic operational needs. Readyng facilities, purchasing supplies, transporting, and feeding students may look drastically different in the 2020-2021 school year. The Policy and Funding section of the Board’s Plan focuses on existing and pending Federal and State legislation, regulations, and guidance.

1. School Funding

- a. The Board shall explore options to obtain the maximum amount of available revenue to minimize expenditures and for fiscal planning in the face of considerable uncertainty. The options the Board shall explore include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (1) Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund;
- (2) Federal Emergency Management Agency – Public Assistance; and
- (3) State School Aid.

- b. School District Budgets

Districts have finalized their FY20 budget year and have already finalized their FY21 budgets. Because of the timing of the budget process, many of the activities listed below have not been, and cannot be, factored into either budget year without additional revenue outside the amount they anticipated for FY21 in February, and budget transfers that current statute does not authorize at the start of the school year.

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c. School Funding

School officials will review the Policy and Funding section of the NJDOE Guidance that includes information on Federal and State funding sources; purchasing practices; use of reserve accounts, transfers, and cash flow; and costs and contracting, including E-Rate funding and cooperative purchasing contracting.

(1) Purchasing

The school district may likely need to purchase items not needed in the past and may experience increased demand for previously purchased goods and services to implement the Plan. The school district shall continue to comply with the provisions of the “Public School Contracts Law”, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et seq.

(2) Use of Reserve Accounts, Transfers, and Cashflow

The school district shall apply for the approval from the Commissioner of Education prior to performing certain budget actions, such as withdrawing from the emergency reserve or making transfers that cumulatively exceed ten percent of the amount originally budgeted.

(3) Costs and Contracting

The school district shall follow all New Jersey State laws and regulations applicable to local school districts for purchasing when procuring devices and connectivity or any technology related item.

D. Continuity of Learning

Ensuring the continuity of learning is critically important during this time of great stress for families, educators, and students. The move to a fully virtual learning environment happened quickly and created significant challenges for staff and students, particularly students already considered at-risk prior to the pandemic. School officials should work closely with their stakeholders to ensure decisions are made collaboratively and transparently and prioritize safely returning students who are in need of in-person instruction. This may include, but is not limited to,

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students with disabilities, English language learners (ELL), homeless youth, and low-income students.

Curriculum, instruction, assessment, professional learning, and career and technical education (CTE) are all constructs that can be adjusted to serve as levers for equity.

Except where otherwise indicated, the provisions and elements of this section are “additional considerations” that may help districts in considering ways to adhere to the “anticipated minimum standards”.

While only a small introduction to these elements is included in this Plan, school officials can find a more detailed explanation and considerations in the NJDOE Guidance under the Continuity of Learning section to reference while developing their Plan for the reopening of schools.

1. Ensuring the Delivery of Special Education and Related Services to Students with Disabilities
 - a. Consistent with guidance from the United States Department of Education, school districts must continue to meet their obligations under the Federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and the New Jersey State special education regulations for students with disabilities to the greatest extent possible.
 - b. In accordance with the Extended School Year (ESY) Guidance issued by the NJDOE, student IEPs that currently included ESY services should be implemented to the greatest extent possible during the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - c. The NJDOE recommends that schools districts consider the following when addressing the education of students with disabilities for the 2020-2021 school year:
 - (1) Procedures to address the return to school of medically fragile students and students with physical or health impairments who may require accommodations and modifications as part of a 504 Plan.
 - (2) IEP teams should review student data/student progress to determine whether critical skills were lost during the period in which remote instruction was being provided to students

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and determine the need for additional services to address learning loss.

- (3) IEP teams should consider the impact of missed services on student progress towards meeting IEP goals and objectives, and determine if additional or compensatory services are needed to address regression and recoupment of skills within a reasonable length of time.
- (4) IEP teams should develop procedures to complete overdue and/or incomplete evaluations to determine eligibility for special education services.
- (5) The use of school guidance department staff and Child Study Team personnel to identify students whose postsecondary plans may have been adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and provide support, resources, and assistance, which may include facilitating connection to community organizations, scholarship programs, county, State, and Federal opportunities to access support.
- (6) Clear communication to the parents of the procedures for student referrals and evaluations to determine the eligibility for special education and related services or a 504 Plan as required by Federal and State law.

2. Technology and Connectivity

- a. School districts should strive to ensure that every student has access to a device and internet connectivity. School districts should prioritize the provisions of technology, or alternatively, in-person instruction, to students that are otherwise without access. Additionally, these school districts should include in their reopening plan the steps taken to address the technology deficit and how it will be resolved as soon as possible.
- b. Districts should:
 - (1) Conduct a needs assessment.
 - (2) Consider the attendant needs associated with deployment of needed technology, including student and parent trainings and acceptable use policy implementation.

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- (3) Prioritize the purchase and roll-out of devices and/or connectivity that may involve learning based on the results of the needs assessment.
- (4) For students with special needs, accommodations according to their instructional program must be addressed as appropriate for each student.
 - (a) If there is a device or connectivity shortage, the school district should address technology challenges in their Plan. This should include the steps the district has already taken to address the technology divide and how the school district plans to provide devices and/or connectivity to students that need them.

3. Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

- a. In planning curriculum, instruction, and assessment for reopening, school officials must focus on building staff capacity to deliver highly effective instruction in hybrid environments as well as preparing them to address any learning gaps that might prevent students from meeting grade-level New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS).
- b. School officials should develop a Plan that is innovative, cultivates a clear sense of shared purpose and goals, encourages collaboration among educators, and fosters an effective partnership approach with students' family members and caregivers.
- c. Virtual and Hybrid Learning Environment
 - (1) Curriculum
 - (a) Educators will be tasked not only with delivering curriculum, but also structuring the curriculum to account for the loss of learning that may have resulted from the extended school building closures.
 - (b) To accelerate students' progress during the upcoming school year, administrators and educators will be tasked with identifying what unfinished learning needs to be addressed.

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- (c) Accelerated learning focuses on providing students with grade-level materials, tasks, and assignments along with the appropriate supports necessary to fill the most critical gaps in learning. Accelerated learning seeks to help educators utilize classroom time as efficiently as possible.
- (2) Instruction
- (a) As school districts prepare for the upcoming school year, instructional plans that are flexible, promote innovation, and take advantage of the strengths of school leaders, teachers, students, and family and community members will be best suited to adapt to changing learning environments as may be necessary.
 - (b) In crafting an instructional plan, the school district should consider the following:
 - (i) Develop a shared understanding among staff, students, and families across grade-levels and schools regarding learning expectations, and anticipated environments (hybrid approaches to instruction, virtual platforms, learning management systems, etc.) and expectations for interactions to ensure all students have access to high-quality instruction.
 - (ii) Design for student engagement and foster student ownership of learning.
 - (iii) Develop students' meta-cognition.
 - (iv) Collaborate with school leaders and educators to determine what types of supports are needed for effective pedagogical approaches during remote or hybrid instruction.
 - (v) Assess the district's data on how ELLs experienced instruction during remote or hybrid learning; particularly for newcomer students and students with lower English language proficiency levels.

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- (vi) Assess ELLs' levels of engagement and access in an in-person, virtual, or hybrid learning environment.

(3) Assessment

- (a) For the purposes of this Plan, the different assessment types are as follows: pre-assessment; formative; interim; and summative.
- (b) Educators should focus on locally developed pre-assessments and formative assessments upon returning to school.
- (c) In the absence of Spring 2020 summative assessment data, the school district should identify alternate sources of prior assessment data which may complement data driven decision-making regarding remediation efforts.
- (d) Online pre-assessments and formative assessments should be leveraged in either a fully virtual or hybrid learning environment to support the evaluation of student strengths and the areas for improvement, and to inform next steps, including determining whether remediation is required for an entire group of students or on an individual student basis.
- (e) Pre-assessments administered at the start of instructional units should be limited to informing instruction plans with respect to gaps in the mastery of standards while continuing to move students forward at current grade-level.
 - (i) Such pre-assessments should be incorporated into regular classroom activities and to the greatest extent practicable, should not interfere with student learning opportunities as schools reopen.

4. Professional Learning

- a. It is imperative the school district provides professional learning that will better equip leaders, staff, substitutes, students, and parents to adapt to altered educational environments and experiences.

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- b. The school district must focus on professional development to address the learning loss for the most vulnerable populations and preparing and supporting educators in meeting the social, emotional, health, and academic needs of all students.
- c. Professional learning opportunities should be:
 - (1) Presented prior to the beginning of the year;
 - (2) Presented throughout the school year;
 - (3) Presented in order to grow each educator’s professional capacity to deliver developmentally appropriate, standards-based instruction remotely;
 - (4) Presented to include the input and collaboration of stakeholders, including all staff, parents, and community members; and
 - (5) Professional development plans (PDPs) for teaching staff and administrators, as always, should remain flexible and adaptable to the changing needs of the district, school, and individual educator.
- d. Mentoring and Induction
 - (1) Induction must be provided for all novice provisional teachers and teachers new to the district.
 - (2) One-to-one mentoring must be provided by qualified mentors to novice provisional teachers.
 - (3) Ensure that mentors can provide sufficient support and guidance to novice provisional teachers working in a remote environment.
 - (4) Mentoring must be provided in both a hybrid and fully remote learning environment.
 - (5) Use online collaborative tools to remain connected to other mentors, new teachers, and administrators to maintain a sense of communal support.
- e. Evaluation

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- (1) School districts should modify annual evaluation training to highlight procedures and processes which would be impacted due to potential hybrid scheduling.
 - (2) School districts should develop observation schedules with a hybrid model in mind.
 - (3) School districts should consider convening a District Evaluation Advisory Committee (DEAC) meeting to review evaluation policies and procedures.
 - (4) School districts should consider the School Improvement Panel's (SciP) role in informing professional learning, mentoring, and other evaluation-related activities.
 - (5) School districts must consider the requirements and best practices involved with provisional status teachers, nontenured educators, and those on Corrective Action Plans.
5. Career and Technical Education (CTE)
- a. It is critical to maintain the integrity and safety of approved CTE programs and ensure that all CTE students are reached Statewide.
 - b. The Office of Career Readiness has established guiding principles to help administrators and educators make informed decisions about how, when, and to what extent career and technical education can be safely offered.
 - c. Guiding Principles
 - (1) It is essential that when the school district is considering innovative learning models for CTE during a time of social distancing, the State Plan Foundational Elements of Equity of Opportunity and Access as well as Partnerships must be considered.
 - (2) The State Plan Goals of Quality Programs, Work-Based Learning (WBL), Career Advisement and Development, and CTE Teacher Recruitment and Retention must also be considered as CTE programs are adapting to new learning environments.
 - d. Quality CTE Programs

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- (1) When planning for in-person instruction, examine current curriculum content and evaluate which content is most critical in meeting the requirements of NJSLS, CTE Core Content Standards, industry certifications, college credit agreements, etc.
- (2) During a time when some credentials may not be accessible online or through other virtual means, it is necessary to ensure students have access to appropriate industry-recognized, high-value credentials.

e. Work-Based Learning

Students must be provided the opportunity to participate in safe work-based learning, either remotely (simulations, virtual tours, etc.) or in-person. The school district should consider work-based learning opportunities addressed in the administrative code.

f. Career Advisement and Development

Strong career advisement in conjunction with business and community partnerships are essential components of CTE programs and cannot be compromised in a time of increased social distancing; therefore, modifications must be developed to maintain program quality.

g. CTE Recruitment and Retention

CTE teachers require support in transforming their curricula and shifting their instructional practices to meet the needs of the changing classroom environments in a time of social distancing.

h. Funding to Support CTE Programs

The school district has the ability to utilize the CARES Act – Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) grants, local district funding, Perkins funding (if eligible), discretionary grant funding (if participating), and other Federal entitlement funds.

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Appendices

Restart and Recovery Plan to Reopen Schools

*West Essex Regional School
District*
**Board of Education
Fall 2020**

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Appendix A

Critical Area of Operation #1 - General Health and Safety Guidelines

This school district should include in Appendix A the locally developed protocols addressing the anticipated minimum standards as required by the NJDOE Guidance and referenced in the Board's Plan – Section A.1.a., including, but not limited to:

Reasonable accommodations should be provided for individuals that the CDC identifies as having a higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19, and individuals with disabilities or serious underlying medical conditions, which may include:

- Chronic lung disease or asthma (moderate to severe)
- Serious heart conditions
- Immunocompromised
- Severe obesity (body mass index, or BMI, of 30 or higher)
- Diabetes
- Chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis
- Liver disease
- Medically fragile students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs)
- Students with complex disabilities with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs)
- Students who require accommodations under a 504 Plan

All requests for accommodations will be reviewed by the School District Attorney.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Staff members will be provided with face and eye protection
 - At least one face covering per staff member (required)
 - One face shield per staff member (optional)
- Hand protection will be available for students and staff
 - Gloves will be available in both instructional and non-instructional spaces
 - Hand sanitizer will be provided to staff and dispensers will be in classrooms and common areas.

a. Protocol for High Risk Staff Members

- Staff members should request a meeting with the Superintendent and Business Administrator regarding health and safety concerns they may have.
- All requests for accommodations will be reviewed by the School District Attorney.

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b. Protocol for High Risk Students

- In addition to reasonable accommodations, considerations explicitly referenced in the guidance for scheduling students for in-person, remote, or hybrid learning, families/guardians may submit, and school districts shall accommodate, requests for full-time remote learning.
- Requests may include any service or combination of services that would otherwise be delivered on an in-person or hybrid schedule, such as instruction, behavioral and support services, special education and related services.
- A family/guardian may request that some services be delivered entirely remotely, while other services follow the same schedule they otherwise would according to the district's reopening plan
- Families have the option of requesting for full-time remote learning. Families have until August 16 to submit their request. Remote learning requests will be processed in marking period increments.

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Appendix B

Critical Area of Operation #2 - Classrooms, Testing, and Therapy Rooms

This school district should include in Appendix B the locally developed protocols addressing the anticipated minimum standards as required by the NJDOE Guidance and referenced in the Board's Plan – Section A.1.b., including, but not limited to:

- a. **Instructional and Non-Instructional Rooms**
 - The district will adhere to [CDC Considerations for Schools](#)
 - 6 feet social distancing measures will be followed throughout the buildings (offices, classrooms and communal areas)
 - High School HVAC systems have a fresh air component
 - Majority of Middle School classrooms have unit ventilators with fresh air component
 - Window air conditioning units have been installed in the Middle School classrooms that do not have working unit ventilators
 - Air filters are changed on the recommended manufacturer schedule
- b. **Procedures for Hand Sanitizing/Washing**
 - In addition to hand sanitizers in hallways, outside of bathrooms and offices, cafeterias, and other communal areas: Dispensers and wipes will be available in every instructional space (classrooms).
 - Students are required to utilize hand sanitizer at the beginning and end of every class, before and after lunch, and before and after restroom use.
- c. **Technology and Connectivity**
 - Technology (1:1 for students and teachers)
 - Internet access surveys will be administered to parents and accommodations will be made so that 100% of families have the proper accessibility to the internet.
 - Enhanced infrastructure allows for synchronous instruction throughout the district.
 - In-classroom technology setup for teachers allows for interaction with both in-person and at-home cohorts in our hybrid model.
 - District license for Zoom Pro provides staff with secure video conferencing tools and allows teachers to provide small group instruction and interactive feedback within lessons.
 - District license for GoGuardian allows teachers to monitor student Chromebooks, restrict available websites, assess student progress, and provide immediate individualized feedback.

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- For students and staff with technology needs (Chromebook repairs or replacements included) should contact: tech@westex.org

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Appendix C

Critical Area of Operation #3 – Transportation

This school district should include in Appendix C the locally developed protocols addressing the anticipated minimum standards as required by the NJDOE Guidance and referenced in the Board’s Plan – Section A.1.c., including, but not limited to:

- a. **Student Transportation**
 - Buses will operate at a reduced capacity during Phases 1-4 (Phases are outlined in Appendix N).
 - Students are required to wear face coverings unless doing so would inhibit the individual’s health.
 - School buses will be cleaned and disinfected at least daily, preferably between routes.

- b. **Social Distancing on School Buses**
 - Social distancing practices will occur on buses to the maximum extent practicable.
 - Every effort will be made to space students on buses to allow for social distancing (Ex. students may be seated one per row, and/or every other row).
 - If bus company permits, barriers may be installed around drivers; however, such equipment must be deemed acceptable by federal regulators and the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission.
 - Windows will be opened if possible.

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Appendix D

Critical Area of Operation #4 - Student Flow, Entry, Exit, and Common Areas

This school district should include in Appendix D the locally developed protocols addressing the anticipated minimum standards as required by the NJDOE Guidance and referenced in the Board's Plan – Section A.1.d., including, but not limited to:

- a. **Location of Student and Staff Screening**
 - Two entrances at each building will be designated for entry
 - Screening will occur with a combination of infrared forehead scanners and body/facial recognition scanners
 - Screening will be conducted by small teams of school employees
 - Consideration will be given to utilization of outside healthcare professionals to assist with daily screening.
 - Staff members will submit a [screening form](#) daily

- b. **Social Distancing in Entrances, Exits, and Common Areas**
 - Physical Barriers and Guides will be utilized throughout school buildings/campus.
 - Physical barriers, such as sneeze guards and partitions, particularly in areas where it is difficult for individuals to remain at least 6 feet apart (e.g., reception desks, offices, teacher desks, counselors desks) will be utilized.
 - Physical guides, such as tape on floors or sidewalks and signs on walls, to ensure that staff and children remain at least 6 feet apart in lines and at other times (e.g. guides for creating “one way routes” in hallways) will be installed throughout school buildings/campus.

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Appendix E

Critical Area of Operation #5 - Screening, PPE, and Response to Students and Staff Presenting Symptoms

This school district should include in Appendix E the locally developed protocols addressing the anticipated minimum standards as required by the NJDOE Guidance and referenced in the Board's Plan – Section A.1.e., including, but not limited to:

a. Screening Procedures for Students and Staff

Health screenings will occur safely and respectfully for students and staff upon arrival to school. This will include temperature checks and screenings for signs and symptoms and history of exposure. Employees, students (parent/guardian), and Board members will complete a monthly COVID-19 Screening Form to include screening for signs and symptoms as per the [New Jersey Department of Health \(NJDOH\) COVID-19 Public Health Recommendations for Local Health Departments and K-12 Schools](#). Students or employees who meet the NJDOH exclusion criteria will be required to stay home or refrain from attending our schools and campus.

The COVID-19 Screening Consent also includes the following:

- [Travel advisory guidelines](#) for NJ as per the Governor ([international travel advisors as per the CDC](#)).
- Guidelines for the pick-up of students who are exhibiting signs and symptoms in schools (parents/guardians must pick up their child within 1 hour of notification)
- Parents/Guardians will also comply with regard to visitation to the campus
- The screening form is subject to change as governing health authorities issue new guidelines.

If the school district becomes aware that an individual who has spent time in a district facility tests positive for COVID-19, we will notify local health officials, families, and staff of a confirmed case while maintaining confidentiality. Community notification is coordinated with the local health department.

b. Protocols for Symptomatic Students and Staff

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- The school nurse will examine the pupil or staff member and, in consultation with the school medical inspector if the individual's condition so indicates, recommend to the Principal their exclusion from school for medical reasons.
- In the event neither the school nurse or the school medical inspector is available to be consulted about the pupil's condition, the Principal may determine to exclude the individual from school.
- The parent, adult family member, or other responsible adult designated by the parent will be promptly notified by telephone of the pupils' exclusion and requested to come to school to fetch the pupil. Until the adult arrives to remove the pupil, the pupil will be kept in an isolated location in the school and will be made as comfortable as possible. The pupil will be supervised at all times by a school staff member (employees can leave work at the direction of the School Nurse and Principal).
- Contact the Public Health Officer
- Parents of students and staff members should notify their school nurse in the following cases:
 - If an immediate household member is exhibiting symptoms, waiting for test results, or has a positive COVID-19 test.
 - Our school nurses will communicate with local health officials.
 - **Our District will adhere to the current recommendations of the [New Jersey Department of Health: COVID-19 Public Health Recommendations for Local Health Departments for K-12 Schools](#)**
- **Readmission to School**
- A pupil or staff member who has been excluded from school or retained at home by reason of having or being suspected of having a communicable disease shall not be readmitted to school until he/she presents written evidence that he/she is free of communicable disease.
- Evidence that a pupil or staff member is free of communicable disease will consist of the certification of the school medical inspector or another qualified physician who has personally examined the pupil. No pupil or staff member who has had a communicable disease will be readmitted to school until a physician's certificate indicating the symptoms of the disease have ceased has been provided to the Principal or designee or the school nurse.
- The school nurse will file such reports as may be required by the New Jersey State Department of Health and in the reporting of communicable diseases in schools

c. **Protocols for Face Coverings**

All staff and students are required to wear face coverings at all times in our buildings and while using school district transportation unless doing so would inhibit the individual's health. Wearing a mask is an additional step we can take to protect ourselves and others and a measure to help slow the spread of COVID-19. For more information on face

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coverings, please see the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) Guidelines: Use of Masks to Help Slow the Spread of COVID-19](#). I also recommend the following video from the CDC on how to wear a face covering: [Face Covering Tutorial](#).

Face Covering Requirements

- Snug fit that sits comfortably against the side of the face
- Cloth face coverings are permitted; however, multiple layers of fabric or 3 ply cloth face coverings are preferred.
- KN95 or N95 masks are permitted
- Surgical Masks are permitted
- **Gaiter Masks** are permitted as long as they are doubled up
- *Bandanas are not permitted*
- *Masks with Exhalation Valves or Vents are not permitted*

If a student or staff member forgets their mask, the District will have a supply of disposable masks. We are also going to offer students and families the opportunity to purchase the WE masks at cost.

Staff members will be provided with an optional face shield. Face shields may be worn in addition to a face covering.

Appendix F

Critical Area of Operation #6 - Contact Tracing

This school district should include in Appendix F the locally developed protocols addressing the anticipated minimum standards as required by the NJDOE Guidance and referenced in the Board's Plan – Section A.1.f.

- The school nurses will work closely with our local public health officers to conduct contact tracing:
- Health Department- West Orange (Serves Essex Fells):
<https://www.westorange.org/84/Health-and-Welfare>
- Health Department- West Caldwell (Serves Fairfield and North Caldwell):
<http://www.westcaldwell.com/content/121/137/143.aspx>
- Health Department- East Hanover (Serves Roseland):
<http://www.easthanovertownship.com/Departments/health-department>
- A small team of West Essex Staff members will complete the Johns Hopkins COVID-19 Contact Tracing Course.

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- Any assistance with contact tracing will be at the direction of the public health officer.
- All families and staff members are required to consent to contact tracing and cooperation with health officials in the monthly COVID-19 Screening Form.

Travel Restrictions

- If you have traveled to or returned to New Jersey from states with increasing rates of COVID-19, you are advised to self-quarantine for 14 days. See the [New Jersey Department of Health Self-Quarantine for Travelers FAQs](#) for the states identified in the travel advisory. **Employees:** Please contact your immediate supervisor and school nurse if this applies to you. **Students:** Please contact your child's school nurse and building principal.
- There is widespread, ongoing transmission of novel coronavirus worldwide (see [Global COVID-19 Pandemic Notice](#)). If you have traveled internationally in the past 14 days, stay home and monitor your health. **Employees:** Please contact your immediate supervisor and school nurse if this applies to you. **Students:** Please contact your child's school nurse and building principal.

West Essex Regional High School

Principal: Caesar Diliberto, cdiliberto@westex.org

School Nurse: Karen Kinsey, kkinsey@westex.org

School Nurse: Jenine Serritella, jserritella@westex.org

West Essex Middle School

Principal: Gina Donlevie, gdonlevie@westex.org

School Nurse: Denise Logan, dlogan@westex.org

Appendix G

Critical Area of Operation #7 - Facilities Cleaning Practices

This school district should include in Appendix G the locally developed protocols addressing the anticipated minimum standards as required by the NJDOE Guidance and referenced in the Board's Plan – Section A.1.g.

Our school district will continue to adhere to existing cleaning practices and procedures and schedules will be developed for increased routine cleaning and disinfecting, especially of frequently touched surfaces and objects, including but not limited to:

- Classroom desks and chairs
- Lunchroom tables and chairs
- Door handles and push plates

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- Handrails
- Kitchens and bathrooms (bathrooms will be sanitized daily and between use as much as possible)
- Light switches
- Handles on equipment (e.g. athletic equipment)
- Buttons on vending machines and elevators
- Shared telephones
- Shared desktops
- Shared computer keyboards and mice
- Drinking fountains
- School bus seats and windows (bus company will be responsible for cleaning and disinfecting their buses)

Wipes and hand sanitizers will be available in all classrooms, and students will be expected to wipe down desks upon entering the classroom to supplement the cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing measures performed daily by the custodial staff.

Appendix H

Critical Area of Operation #8 – Meals

This school district should include in Appendix H the locally developed protocols addressing the anticipated minimum standards as required by the NJDOE Guidance and referenced in the Board’s Plan – Section A.1.h.

- The district will adhere to Food Service Guidelines as outlined in the [CDC Considerations for Schools](#).
- While operating on the single session schedule, lunch will not be provided; however, lunch will be available to students as a “Grab and Go” option (students who wish to exercise this option must pre-order lunch online).
- Students on the free and reduced lunch program will be provided lunch daily.
- Proper hand washing will be encouraged for students and staff for before and after meals as per the [CDC Guidelines: When and How to Wash Your Hands](#)

Appendix I

Critical Area of Operation #9 – Recess/Physical Education

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This school district should include in Appendix I the locally developed protocols addressing the anticipated minimum standards as required by the NJDOE Guidance and referenced in the Board's Plan – Section A.1.i.

- The district will adhere to [CDC Considerations for Schools](#) for Physical Education Classes.
- Physical Education classes will take place outdoors as much as possible; weather permitting.
- Lessons will be designed as to not share items that would cause students risk during contact.
- Students will be encouraged to wear comfortable clothing as locker rooms will not be accessible.
- Gymnasiums will be equipped to support classroom instruction.

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Appendix J

Critical Area of Operation #10 - Field Trips, Extra-Curricular Activities, and Use of Facilities Outside of School Hours

This school district should include in Appendix J the locally developed protocols addressing the anticipated minimum standards as required by the NJDOE Guidance and referenced in the Board's Plan – Section A.1.j.

Field Trips

- All field trips requiring transportation are suspended until further notice.

Extracurricular Activities

- Students participating in full time remote learning and/or in person instruction are eligible for extracurricular activities and athletics.
- When possible, outdoor locations will be utilized.
- Some extracurricular activities may be conducted virtually when possible or may be suspended.

Use of Facilities Outside of School Hours

- At this time the Board of Education is not accepting facility usage applications for outside organizations; however, when applications are processed all safety and hygiene measures will be required and followed.
- The district will adhere to [CDC Considerations for Schools](#) outside of school hours for employees, students, and visitors.

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Appendix K

Academic, Social, and Behavioral Supports

This school district should include in Appendix K supplemental materials, evidence, and further explanations of the elements listed in the Academic, Social, and Behavioral Supports section in the Board’s Plan – Section A.2.a. through A.2.e.

Guidance Department

School counselors and guidance secretaries are available daily to support students and address any questions parents and students may have throughout the school year. Please visit the [Guidance Staff Directory](#).

Special Service Department

The Special Education Department is prepared to continue to support the student’s emotional and academic needs. Please visit our [department-specific plan](#).

Social-Emotional Learning

- **Educator Wellness**
 - Professional Development
 - Sharing of best practices
 - Trauma-Informed Care
 - Internal protocols - Tiered levels of support
 - Integration of SEL components into classes
- **Student Wellness**
 - Transition Plan
 - Incoming 7th graders to MS
 - Incoming Freshman to HS, New Students
 - All students returning to the building
 - On-going student support
 - Clubs, Peer leaders, MS Student Council
 - Group counseling, social skills, and peer interaction
 - Individual counseling
 - Communication
 - Connecting with all students
 - Outreach - Videos, Instagram, Resources on Re-opening Website
- **School Climate**
 - Recognize students’ cultural backgrounds
 - Diversify the curriculum
 - Create an inclusive community

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West Essex Community Support

Families in need of social and emotional support as well as resources in order to help reduce stress and keep mentally healthy during times of crisis may access our [West Essex Community Support link](#). Our staff members and resources are available to support your needs.

Since the circumstances around the spread of Coronavirus are ever-changing, we will continue to update this page with any new resources that we might be able to provide. This page is an informational resource only.

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Appendix L

Restart Committee

This school district should include in Appendix L the locally developed protocols addressing the anticipated minimum standards as required by the NJDOE Guidance and referenced in the Board's Plan – Section B.1.

Board of Education/Central Office			
Calderdone	Deb	Board Member	Roseland
Egan	Cindy	Board Member	Fairfield
Gupta	Ryan	Director of Curriculum	District
Kida	Melissa	Business Administrator	District
Macioci	Damion	Superintendent	District
Perrotti	Frank	Board Member	Roseland
Skelton	Jann	Board Member	North Caldwell
Straus	Kathy	Central Office	District
Wojtowicz	Mary	Board President	North Caldwell

Administrators			
Aschoff	Greg	Supervisor of Math	District
Casais	Stacy	Supervisor of English	District
Diliberto	Caesar	Principal	WEHS
Donlevie	Gina	Principal	WEMS
Drago	Laura	Supervisor of World Language/Social Studies	District
Feti	Taulant	Director of Building & Grounds	District
Hoebee	Julie	Assistant Principal	WEHS
Hulse	Lisa	Director of Guidance	District

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Lerner	Jason	Supervisor of Science	District
Minnella	Anthony	Athletic Director/Supervisor of Health/PE	District
Swanick	Lisa	Supervisor of Arts	District
Symmons	Tania	Director of Special Services	District
Tamburri	Lisa	Assistant Principal	WEMS
Westervelt	Kimberley	Assistant Principal	WEHS

Teachers			
Cappello	Jarrod	Teacher - Special Education	WEHS
Cavallo	Toni-Ann	Teacher - Physical Education	WEHS
Colucci	Gary	Teacher - Social Studies	WEHS
Dolce	Jody	Teacher - Science	WEHS
Fabrizio	Anthony	Teacher - Music	WEHS
Faggiani	Robert	Teacher - Physical Education	WEHS
Fernicola	Amanda	Teacher - Social Studies	WEHS
Hermosilla	Christopher	Teacher - English	WEHS
Martin	Abigail	Teacher - Social Studies	WEHS
Perez	Alicia	Teacher - English	WEHS
Plesnitzer	Bettina	Teacher - Physical Education	WEHS
Shroyer	Caitlyn	Teacher - Music	WEMS
Smith	Maria	Teacher - Math	WEMS
Sommer	Lauren	Teacher - Science	WEMS
Spinella	Catherine	Media Specialist	WEMS
Vaknin	Beth	Teacher - Social Studies	WEHS
Zuhl	Jean	Teacher - Science	WEMS

Staff			
Davis	Pete	Safety Coordinator	District

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Emering	Anthony	Student Assistance Counselor	WEHS
Fredo	Louise	Secretary	WEMS
Gramata	Kevin	Athletic Trainer	District
Johnson	Michael	Network Administrator/Technology	District
Kinsey	Karen	Nurse	WEHS
Logan	Denise	Nurse	WEMS
Mascola	John	Athletic Trainer	District
Riker	Michelle	Guidance	WEMS
Schlam	Dr. Everett	School Physician	District
Siragusa	Steven	Custodian	WEMS

Parents			
Calise	Dr. Arthur	Parent - (Class of 2020)	Roseland
Ciardella	Kristin	Parent - (8)	Roseland
Dias	Judith	Parent - (10)	North Caldwell
Ellman-Grunther	Dr. Lisa	Parent - (12)	North Caldwell
Fauerbach	Alison	Parent - (7 & 11)	Roseland
Kolb	Amy	Parent - (7)	Essex Fells
Lombardi	Fran	Parent - (10)	Fairfield
Machin	Lorely	Parent - (7 & 11)	Fairfield
Opper	Mindy	Parent - (7)	North Caldwell
Perez	Nidia	Parent - (11)	Fairfield
Piccoli	Julie	Parent - (9)	Essex Fells
Prince	Debbie	Parent - (11)	North Caldwell
Rich	Madeline	Parent - (8 & 11)	North Caldwell
Stewart	Eileen	Parent - (9)	Roseland
Tiegel	Steven	Parent - (7 & 11)	North Caldwell
Westbrook	Lisa	Parent - (12)	Fairfield

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Medical Committee & Consultants		
Calise, MD	Arthur	Emergency Medicine
Ellman-Grunther, MD	Lisa	Allergist/Immunologist
Gramata	Kevin	Athletic Trainer
Kinsey, RN	Karen	Nurse
Logan, RN	Denise	Nurse
Mascola	John	Athletic Trainer
McInerney, MD	Vincent	Team Physician/Orthopedics
Schlam, MD	Everett	School Physician/Family Medicine
Wallace	Bill	Public Health Officer

Appendix M

Pandemic Response Teams

This school district should include in Appendix M the locally developed protocols addressing the anticipated minimum standards as required by the NJDOE Guidance and referenced in the Board's Plan – Section B.2.

Pandemic Response Team			
Last Name	First Name	Position	Town/Building
Cappello	Jarrold	Teacher	WEHS
Dilibero	Caesar	Principal	WEHS
Dolce	Jody	Teacher	WEHS
Donlevie	Gina	Principal	WEMS
Gupta	Ryan	Director of Curriculum	District
Hoebee	Julie	Assistant Principal	WEHS
Feti	Taulant	Supervisor of Building & Grounds	District

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Hulse	Lisa	Director of Guidance	District
Kida	Melissa	Business Administrator	District
Kinsey	Karen	Nurse	WEHS
Logan	Denise	Nurse	WEMS
Macioci	Damion	Superintendent	District
Schlam	Everett	School Physician	District
Sommer	Lauren	Teacher	WEMS
Serratella	Jenine	School Nurse	District
Symmons	Tania	Director of Special Services	District
Tamburri	Lisa	Assistant Principal	WEMS
Wallace	Bill	Health Officer	Caldwell/West Caldwell
Westervelt	Kimberly	Assistant Principal	WEHS

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Appendix N

Scheduling of Students

This school district should include in Appendix N the locally developed protocols addressing the anticipated minimum standards as required by the NJDOE Guidance and referenced in the Board’s Plan – Section B.3., including, but not limited to:

a. School Day

Phase 1 “Virtual Plus” with select cohorts and subsets of students will begin on September 8 and will last for a 6 day duration. All students will begin in-person instruction during Phase 2 with 33% of the student population in the buildings on a rotating basis. In addition, during Phase 2 for the month of October, all classes will meet virtually on Wednesdays. Phase 3 will extend the school day to a full day of instruction including lunch. Phase 4 is targeted to begin sometime during mid-November to early December with the goal of increasing student capacity to 50% in the buildings. The 100% occupancy goal of Phase 5 has no scheduled target date at this time. See the chart below for a summary of the West Essex Phased Reopening Plan (all dates are tentative):

<u>West Essex Phased Reopening Plan</u>				
Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4	Phase 5
Distance Learning	33% Capacity Single Session 3 Cohorts Virtual Day - Wednesdays	33% Capacity Full Day 3 Cohorts Virtual Day - Wednesdays WEHS = 1 Cohort (48% in-person) WEMS = 2 Cohorts (61% - 30.5% in-person)	50% Capacity Single Session or 50% Capacity Full Day 2 Cohorts Virtual Day - Wednesdays	100% Capacity
Target Date: September 8 - October 2	Target Date: October 5	Start Date: February 1	Target Date: TBD	Target Date: TBD

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Phase 1 - Distance Learning Plan (revised August 26, 2020)

Phase 2 - 33% Capacity Single Session Day

20.5 hours of instructional time per week with rotating single session schedule

- All students and staff will have temperature screenings.
- 33% of the student population will attend school for in-person instruction. The remaining students will remain virtual for synchronous instruction.
- The 33% population of students attending school in-person will rotate so that each of 3 cohorts is attending in-person once every 3 days.
- Curriculum and instruction will continue to move forward. In-person and virtual students will attend the same class.
- Eliminating lunch in the beginning eliminates a social distancing obstacle.

Phase 3 - 33% Capacity Full Day

27.5 hours of instructional time per week

- All students and staff will have temperature screenings.
- Introduce lunch which increases instructional time.
- Other lunch activities may resume such as music lessons, NHS Tutoring, English & Math Labs, lunch activities (adjusted for social distancing), etc.

Phase 4 - 50% Capacity - Single Session or Full Day

20.5 hours per week with single session

27.5 hours per week with full day standard flexible rotating drop schedule

- Half of the population attends school in person
- Students attend synchronous instruction every day.
- Classrooms can still operate with 6 foot social distancing.
- Adjustments may be necessary during lunch (for full day).
- Adjustments may be necessary during transition periods.

Phase 5 - 100% Capacity - Single Session or Full Day

20.5 hours per week with single session

27.5 hours per week with full day standard flexible rotating drop schedule

Target Date - TBD

Process for Development of Cohorts

The cohorts of students will be created by our Genesis Student Records System and will follow a schedule offering a combination of in-person instruction and virtual learning. The cohort plan allows for greater social distancing measures by minimizing the number

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of people physically present in the buildings each day.

3 Cohorts based on Genesis generated balanced sections to fill 33% capacity

Sample Cohort Schedule:

<i>Course</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Total Number of Students</i>	<i>RED Cohort</i>	<i>BLUE Cohort</i>	<i>GREEN Cohort</i>
English	4	22	8	7	7

Virtual Wednesdays

Within the Hybrid Model, Wednesdays will be designated as a fully virtual day for staff and students. The schedule for Virtual Wednesdays:

All Classes Meet (Wednesdays ONLY)

Period	Start	End
1	8:15	8:50
2	8:55	9:30
3	9:40	10:15
4	10:20	10:55
Lunch/Study/ Labs/Lessons	11:00	11:50
5	11:55	12:30
6	12:35	1:10
7	1:20	1:55
8	2:00	2:35

Full Time Remote Learning Option

A family/guardian may request that some services be delivered entirely remotely, while other services follow the same schedule they otherwise would according to the district's reopening plan. Requests for remote learning will be processed through the building principals and Director of Guidance ([Genesis Student Record System](#)).

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[Distance Learning Plan](#)

Should the District be required to close at any time, (either the direction of the Public Health Officer or Governor), we are equipped to execute our [Distance Learning Plan](#). This would entail a fully virtual learning experience for staff and students.

Data was collected from several rounds of surveys (staff, students, parents), discussions with other school districts, input from an 18-teacher committee prior to the end of the 2019-2020 school year. There was also collaboration within our Reopening Task Force's distance learning subcommittee composed of various stakeholders (teachers, support staff, network administrator, building and district-level administrators, parents, and a board member). This revised plan shows a significant increase in accountability and support for both teachers and students.

Distance learning utilizes available technology to provide a virtual, interactive experience that emphasizes effective instruction and student growth.

1. Technology (1:1 for students and teachers)
 - a. Internet access surveys will be administered to parents and accommodations will be made so that 100% of families have the proper accessibility to the internet.
 - b. Enhanced infrastructure allows for synchronous instruction throughout the district.
 - c. In-classroom technology setup for teachers allows for interaction with both in-person and at-home cohorts in our hybrid model.
 - d. District license for Zoom Pro provides staff with secure video conferencing tools and allows teachers to provide small group instruction and interactive feedback within lessons.
 - e. District license for GoGuardian allows teachers to monitor student Chromebooks, restrict available websites, assess student progress, and provide immediate individualized feedback.
2. Instruction
 - a. Teachers will be required to pre-assess students to identify learning gaps and then to adjust curriculum pacing accordingly.
 - b. Live interactions with students will be required every class period in order to maximize student engagement (audio, video).
 - c. Use of tech apps will increase significantly to facilitate instruction and monitor student progress (GoGuardian, ScreenCastify, Zoom Pro).

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Numerous professional development opportunities will be provided to teachers prior to the first day of school.

- d. Teachers will use alternative, non-traditional test formats to assess students virtually. (project-based, open-ended)
 - e. Attendance will be mandatory and taken by teachers each period.
3. Student Learning and Growth
- a. Increased Accountability
 - i. Routines and structure in place to resemble a “normal” school day
 - ii. Full day of virtual instruction with lunch and breaks provided
 - iii. Mandatory period by period attendance
 - iv. Academic and behavioral expectations for remote students consistent with in-person expectations
 - v. Adherence to existing policies and deadlines
 - vi. Cameras required to be turned on to monitor and engage students (except for approved, documented circumstances)
 - b. Increased Support
 - i. Differentiated grouping
 - ii. One-on-one live communication
 - iii. Time built into the remote learning schedule for conferences with counselors and case managers, extra help opportunities, IEP/504/I&RS meetings, parent communication, social emotional learning (SEL) activities

As of November 30, 2020:

To increase instructional time and greater continuity among schedules, adjustments were made to the [WERSD Daily Calendar and Schedules](#).

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Appendix O

Staffing

This school district should include in Appendix O the locally developed protocols addressing the anticipated minimum standards as required by the NJDOE Guidance and referenced in the Board's Plan – Sections B.4., B.5., and B.6.

- Supports for staff will remain for the 2020-2021 school year.
- All social distancing and health/safety measures will be implemented for in-person activities.
- New Staff Orientation - Week of August 24 - combination of virtual and in-person program (half days/no breakfast/lunch will be served). Training on the evaluation rubrics and training for mentors are both part of the orientation program.
- Video and audio conferencing tools will be used as needed.
- Substitute Teachers - the District will hire up to five permanent substitute teachers to be used throughout the district for the 2020-2021 school year.
- Substitute teachers will receive training on Reopening Plan procedures.

Technology

- For students and staff with technology needs (Chromebook repairs or replacements included) should contact: tech@westex.org

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Appendix P

Athletics

This school district should include in Appendix P the locally developed protocols addressing the anticipated minimum standards as required by the NJDOE Guidance and referenced in the Board's Plan – Section B.7.

- The District will follow the processes and procedures outlined by the [New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association \(NJSIAA\)](#).
- The summer workouts will follow the [COVID-19 Return to Play Protocol](#)
- West Essex will provide staffing to oversee summer training: coaches, school nurses and athletic trainers will be on site for training and workouts to assist with the phased approach.
- Please click on the link for [NJSIAA COVID-19 Resources](#)
- Procedures for travel, competition, team meetings, and use of facilities are being developed by school officials.

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CHART OF USEFUL LINKS

Conditions for Learning		
Section	Title	Link
Critical Area of Operation #1	CDC Activities and Initiatives supporting the COVID-19 Response and the President’s Plan for Opening American Up Again	https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/php/CDC-Activities-Initiatives-for-COVID-19-Response.pdf?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fcommunity%2Fschools-day-camps.html%20-%20page=46
	Childcare, Schools, and Youth Programs	https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/index.html
	People Who Are at Increased Risk for Severe Illness	https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-increased-risk.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fneed-extra-precautions%2Fpeople-at-higher-risk.html
	Considerations for Schools	https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools.html
	Reopening Schools in the Context of COVID-19: Health and Safety Guidelines from Other Countries	https://learningpolicyinstitute.org/product/reopening-schools-covid-19-brief
Critical Area of Operation #2	ASHRAE Offers COVID-19 Building Readiness/Reopening Guidance	https://www.ashrae.org/about/news/2020/ashrae-offers-covid-19-building-readiness-reopening-guidance
	When and How to Wash Your Hands	https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html
Critical Area of Operation #3	Bullock announces phased approach to reopen Montana	https://nbcmontana.com/news/coronavirus/bullock-announces-phased-approach-to-reopen-montana
	What Bus Transit Operators Need to Know About COVID-19	https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/bus-transit-operator.html
Critical Area of Operation #4	Stop the Spread of Germs (Printable Poster)	https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/stop-the-spread-of-germs-11x17-en.pdf
	Handwashing (Printable Posters)	https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/posters.html

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Critical Area of Operation #5	Communicable Disease Service	https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/
Section	Title	Link
	COVID-19: Information for Schools	https://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/topics/covid2019_schools.shtml
	Quick Reference: Discontinuation of Transmission-Based Precautions and Home Isolation for Persons Diagnosed with COVID-19	https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/COVID-QuickRef_Discont_Isolation_and_TBP.pdf
	Guidance for Child Care Programs that Remain Open	https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-childcare.html
	General Business Frequently Asked Questions	https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/general-business-faq.html
Critical Area of Operation #7	Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting	https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2020-04/documents/316485-c_reopeningamerica_guidance_4.19_6pm.pdf
	EPA Approved Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19)	https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2-covid-19
Critical Area of Operation #8	EPA Approved Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19)	https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2-covid-19
Social Emotional Learning and School Climate and Culture	A Trauma-Informed Approach to Teaching Through Coronavirus	https://www.tolerance.org/magazine/a-trauma-informed-approach-to-teaching-through-coronavirus
	CASEL – An Initial Guide to Leveraging the Power of Social and Emotional Learning as You Prepare to Reopen and Renew Your School Community	https://casel.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/CASEL_Leveraging-SEL-as-You-Prepare-to-Reopen-and-Renew.pdf
Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)	New Jersey Tiered System of Supports (NJTSS) Implementation Guidelines	https://www.nj.gov/education/njtss/guidelines.pdf
	RTI Action Network	http://www.rtinetwork.org/
	The Pyramid Model: PBS in Early Childhood Programs and its Relation to School-wide PBS	https://challengingbehavior.cbcs.usf.edu/docs/Pyramid-Model_PBS-early-childhood-programs_Schoolwide-PBS.pdf
Wraparound Supports	SHAPE	http://www.schoolmentalhealth.org/SHAPE/

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	Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies	https://www.childcarenj.gov/Parents/Child-Care-Resource-and-Referral-Agencies.aspx
	Coronavirus Resources for Mentoring	https://nationalmentoringresourcecenter.org/
Section	Title	Link
Food Service and Distribution	Benefits of School Lunch	https://frac.org/programs/national-school-lunch-program/benefits-school-lunch
Quality Child Care	Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies	https://www.childcarenj.gov/Parents/Child-Care-Resource-and-Referral-Agencies.aspx
	Division of Early Childhood Education	https://www.nj.gov/education/ece/hs/agencies.htm
Leadership and Planning		
Section	Title	Link
Scheduling	New Jersey Specific Guidance for Schools and Districts	https://www.nj.gov/education/covid19/sped/guidance.shtml
Staffing	Mentoring Guidance for COVID-19 Closures	https://www.nj.gov/education/covid19/teacherresources/mentguidance.shtml
	Educator Evaluation During Extended School Closure as a Result of COVID-19	https://www.nj.gov/education/covid19/teacherresources/eevaluation.shtml
	Performance Assessment Requirement for Certification COVID-19 Guidance	https://www.nj.gov/education/covid19/teacherresources/edtpaguidance.shtml
	Educator Preparation Programs and Certification	https://www.nj.gov/education/covid19/teacherresources/eppcert.shtml
Athletics	Executive Order No. 149	http://d31hzhk6di2h5.cloudfront.net/20200530/7d/e6/d1/5c/09c3dc4d1d17c4391a7ec1cb/EO-149.pdf
	NJSIAA COVID-19 Updates	https://www.njsiaa.org/njsiaa-covid-19-updates
	NJSIAA provides return-to-play guidelines – Phase 1	https://www.njsiaa.org/events-news-media/news/njsiaa-provides-return-play-guidelines-phase-1
	Guidance for Opening up High School Athletics and Activities	https://www.nfhs.org/media/3812287/2020-nfhs-guidance-for-opening-up-high-school-athletics-and-activities-nfhs-smac-may-15_2020-final.pdf
Policy and Funding		
Section	Title	Link

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Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund	CARES Act Education Stabilization Fund	https://www.nj.gov/education/covid19/boardops/caresact.shtml
	NJDOE EWEG	https://njdoe.mtbgms.org/NJDOEGMSWeb/logon.aspx
FEMA – Public Assistance	Request for Public Assistance (RPA) Process	https://njemgrants.org/site/rpasubmission.cfm
Section	Title	Link
Purchasing	New Jersey School Directory	https://homerom5.doe.state.nj.us/directory/district.php?districtname=educational+services+commission
	NJSTART	https://www.njstart.gov/bso/
	Division of Local Government Services	https://www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/dlgs/
	Local Finance Notice – Coronavirus Response: Emergency Procurement and Use of Storm Recovery Reserves	https://www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/dlgs/lfns/20/2020-06.pdf
	Local Finance Notice – COVID-19 – Supplemental Emergency Procurement Guidance	https://www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/dlgs/lfns/20/2020-10.pdf
Costs and Contracting	E-rate	https://www.usac.org/e-rate/
	Technology for Education and Career (NJSBA TEC)	https://www.njsba.org/services/school-technology/
Continuity of Learning		
Section	Title	Link
Ensuring the Delivery of Special Education and Related Services to Students with Disabilities	IDEA	https://sites.ed.gov/idea/
	Guidance on the Delivery of Extended School Year (ESY) Services to Students with Disabilities – June 2020	https://www.nj.gov/education/covid19/boardops/extendedschoolyear.shtml
Technology and Connectivity	Joint Statement of Education and Civil Rights Organizations Concerning Equitable Education	https://www.naacpldf.org/wp-content/uploads/Joint-Statement-of-National-Education-and-Civil-Rights-Leaders-

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	during the COVID-19 Pandemic School Closures and Beyond	on-COVID-19-School-Closure-Updated-FINAL-as-of-5.15.2020.pdf
Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment	Learning Acceleration Guide	https://tntp.org/assets/set-resources/TNTP_Learning_Acceleration_Guide_Final.pdf
	Mathematics: Focus by Grade Level	https://achievethecore.org/category/774/mathematics-focus-by-grade-level
	Teacher Resources for Remote Instruction	https://www.nj.gov/education/covid19/teacherresources/teacherresources.shtml
	NJDOE Virtual Professional Learning	https://www.nj.gov/education/covid19/teacherresources/virtualproflearning.shtml
Section	Title	Link
Professional Learning	Distance Learning Resource Center	https://education-reimagined.org/distance-learning-resource-center/
Career and Technical Education (CTE)	Communicable Disease Service	https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/covid2019_schools.shtml
	Considerations for Schools	https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools.html