



LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Service Pursuant to the Federal American Rescue Plan Act, Section 2001(i)

Introduction and Background

As announced in the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE)'s [April 28, 2021 broadcast](#), in March 2021 President Biden signed the Federal [American Rescue Plan \(ARP\) Act](#), Public Law 117-2, into law. The ARP Act provides an additional \$122 billion in Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) to States and school districts to help safely reopen, sustain the safe operation of schools, and address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the nation's students. As with the previous ESSER funds available under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, and the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA), the purpose of the additional funding is to support local educational agencies (LEAs) in preparing for and responding to the impacts of COVID-19 on educators, students, and families. Additional information on ARP ESSER may be found in the NJDOE's [funding comparison fact sheet](#).

Section 2001(i)(1) of the ARP Act requires each LEA that receives ARP ESSER funds to develop and make publicly available on the LEA's website, no later than 30 days after receiving ARP ESSER funds, a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services for all schools (Safe Return Plan). A Safe Return Plan is required of all fund recipients, including those that have already returned to in-person instruction. Section 2001(i)(2) of the ARP Act further requires that the LEA seek public comment on the Safe Return Plan and take those comments into account in finalization of the Safe Return Plan. Under the interim final requirements published in [Volume 86, No. 76 of the Federal Register](#) by the U.S. Department of Education (USDE), an LEA must periodically, but no less frequently than every six months through September 30, 2023, review and, as appropriate, revise its Safe Return Plan.

Pursuant to those requirements, **LEAs must submit to the NJDOE and post on their website their Safe Return Plans by June 24, 2021.** The NJDOE intends to make LEA ARP ESSER Fund applications available in EWEG on May 24, 2021 and LEAs will submit their Safe Return Plans to the NJDOE via EWEG. To assist LEAs with the development of their Safe Return Plans, the NJDOE is providing the following template.

This template incorporates the federally-required components of the Safe Return Plan. The questions in the template below will be included in the LEA ARP ESSER Fund application in EWEG. LEAs will submit responses to the questions within the LEA ARP ESSER Fund application in EWEG by June 24, 2021. The NJDOE hopes that this template will allow LEAs to effectively plan for that submission and to easily post the information to their websites as required by the ARP Act.

Note that on May 17, 2021, Governor Murphy [announced](#) that upon the conclusion of the 2020-2021 school year, portions of Executive Order 175 allowing remote learning will be rescinded, meaning that schools will be required to provide full-day, in-person instruction, as they were prior to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. The NJDOE and New Jersey Department of Health will share additional information regarding State requirements or guidance for health and safety protocols for the 2021-2022 school year as it becomes available.

Template: LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

LEA Name: Black Horse Pike Regional School District

Date (July 22, 2021):

Date Revised (August 16, 2021):

1. Maintaining Health and Safety

For each mitigation strategy listed below (A–H), please describe how the LEA will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff and the extent to which it has adopted policies, and a description of any such policies, on each of the following safety recommendations established by the CDC.

The Black Horse Pike Regional School District will make every attempt to follow the guidance, where appropriate, in the Department of Health guidance, “[The Road Forward](#).”

A. Universal and correct wearing of masks

The Black Horse Pike Regional School District has surveyed the community members and staff members. The survey results indicate that majority of staff (82%) and community members (69%) believe mask wearing, unless required by the Department of Health, would be encouraged for those unvaccinated and optional for all in attendance.

However, Governor Murphy’s [Mask Mandate Executive Order](#) requires mask wearing every day.

Students must wear a mask on school transportation, as per the [CDC Order](#). If a student refuses to wear a mask, the Health Department recommends denying them entrance, with the exception of when an individual provides medical documentation that wearing a mask would be detrimental to their health.

We will follow this guidance as to the [proper wearing of masks](#). Students, staff, and visitors will have access to disposable masks in case one is soiled during the day or they do not have an appropriate mask.

As *The Road Forward* document states, “masks and barriers do not preclude an individual from being identified as a close contact to a COVID-19 case.” Additionally, in Governor Murphy’s Mask Mandate Executive Order, it lists exceptions to wearing a mask.

- This applies to indoor learning and activities only, unless health data suggests otherwise at a later date.
- When the individual is engaged in activity that cannot physically be performed while wearing a mask, such as eating and drinking, or playing a musical instrument.
- When wearing a mask would inhibit the individual’s health, such as when the individual is exposed to extreme heat indoors. Not all classrooms are air conditioned, so individual teachers and individual students can make a decision if extreme heat impacts personal health.
- When the individual has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face mask without assistance.
- When a student’s documented medical condition or disability precludes use of a face mask.

- When the individual is engaged in high-intensity aerobic or anaerobic activity.
- When a student is participating in high-intensity physical activities during a physical education class in a well ventilated location and is able to maintain a physical distance of six feet from all other individuals; or
- When wearing a face mask creates an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task.

All students will receive one school designed mask. Staff and students are to come to school with a clean mask every day. We will also have surgical masks available in case a student does not bring a clean mask to school. Masks should be washed every day of use.

B. Physical distancing (e.g., including use of cohorts/podding)

Students will be spaced to the greatest extent possible, understanding that 6 feet of social distancing is not possible with all students returning to school. In classrooms, students will be spaced to the greatest extent possible, but in some cases, students will be less than 3 feet apart.

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Washing Hands is recommended periodically through the school day. Some are suggesting in between each class, but especially before and after eating. Prepare and maintain hand sanitizing stations with alcohol-based hand sanitizers (at least 60% alcohol):

- In each classroom (for staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer).
- At entrances and exits of buildings.
- Near lunchrooms and toilets.
- For classrooms that have existing handwashing stations, prepare stations with soap, water, and alcohol-based hand sanitizers (at least 60% alcohol).

Students should wash hands for at least 20 seconds at regular intervals, including before eating, after using the bathroom, and after blowing their nose/coughing/sneezing. Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol) if washing with soap and water is not possible.

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

We will follow the [CDC recommendations for cleaning](#). Each custodian will certify that they have done so in every area they clean and complete a [room checklist](#) every night. A schedule will be designed and provided to staff to ensure all spaces are cleaned. We will provide significant cleaning and sanitizing every evening. All A/C filters are changed per the specs of the product. All systems have a fresh air component. Windows can be opened as needed and fresh air dampers can be adjusted as needed. Each room will have hand sanitizer and in those classrooms where materials are shared, like keyboards or computer mice, will have disinfectant so that students can clean after and/or before use. Classrooms and offices will also have air purification systems.

As noted in The Road Back Department of Health guidance, if a positive COVID-19 case emerges, all areas affected will be closed for use, then cleaned and sanitized as soon as recommended (after several hours).

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

Parents and Caregivers should not send students to school when sick or symptomatic. For school settings, NJDOH recommends that students with the following symptoms be promptly isolated from others and excluded from school:

- At least two of the following symptoms: fever (measure or subjective), chills, rigors (shivers), myalgia (muscle aches), headaches, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion, or runny nose; **OR**
- At least one of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new olfactory disorder (cannot smell), or new taste disorder.

Parents and caregivers can utilize the CDC Coronavirus Self-Checker to gauge whether or not they should attend school and seek medical care. The District and Schools' Websites all have the [CDC Coronavirus Self-Checker](#).

Contact Tracing and Close Contact

Contact tracing is a strategy used to determine the source of an infection and how it is spreading. Finding people who are close contacts of a person who has tested positive for COVID-19, and therefore at higher risk of becoming infected themselves, can help prevent further spread of the virus. Per the CDC, close contact is defined as being within 6 feet of someone with suspected or known COVID-19 for 15 or more minutes during a 24-hour period.

If a student shows symptoms or tests positive, please email the child's school nurse to notify them of the positive COVID-19 test result and include the following information:

- Student Name
- School
- Grade Level
- Date of Symptoms
- Date of Positive Test
- Where Tested
- Contact Information

Highland nurse is Jeanine Trommater jtrommater@bhprsd.org or 856-227-4100 x 4008

Triton nurse is Christa Moore, cmoore@bhprsd.org or 856-939-4500 x2008

Timber Creek nurse is Monica Coslove, mcoslove@bhprsd.org or 856-232-9703 x6008

Quarantine Periods Are Dependent Upon Community Transmission Levels

For High (Orange) Community Transmission levels, anyone who tests positive or was in close contact with someone who tested positive, needs to quarantine for 14 days.

For Moderate and Low (Yellow & Green) Community Transmission levels, exposed close contacts should be excluded from school for 10 days (or 7 days with negative test results collected at 5-7 days).

We will follow the NJDOH Recommendations put into place for [March 2021](#) and any additional guidance or direction released by the NJ DOH and NJ DOE since. For example, [The Road Forward](#) guidance specifies exclusion criteria.

We will require medical certification to return to school, as per Policy #5200. If a student tests positive, and other students were in close contact with the student outside of school, then the Health Department will notify the school. We have to keep that information confidential.

If the child has any of the following symptoms, they must remain home until they are fully asymptomatic. Vaccinated individuals can still spread the virus.

- At least two of the following symptoms: fever (measure or subjective), chills, rigors (shivers), myalgia (muscle aches), headaches, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion, or runny nose; OR
- At least one of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new olfactory disorder (cannot smell), or new taste disorder.

Exposed close contacts who are fully vaccinated and have NO COVID-19-like symptoms:

- Do not need to quarantine, be excluded from school, or be tested following an exposure to someone exposed or confirmed for COVID-19.
- Should still monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days following an exposure.
- If they experience symptoms, they should isolate themselves from others, be clinically evaluated for COVID-19, including SARS CoV-2 testing and inform their health care provider of their vaccination status at the time of presentation to care.

When an employee tests positive, the administrator supervising that employee will use the established [written protocol](#) to gather the important information. All individuals who test positive must quarantine for 10 days past the symptom onset or 10 days past the positive test and be asymptomatic before returning to work.

When a student is symptomatic, tests positive, or was considered in close contact, please follow this [protocol](#).

HOUSEHOLD CONTACTS

According to page 19 of the [NJ DOH Public Health Recommendations for Local Health Departments for K-12 Schools](#), updated March 23, 2021, students/staff members who are not fully vaccinated and who are household members of a student/staff member with COVID-19 compatible symptoms that meet COVID-19 Exclusion Criteria should be excluded from school until the symptomatic individual receives a negative test result. If the symptomatic individual tests positive, the household member will need to quarantine, unless that household member meets all of the criteria for vaccinated individuals outlined on page 18 of the [NJ DOH Public Health Recommendations for Local Health Departments for K-12 Schools document](#). The Department of Health, however, may extend the times for quarantine for household contacts to 17-24 days.

According to the *CDC's Key Points* for vaccinated individuals:

Fully vaccinated people can:

- *Resume activities without wearing masks or physically distancing, except where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance*

- *Resume domestic travel and refrain from testing before or after travel and from self-quarantine after travel*
- *Refrain from testing before leaving the United States for international travel (unless required by the destination) and refrain from self-quarantine after arriving back in the United States*
- *Refrain from testing following a known exposure, if asymptomatic, with some exceptions for specific settings*
- *Refrain from quarantine following a known exposure if asymptomatic*
- *Refrain from routine screening testing if feasible*

For now, fully vaccinated people should continue to:

- *Get tested if experiencing [COVID-19 symptoms](#)*
- *Follow CDC and health department travel requirements and recommendations*

People who are immunocompromised should be counseled about the potential for reduced immune responses to COVID-19 vaccines and to follow [current](#) prevention measures (including wearing [a mask](#), [staying 6 feet apart from others](#) they don't live with, and avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated indoor spaces) to protect themselves against COVID-19 until advised otherwise by their healthcare provider.

F. Diagnostic and screening testing

We will follow, in part, the [NJ Department of Health guidance](#) for implementing COVID-19 Screening and Testing. School personnel will not be testing for COVID-19.

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

The Black Horse Pike Regional School District has offered five (5) vaccination clinics to assist the community, staff, and students to get vaccinated. We helped facilitate the vaccination of over 600 individuals. We have encouraged all staff and students to get vaccinated through our District Newsletters, all-calls, and messaging.

Governor Murphy announced that all state employees must be vaccinated by October 18, 2021 or undergo weekly testing. Our staff will have to be tested on their own time, outside of school hours. Any viral test for COVID-19, rapid, antigen, or PCR will be accepted.

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

For students with special needs, special education classrooms will follow continuous classroom disinfecting protocols for the staff and students assigned to special programs, after every period. Ongoing, daily cleanings will be added to assure that special program classrooms maintain high standards of cleanliness. Special Education staff will maintain the handwashing documentation throughout the day and Special Education Supervisors will monitor compliance and completion of the stated protocols as well as of the corresponding documentation. For the SCMD program, create and implement a hand washing/sanitizing protocol and tracking for the staff and students assigned to special programs. Students and staff will wash their hands before and after eating, after touching their face or mouth, after sneezing or coughing, after using the restroom, after touching another person or materials that have not been sanitized or when applicable. Special Education staff will maintain the handwashing documentation throughout the day and Special Education Supervisors will monitor compliance and completion of the stated protocols and the corresponding documentation.

2. Ensuring Continuity of Services

A. Describe how the LEA will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address students' academic needs and students' and staff's social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services. (1000 character limit)

The Black Horse Pike Regional School District will continue to participate in providing free meals to all children, so long as the State of New Jersey supports this offering. We will utilize the cafeteria, Library Media Center, two gymnasiums, auditoriums, and classrooms to provide for greater social distancing when meals are offered. Eating in classrooms outside of the designated "lunch service" will be discouraged. We will stagger freshman/ sophomore eating times from junior/senior students' eating times. We will also promote the use of our outdoor patios during food services with proper supervision.

We are partnering with Camden County Educational Services Commission to provide an additional social worker to assist with students' mental health needs. Moreover, we have a Student Assistance Coordinator and Mental Health Counselor, in addition to our School Counseling and Child Study Teams, to address students' mental health needs. School counselors are also devising a mental health assessment at the beginning of the school year to assess any individual or group concerns that could be addressed upon returning to school. We will be culturally responsive by advocating for participation in school events and co-curricular activities.

For our multilingual learners (formerly ELLs) at Triton Regional High School, we will have bi-weekly, after school tutoring sessions provided by our ELL Specialists. We will also procure the services of a math teacher as well as a science teacher one day each per week during the tutoring sessions so that the students can receive intensive remediation in these core areas. Parents and family members of our emergent bilinguals will also have the opportunity to come to Triton one evening each week for adult English classes which will be taught by our ELL faculty. To further enhance school and family connections, home visits by the ELL Specialists will occur in the fall. Additionally, we will have biannual meetings of the Parent Advisory Council so that the parents and guardians of our multilingual students can further connect with the Mustang community and be an integral part of their children's educational journey.

Our Tier 3 students in each building will become part of a cohort that will receive specialized, individual assistance in academic skill building and greater access to interventions which will improve their overall achievement. Our new Student Success Coaches will aid their students with the usage of a continuum of services in an effort to improve equity and access in education while coordinating all of our schools' and district's supports. The coaches will also work closely with the Intervention and Referral Services teams to aid Tier 2 students and their teachers in making the changes needed for them to achieve their academic potential. Moreover, they will collaborate with administration on strategies to assist in reforming and refining existing academic improvement plans for potential at-risk students.

Reading Specialists are working on scheduling students for Lit Lab sessions and they plan to visit study halls that will operate in the new Common Time lunch structure. The BSIP Coordinators are also reviewing data for students scheduled in English Lab and will be partnering with Readings Specialists and Success Coaches to ensure a range of support. I have identified incoming students to be scheduled in 9th grade Reading Enhancement, which provides a double block of English 1CP instructed by two certified teachers, one for English and one for Special Education. The Summer Bridge program served incoming 8th grade students by engaging them in a summer reading assignment that focused on close reading skills. The Summer Reading Enhancement program serves as a bridge for students entering 10th grade from the 9th grade Reading Enhancement course. It also centers on a summer reading assignment that fosters close reading skills.

Educational Continuity During Quarantine Periods

For students who are forced to quarantine because of a positive test or if they are unvaccinated and considered a close contact, the student will be expected to follow the directions of their teachers. Teachers will offer both synchronous, live instruction and asynchronous materials for students not attending school because of a forced quarantine period. Attendance will be taken and students are expected to follow the same bell schedule as if they were attending school, unless directed otherwise by the classroom teacher.

We will not offer virtual, synchronous instruction for absences for other reasons, unless the school district or school closes due to COVID-19.

What happens if the health data continues to show more and more coronavirus cases?

If the Health Data indicate a need to shift our schedule, we will transition in the potential following ways?

A. We will cohort our students, run full days of school with lunches, and students will attend every other day. If a student attends school on Monday, they will get lunch on Monday and take home a breakfast and lunch for Tuesday.

OR

B. We will cohort our students, run half days of school with no lunches, and students will follow a schedule like we did last school year (Four, 50-minute classes in-person, and afternoons are for asynchronous work, extra help, and virtual academic support.

If we have a forced closure due to COVID-19, we will provide food service by providing pick up times at each high school and will deliver to certain apartment complexes associated with each high school.

3. Public Comment

A. Describe how the LEA sought public comment on its plan, and how it took those public comment into account in the development of its plan. Note, the ARP requires that LEAs seek public comment for each 60-day revision to the plan. (1000 character limit)

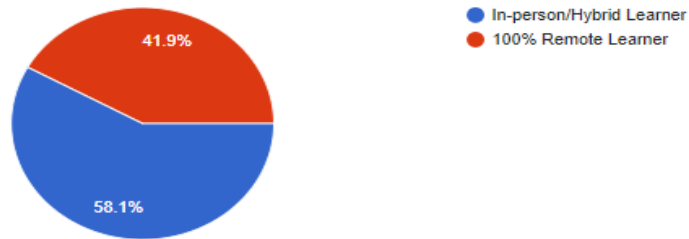
The Black Horse Pike Regional School District sought public feedback and staff feedback via a survey sent out electronically on July 10, 2021. Additionally, a meeting was held with the Superintendent, staff, and parents on August 3, 2021 to gather feedback, answer questions, and to create a better plan. Additionally, the Superintendent met with Administration and Supervisory staff, again, on August 9, 2021 to clarify questions, work through scenarios, and design responses.

As of this draft copy on July 28, 2021, the CDC recently recommended mask wearing for all people, vaccinated or not, indoors. We will await any recent NJDOH or Governor Murphy responses to that announcement and revise the plan accordingly.

Below are the Parent/Caregiver Survey results:

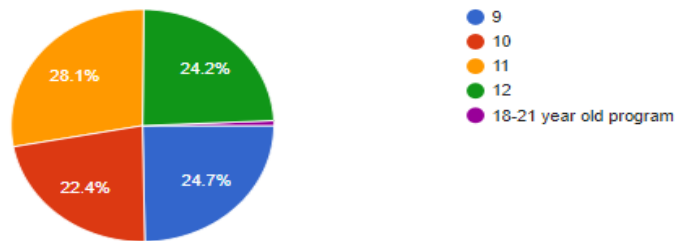
In the 2020-2021 school year, my child attended the majority of the school year as a

720 responses



My child will be in the following grade in September 2021.

720 responses



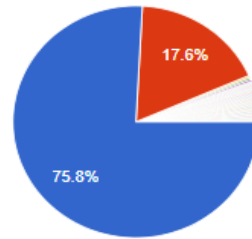
When I hear, "Return to Instruction," I picture the following for the 2021-2022 school year (select the choice that most closely resembles your answer):

720 responses



I agree that students should be spaced to the extent possible, understanding that 6 ft. space is not possible with all students returning to school.

720 responses



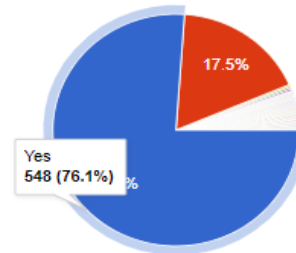
- Yes
- No
- I don't think students need to be 6 ft a...
- Back to normal. No 6 ft.
- If spacing is not feasible, then scrap t...
- i agree that there should be at least m...
- Does not matter to me
- Back to normal

▲ 1/6 ▼

I agree that students should be spaced to the greatest extent possible in classrooms, but understand that in some cases, students will be less than 3 feet apart.



720 responses

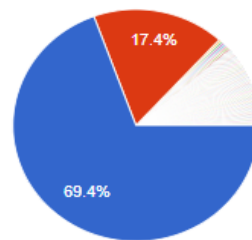


- Yes
- No
- Back to pre-pandemic
- I understand this but there is now a d...
- They do not need to be spaced. Busin...
- for me since i'm vaccinated I would lik...
- Does not matter to me.
- Back to normal

▲ 1/6 ▼

I agree that masks/face coverings should be encouraged for unvaccinated students/staff, but that it should remain optional in school buildings. (masks/face coverings are required by CDC/Federal Order on school buses/vehicles).

720 responses



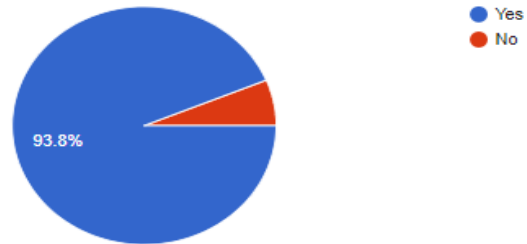
- Yes
- No
- Based on cdc if a child is not vaccinat...
- Dept of Ed recommends continuance...
- No masks at all. Not encouraged
- For all students and staff even the vac...
- Students who are vaccinated still carr...
- No masks for anyone. Optional for tho...

▲ 1/12 ▼

I agree that full transportation should be offered even if the prior commitment to social distancing is not possible.

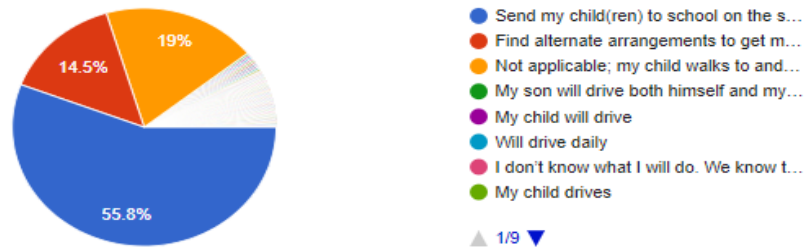


722 responses



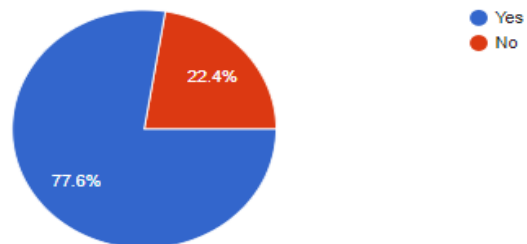
Based upon the previous statement for transportation, I will:

722 responses



I believe that students should participate in all components of music instruction such as singing and playing instruments even if unmasked.

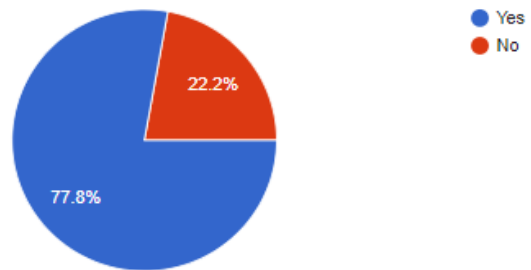
722 responses



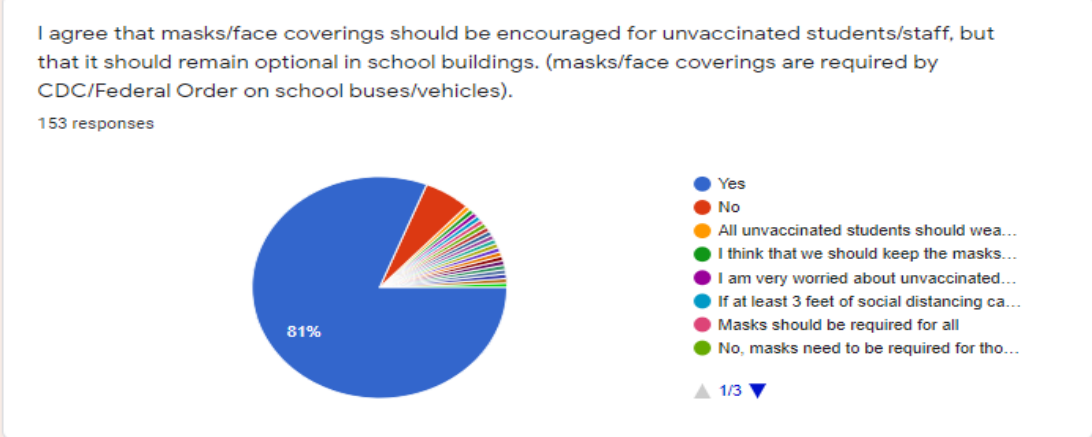
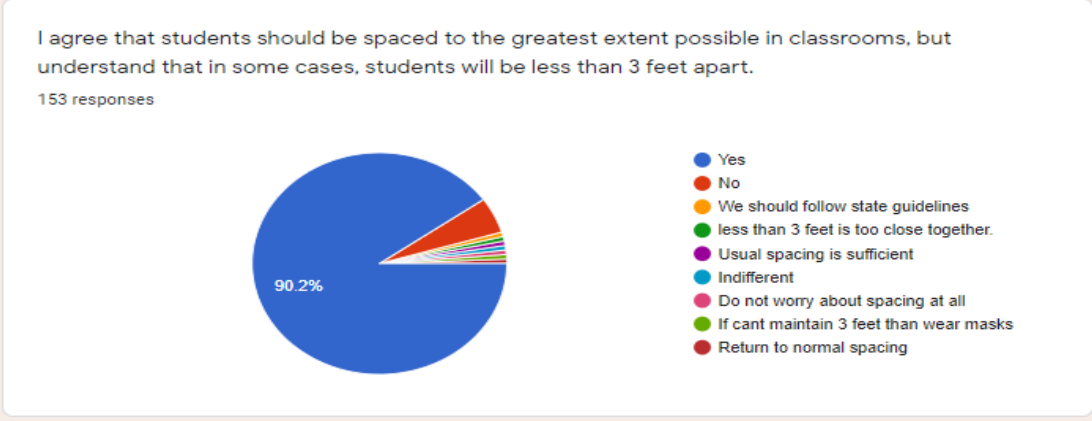
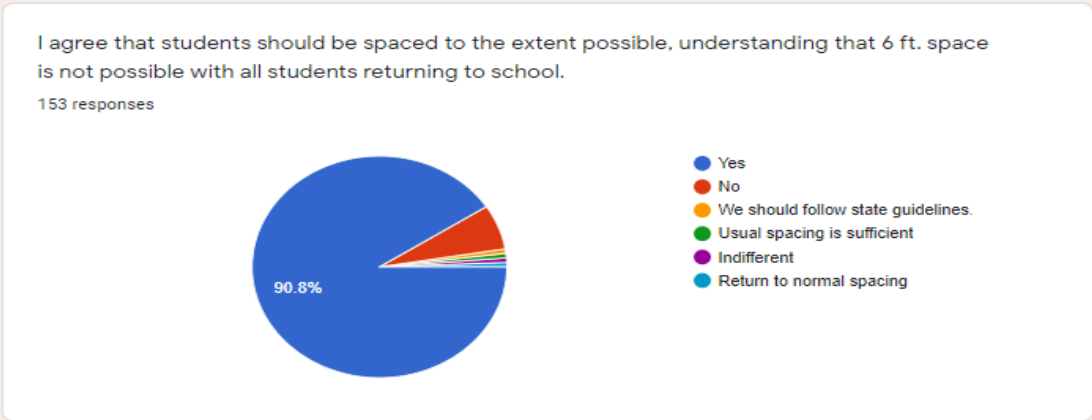
I believe that students should participate in team and other close physical activities during Physical Education classes. Students should "dress" in PE clothing by changing in locker rooms as they did pre-pandemic.



722 responses

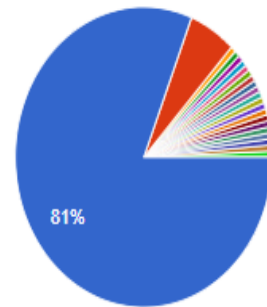


Below are the Staff Survey Results:



I agree that masks/face coverings should be encouraged for unvaccinated students/staff, but that it should remain optional in school buildings. (masks/face coverings are required by CDC/Federal Order on school buses/vehicles).

153 responses

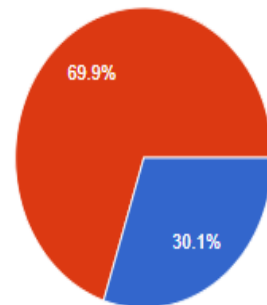


- Yes
- No
- All unvaccinated students should wear...
- I think that we should keep the masks...
- I am very worried about unvaccinated...
- If at least 3 feet of social distancing ca...
- Masks should be required for all
- No, masks need to be required for tho...

▲ 1/3 ▼

I would be interested in serving as part of the District or School Re-Opening Team.

153 responses



- Yes
- No

B. Describe how the LEA ensured that the plan is in an understandable and uniform format; is to the extent practicable written in a language that parents can understand or, if not practicable to provide written translations to a parent with limited English proficiency, will be orally translated for such a parent; and upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA, will be provided in an alternative format accessible to that parent. (1000 character limit)

The District attempted to maintain a written format that was accessible to all members of the community and at a readability level that was both clear and understandable. The District provides support to those with limited English proficiency through evening classes and supports translation services when necessary for individual families and groups of families. Similar supports are available to anyone with a disability requesting access to plan documents.