

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

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**LEA Name: Paterson Charter School for Science and Technology**

**Date: 06/16/2021**

**Date Revised : 06/27/2023**

## **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.

### **1) Universal and Correct Wearing of Masks**

PCSST will not require students and staff to wear masks for the 2023-2024 school year. However, students and staff who want to wear masks will be permitted to do so.

### **2) Physical distancing (e.g., including use of cohorts/podding)**

PCSST we will continue with the normal class sizes for the 22-23 school year and distancing as much as possible within the classroom.

### **3) Handwashing and respiratory etiquette**

The school Board promotes behaviors that protect the spread of COVID-19 and strongly encourages the practice of hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette. Handwashing signs and messages that display proper handwashing and covering a cough or a sneeze are posted in all campuses. Additionally, hand sanitizing stations are installed in many areas across all campuses.

**4) Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities, Including Improving Ventilation**

School officials continue to adhere to required facilities cleaning practices and procedures, and any new specific requirements of the local health department. PCSST has established policies and procedures for cleaning/disinfecting: 1. Schedule for routine cleaning and disinfection; 2. Cleaning and disinfecting surfaces and objects that are frequently touched (e.g. doorknobs, light switches, classroom sink handles, countertops); 3. Use of cleaning products according to the directions on the label.

**5) Contact Tracing in Combination with Isolation and Quarantine, in Collaboration with the State, Local, Territorial, or Tribal Health Departments**

School Nurse and HR will contact the local Department of Health if a case arises with one of the students or staff members. The school then follows the Department of Health guidance for quarantine of the student/staff member, and conducts contact tracing so that all parties are notified appropriately.

**6) Diagnostic and Screening Testing**

Staff who have flu-like and COVID-19 symptoms are asked to get tested to tell what the illness is and to confirm a diagnosis.

Staff members (regardless of vaccination status) who test positive for COVID-19 must complete the 5-day quarantine, whether they are symptomatic or not.

**7) Efforts to Provide Vaccinations to Educators, Other Staff, and Students, if Eligible**

In the past, PCSST shared availability to vaccination appointments to our staff and eligible students. PCSST partnered with New Hackensack Meridian to offer vaccination appointments to our school population.

**8) Appropriate Accommodations for Children with Disabilities with Respect to the Health and Safety Policies**

All our students including students with disabilities will follow our Safe Reopening Plan. Health and IEP accommodations will be followed for students with disabilities. Students also have full access school counselor, Case Manager, and nurse if they need to see someone.

## **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.

Consistent with guidance from the United States Department of Education, PCSST will 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. Additionally, PCSST will utilize Academic, Social, and Behavioral Supports to meet all students' needs: SEL will be critical in re-engaging students, supporting adults, rebuilding relationships, and creating a foundation for academic learning. PDs, Trainings, and SEL are being offered to all schools; Multi-Tiered Systems of Support will be utilized as an approach to prevention, intervention, and enrichment in grades Pre-K-12. Diagnostic assessments and input to identify mental health needs. An additional contracted mental health provider has been hired for students.

## **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.

The Safe Return Plan was developed by involving all stakeholders such as administrators, teachers, health officials, supporting staff, case managers, child study team, parents, students, and community members and is updated based on Guidance from CDC and NJ health department updates. The safe return plans are also presented to the board for discussion and approval.

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

The Safe Return Plan is placed on our school website. Our website is easily translated by clicking "translate this page" option allowing parents, guardians, and stakeholders to translate the plan if necessary. The plan can also be translated orally to any parents upon request. PCSST will provide interpreters to provide such translations in any languages spoken by PCSST parents. Additionally, upon request by a parent who is an individual with disabilities as defined by ADA, the plan will be provided in an alternative format accessible to that parent. The plan can be provided in alternative forms such as in bigger print, digital version, or include signs, symbols, pictures etc.

C. Briefly describe any guidance professional learning and technical assistance opportunities the LEA will make available to its schools.

Guidance, professional learning, and technical assistance will continue to be made available to all schools. Staff will be trained during induction and in-service prior to the start of the school year. Building meetings, PTA, and other parent meetings will include updates by professional staff and local health officials. Updates to families will be present in a manner that they can understand, and in the languages that they speak at home.