

Middle Township Schools Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

LEA Name: Middle Township Public Schools

Date Revised: 06/08/23

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.

A. Universal and correct wearing of masks

Presently, staff and students may wear facemasks at their discretion. - Students and Staff are welcome to provide their own appropriate masks should they choose to wear a mask at this time. Should the guidelines by the CDC change the district will review this policy at that time.

B. Physical distancing

Avoid close contact by putting an appropriate distance between yourself and others. Remember that some people without symptoms may be able to spread the virus. Keeping an appropriate distance from others is especially important for people who are at higher risk of getting very sick. All classes are on a normal schedule pre-COVID with all students attending in person.

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place or after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use hand sanitizer.

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

Middle Township will continue to sanitize, disinfect, and clean all facilities daily. The district performs regularly scheduled preventative maintenance on all HVAC systems throughout the school year to ensure compliance with ventilation standards including the required “fresh air” component that is specified in Federal and State health guidance. The District will continue to ensure that frequently touched surfaces and restrooms are routinely disinfected and cleaned.

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

At this time, the district is not contact tracing but has the personnel available to complete this task should the district be required to perform this function.

F. Diagnostic and screening testing

Middle Township will continue to emphasize the importance of self-screening for any community health-related illness. Students, faculty, and staff who manifest or present symptoms of COVID-19 or other illnesses will be directed and expected to follow the most current and relevant guidance regarding self-quarantine provided by the CDC and/or the New Jersey Department of Health.

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

Vaccinations were made available to educators and staff working in educational settings. District has worked with and will continue to work with the local health department and various healthcare providers to bring COVID vaccinations to our students and all staff.

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

The district will continue to accommodate students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies. These accommodations will be in consultation with the IEP team, the student's healthcare provider, the school nurses, and the District's physician of record.

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 district will continue to utilize assessment data, including data from NJSLA and NJGPA assessments to determine the educational needs of students and the interventions necessary to accelerate learning. All schools will offer orientations for new students, current students, and students transitioning to a new building. The district will continue its practice of using multiple measures to continuously monitor student achievement and to improve our schools. In addition, mental health and counseling services will be available to 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. Note, the ARP requires that LEAs seek public comment for each 60-day revision to the plan. (1000 character limit)

Each of the individual schools convened their restart committees at the onset of the initial plan which consisted of teachers, staff, parents and community stakeholders and discussed the safe reopening plan. The plan was made public at Board of Education meetings in which comment was welcomed. The plan is also posted on the district website. The Board of Education also provides regular updates and receives public feedback during Board of Education meetings. The same process is utilized for revisions and updates to the plan.

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 will seek individuals that can translate the plan into various languages as necessary to reach our non-English proficient population. Additionally, when requested we will provide individuals with the necessary format that will be accessible to the parent as defined by their particular disability.