



# **Kenai Peninsula Borough School District American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act Mitigation Plan**

June 14, 2021

## Note to Districts

Districts may use the sample template below as a framework for the information to be included in their ARP Act Mitigation Plan. Districts are not required to follow this sample template or framework, but if they include all of the items listed below, they will have incorporated the information required by section 2001(i)(1) of the ARP Act.

## Contact Information

### District Information

Name of District: Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

District Point of Contact Name: Kevin Lyon, Director of Planning & Operations

Address (Street, City, State, Zip): 148 N. Binkley Street, Soldotna AK 99669

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## Assurance Agreement for ARP Act Mitigation Plan

The district assures either:

- a) It will, within 30 days of receiving ARP ESSER funds, develop and make publicly available on the district's website a mitigation plan for the safe return and/or continuation of in-person instruction and continuity of services as required in section 2001(i)(1) of the ARP and in the U.S. Department of Education's Interim Final Requirements, or
- b) It developed and made publicly available on the district's website such a mitigation plan that meets statutory requirements before the enactment of the ARP Act that meets -federal requirements. (The ARP Act was enacted on March 11, 2021)

The district assures that:

- a) It will periodically review and revise its mitigation plan, as appropriate, no less frequently than every six months for the duration of the ARP ESSER grant period (i.e., through September 30, 2023); and
- b) It will seek public input, and take such input into account, on (1) whether revisions are necessary and, if so, (2) the proposed revisions to the mitigation plan.

Before making the mitigation plan publicly available, the district **must seek public comment on the mitigation plan** and take such comments into account in the development of the plan.

Name of Superintendent: Clayton Holland

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  


Date: 06/03/2021

# Mitigation Plan

## Plan Components

Districts must implement, to the greatest extent practicable, prevention and mitigation policies in line with the most up-to-date guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for the reopening and operation of school facilities to effectively maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff. Describe the extent to which the district adopted policies and a description of such policies on each of the strategies listed below:

1. [Masks](#) Face coverings for staff and students will follow CDC guidance; the district strongly advises non-vaccinated staff to wear a mask (self-determined). Face coverings for fully vaccinated visitors is optional; non-vaccinated individuals are strongly advised to wear a mask. When the exposure risk increases, and other engineering controls are inadequate, masks are available and provided to minimize transmission exposure. Masks can be worn by any person. Signs identifying CDC recommendations for vaccinated /non-vaccinated individuals are posted.
2. [Physical distancing \(e.g., including use of cohorts/pods\)](#) Physical distancing will be encouraged while working with others in the building. KPBSD has maximized the available space to allow for maximum distancing to minimize potential exposure.
3. [Handwashing and respiratory etiquette](#) Proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette signs have been posted, taught and modeled for our students and staff.
4. [Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation](#) KPBSD facilities have had bipolar ionization systems installed, and the custodial staff have been equipped with HOCL and electrostatic sprayers to improve the efficiency of building sanitization.
5. [Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments](#) The KPBSD Health Services Coordinator will continue to monitor daily COVID percentages, attend local and state health updates and provide professional development and training to site based and itinerant nurses as necessary. NOTE: KPBSD school nurses were the first in the state to participate in an online contact-tracing course in order to assist an overwhelmed Public Health Department with statewide contact tracing.
6. [Diagnostic and screening testing](#) KPBSD has provided testing capability and training for every school in the district. Antigen screening is available to students and co-curricular participants. All positive results are immediately verified by a molecular test. The district has both Cue and Abbott ID Now devices available at each site.
7. [Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible](#) The KPBSD has partnered with local health entities to provide vaccine clinics in KPBSD site facilities and has provided information to staff, students, and parents about the clinics and locally available vaccines.
8. [Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies](#) A variety of options are available to accommodate children with disabilities. These options include using remote instruction with connectivity and devices provided by the district. The accommodations can be but not limited to providing additional engineering controls including additional social distancing space, barriers and personal protective equipment.

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## Continuity of Services

Describe how the district will ensure continuity of services including, but not limited to, services to address students' academic needs, as well as the social, emotional, mental health, and other needs of students and staff (e.g., student health and food service).

The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District will ensure continuity of services through staffing; academic needs; students' social, emotional, mental health, physical health and food services; and staff social, emotional, mental health, physical health, and other needs. The process and specific areas in this communication are listed with examples but are not limited to those provided.

The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District has issued contracts to all qualified to return classified and certified staff for the 2021-22 school year. Because of this commitment to employees, there was minimal loss to staffing as compared to other Alaskan districts; however, there are still vacancies that need to be filled. During the spring and summer months the KPBSD Human Resources Department is facilitating several recruiting campaigns for vacant positions for the 2021-22 school year. In addition to staffing, the KPBSD has also updated the substitute hiring process and has changed the substitute pay scale to reflect experience and be competitive in pay.

The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District (KPBSD) has reviewed data, solicited input from stakeholders and facilitated many community conversations regarding the COVID 19 Pandemic and its' impact on schools. Based on this information, the KPBSD has identified academic needs and processes to support these needs. It has been determined the KPBSD will offer a variety of learning platforms for students; in-person, remote and hybrid. Every KPBSD school will offer in-person learning with traditional coursework and expectations. Course offerings will return to pre-COVID offerings.

In addition to traditional brick and mortar in-person learning, the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District (KPBSD) will offer 100% Districtwide Remote Learning for students 1<sup>st</sup> Grade through 12<sup>th</sup> Grade. Elementary Remote will be offered in combined classes for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade, and 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade. At the middle school level, Skyview Middle School will provide the 100% Remote learning for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students for families who are interested in this option. Students 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade will be able to access the KPBSD Distance Delivery Courses as well as the Video Teleconferencing Courses. These platforms are not new to the KPBSD but will be updated and the enrollment cap will be increased. The final platform offered is the KPBSD Traditional Home School Program, Connections. As a result of the number of students enrolled in KPBSD Connections, the district has hired an assistant principal to assist the principal with IEPs, data review, site management and access to administrative needs.

One of the major shifts the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District has made is in providing materials and supplies for teachers, students and staff. The biggest commitment made was in the Information Technology (IT) Department. This includes but is not limited to providing devices, fixing devices, replacing devices, supporting and providing internet access, tech support, and programming. The KPBSD IT Department has increased staffing to support these needs district wide.

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The largest group most impacted by the COVID 19 Pandemic is the students. It has been stated students have been the most resilient in this crisis; however, it is the responsibility of the school community to ensure students' social, emotional, mental health, physical health, food services, and other needs are being met. In addition to the traditional school staff in buildings, the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District (KPBSD) will staff as follows: school nurses in school and itinerant support, school psychologists in school and itinerant support, school counselors in elementary and secondary schools in school and itinerant support, interventionists, 504 Coordinators, special education case managers, and student support liaisons in traditional high schools. The KPBSD has a Student in Transition Program Team and provide regional support for students and families. The KPBSD also provides two alternative high schools for students needing a different learning platform and increased support for success.

In an effort to support, the social needs of students, after school co-curricular activities will resume/continue and follow ASAA guidelines, and Before School and After School Programs facilitated by KPBSD staff and partner agencies will be offered. The KPBSD will also review data to ensure emotional needs are met. The KPBSD will utilize data from student responses for the 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) and the Hanover School Climate Connectedness Survey to identify and provide supports for students.

Another need area identified is the health and nutrition of students. The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District and the Student Nutrition Services Department will continue to offer breakfast and lunch at the school sites. Remote students will be able to sign up for remote meals on a weekly basis.

The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District (KPBSD) will continue services to the staff addressing their social, emotional, mental health, physical health, and other needs. The KPBSD Benefits Department offers mental health and wellness resources. Through calendaring and scheduling, the KPBSD Leadership Team will also increase site visits to schools both on and off the road system. For the needs in the professional realm, the KPBSD has dedicated personnel for Professional Development (PD) to support curriculum and professional growth. This includes PD for on-line and in person teaching strategies.

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## Periodic Review

Describe how the district will periodically review and revise its mitigation plan, as appropriate, including a description of how the district will seek public input and take such input into account on (1) whether revisions are necessary and, if so, (2) the proposed revisions to the plan. Important Note: The district must review its mitigation plan no less frequently than every six months for the duration of the ARP ESSER grant period (i.e., through September 30, 2023).

The district will review the plan as conditions change or every six months through June 30, 2024. The revisions will be based on advice from the local medical staff, the State Department of Health and Human Services, and key decision makers in the KPBSD and Kenai Borough.