



# American Rescue Plan Act Mitigation Plan

## **North Slope Borough School District American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act 2021-2022 Mitigation Plan**

June 20, 2021



# American Rescue Plan Act Mitigation Plan

## Contact Information

**Name of District:** North Slope Borough School District

**District Point of Contact Name:** Pauline Harvey, Superintendent

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## Assurance Agreement for ARP Act Mitigation Plan

The district assures either:

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

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:

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

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:** Pauline Harvey

**Signature:** 

**Date:** 6/23/2021

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## Mitigation Plan

### Masks

Mask use will be based on CDC and local guidelines. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be available at all sites. Individualized mask will be provided to staff providing specialized support to promote the implementation of special education services. Such staff may include, but not be limited to, speech therapists, paraprofessionals providing speech/language support, Inupiaq Language Teachers, and special education teachers.

Food service staff will wear masks and gloves while preparing and packaging food, as required by CDC and local requirements.

Masks will be available for student and staff on the bus. Based on COVID CDC Guidelines and local restrictions, all bus drivers, bus aides, and students may wear masks. Students will enter and exit the bus as normal.

Masks and gloves will be available for all Maintenance and Operation staff.

### [Physical distancing \(e.g., including use of cohorts/pods\)](#)

Based on CDC Guidelines and local restrictions, maintenance and operations staff will assist with the layout and signage needed to support student transitions, bathroom use, physical distancing, and arrival/departure procedures. Maintenance and operations will support the delivery of food, as necessary, to ensure students receive breakfast and lunch.

NSBSD anticipates opening schools at full capacity practicing 6 or 3-foot social distancing (based on CDC guidelines). On-site administrators, in collaboration with local communities, will determine local needs and restrictions to support a safe learning environment. For example, class sizes may be reduced based on room and class size. An alternative daily schedule may be required to support social distancing.

Afterschool and community-based school activities are anticipated to be opening as normal. In consideration of changes in CDC Guidelines and identified outbreaks, please see your local site Administrator to learn more about possible community-based building restrictions for non-instructional times (summer break, holiday break, spring break, weekends). Your local school Administrator, in collaboration with your local community, will have updates on possible schedule changes for outdoor and indoor activities such as recess and special classes (gym). For after school events, community events, night rec., after school activities, sports, etc. please contact your local site administrator for scheduled revisions and/or or cancellations. Sharing of classroom supplies may be discouraged based on CDC and local guidelines.

Student will be provided technology devices based on site distribution timelines. If CDC restrictions or an outbreak occurs, established technology platforms, such as zoom and google



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classroom will be utilized to support in-home instruction implemented due to social distancing or parent request. For sites with bandwidth/internet issues, home-packets or an alternate format of instruction may be provided. Please see your local school Administrator for home-instruction options. Please contact the site administrator or site tech for passwords and school e-mail access.

Schools will practice 3 to 6-foot social distancing for meal services based on the current CDC Guidelines. For meal consumption, seating may be assigned and marked to support social distancing. Students will eat in the cafeteria or classrooms. Meals may be provided in disposable to-go containers and delivered, if needed.

Normal bus operations are anticipated for the fall. Operations may be adjusted based on CDC guidelines or local outbreaks.. Household members and/or family members may continue to sit together on the bus. If needed, the Bus Barn will contact parents and site Administration to schedule bus routes to eliminate as much educational disruption as possible. Please contact the Bus Barn or your local school Administrator for specific bus route information and pick up/drop off times.

## [Handwashing and respiratory etiquette](#)

NSBSD encourages hand-washing as a practice to support healthy students and staff. Hand washing will be encouraged at all times. Instructional areas will have resources to set up a “washing” station. Sanitizer stations will be set up in the common areas and hand sanitizer will be available for classroom use. Students will wash their hands before and after eating and/or drinking.

## [Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation](#)

NSBSD has on-site trained cleaning staff to support in sanitizing buildings. NSBSD cleaning staff will utilize anti-bacterial spray and cleaning products to promote students and staff safety. NSBSD has purchased anti-bacterial sprayers that will be utilized for bathroom, instructional, and public areas within the school. To reduce disruption of instruction, deep cleaning will occur in the classrooms before school, after school, and between class rotations. NSBSD will purchase additional cleaning supplies to support deep cleaning efforts on all flat and heavily used surfaces. Bathrooms will be monitored and cleaned based on an established building schedule. M&O staff will maintain training in the implementation and documentation of deep cleaning activities.

All buses will be disinfected and sanitized at the beginning of the day, between bus routes, and at the end of the day. Teachers will be provided cleaning supplies to clean their classrooms between student groups. Eating surfaces will be sanitized before and after each service.

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## [Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments](#)

NSBSD will work in close collaboration with the Department of Social Services to receive notifications and participate in contract tracing. Due to HIPPA. The Human Resource Director will keep in close contact with the Arctic Slope Native Association and Department of Health & Social Services to notify, and be notified, of potential school exposure. Through the Superintendent and building administrator, mitigation procedures will be implemented.

Those who display symptoms at school will rest in an isolation room under staff supervision. Families will be notified and encouraged to isolate and seek testing. Staff will practice social distancing and wear masks at all times, the student will remain in the designated quarantine area until the parent arrives.

NSBSD requests all students come to school symptom-free for at least 24 hours. NSBSD supports parents utilizing the services of Samuel Simmonds Hospital and the local COVID-19 Testing Center to have their child tested prior to returning to school. Students exposed due to travel travelled outside the village should follow local testing guidelines prior to returning to school. Same restrictions are in place for visiting and work-related adults.

NSBSD Human Resource Director will work in collaboration with the Department of Health and Social Services for contact tracing and notifications.

## [Diagnostic and screening testing](#)

NSBSD supports, but does not require, vaccinations for students or staff to attend school. NSBSD requests parents monitor their child's health and keep them home if their child is feeling ill, has a fever, or exhibits COVID-19 symptoms. NSBSD also recognizes students may become ill at schools and wants to provide a supportive environment while maintaining the safety of others. If a student does not feel well or is exhibiting symptoms as per the NSBSD Student Symptoms Flow Chart (see attached) :

- Each school will have a designated quarantine room for students possibly exposed or displaying COVID-19 symptoms.
- Staff will escort student to the office and notify the site administrator or school nurse.
- The student's temperature will be taken.
- If temperature concerns are noted, or symptoms continue, the parent will be called to pick up the student.
- The parent will be encouraged to have the child tested for COVID-19 at their local clinic or medical facility.
- The student may be provided remote instruction until symptom free, or a negative COVID-19 test.



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To learn more about COVID-19 symptoms please go to <https://arcticslope.org/covid-19-information/> or call the Samuel Simmons Hotline at 833-852-4622.

## [Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible](#)

The North Slope Borough has designated all NSBSD employees as “essential” to the community. Therefore, all school district employees have been provided the opportunity to get vaccinated as of February 2021. NSBSD strongly encourages all staff to get the COVID-19 vaccine for their safety and the safety of others. NSBSD works in partnership with the Arctic Slope Native Association (ASNA) and Department of Health and Social Services to provide vaccinations to NSBSD staff free of charge. Vaccinations for staff can be scheduled through the NSBSD Human Resource Department or directly through the ASNA website at <https://arcticslope.org/covid-19-information/>.

Currently, the Arctic Slope Native Association is providing vaccinations to all community members and students 12 years and older. To learn more about the signs and symptoms or register for a COVID test, please go to <https://arcticslope.org/covid-19-information/> or call the Samuel Simmons Hotline at 833-852-4622.

NSBSD works in collaboration with ASNA to provide staff weekly updates on availability of vaccines and COVID updates. This information is distributed through the NSBSD website and internal e-mail list-serve. NSBSD also provides up to date information to staff and parents on the availability of vaccinations students and the current age requirement.

NSBSD is working in partnership with the Department of Health and Social Services to determine on-boarding needs for new and returning teachers. Staff are anticipated to return the last week of July through the first week of June for the 2021-2022 school year. Through the Human Resource Department, NSBSD will notify staff and local community members of any restrictions or testing requirements for staff returning to Utqiagvik and/or local communities.

To support on-boarding and local community safety, NSBSD will conduct our New Hire In-Service remotely providing new staff an opportunity to quarantine in their local community. Based on CDC and local restrictions, staff who are vaccinated will be provided the opportunity to interact with the community and attend the in-service from within the school. Proof of vaccinations and/or a negative COVID-19 test will be required to be provided to Human Resources. These guidelines are subject to change based on local and mandates and CDC Guidelines.

## [Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies](#)



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NSBSD is dedicated to providing students with special needs a free and appropriate public education. Services will be provided even if an alternative environment is required based on of CDC and local restrictions. NSBSD recognizes on-going participation and communication with parents is essential, especially during COVID restrictions.

Teachers will reach out to parents and discuss the building schedule based on COVID-19 Social Distancing Guidelines. Based on class size, student schedules may be revised to support social distancing to promote safety and decrease the spread. Teachers will review the contents of the current IEP or 504 Plan and discuss options of how the IEP and 504 Plan services will be implemented within the current in school and remote service delivery school schedule. An IEP or 504 Plan meeting may be scheduled either in person or remotely to discuss IEP and 504 Plan implementation. If necessary, an IEP Amendment or 504 Plan review meeting may be scheduled.

Related services and evaluations will be conducted via distance in the school building facilitated and scheduled by the SPED staff. As outlines in the IEP and 504 Plan, teachers will implement services and accommodations thru in school and remote educational opportunities. SPED teachers will coordinate with general education teachers and parents to determine the delivery of services and accommodations. provide accommodations, modifications, and supports.

Based on local restrictions and parent support, students with specialized needs may be scheduled for one-to-one instruction by appointment. Intensive students may attend school on a full day basis with up to a 5-days a week schedule. As much as deemed possible, related service staff will participate, and provide training, to sped teachers and parents in the delivery of home-based related services.

Students will be provided the technology necessary to access their related services in the home environment. Materials will be provided to utilize at home to support the implementation of IEP and 504 Plan accommodations in the home during remote or yellow status.

NSBSD has purchased the necessary equipment and programs to support remote evaluations. If needed, NSBSD school will open to provide students in need of evaluation the opportunity to access their local school. Such evaluations may include the school psychologist, occupational therapist, physical therapist, vision specialist. Speech/language therapist, special education teacher, and others as deemed appropriate. In order to maintain parent communication and attendance at federally mandated meetings, sped teachers have access to teleconference lines and NSBSD zoom accounts. If in-school meetings are possible based on CDC and local restrictions, masks and social distancing will be implemented.

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## Continuity of Services

NSBSD anticipates opening schools with face-to-face instruction within the school buildings. If instruction is interrupted due to COVID-19 restrictions, NSBSD will work to increase internet accessibility in schools and at student's alternative educational setting. Social emotional supports will continue in collaboration with local mental health facilities. NSBSD will utilize on-line programs and remote instructional platforms (zoom, google classroom) to provide continuity of academic and social/emotional supports.

For meals, seating may be assigned and marked to support social distancing. Students will eat in the cafeteria or classrooms. Meals may be provided in disposable to-go containers, if needed. NSBSD will increase restrictions for in-school eating and social distancing as per the CDC Guidelines and local community concerns brought about by an outbreak of COVID-19. If deemed necessary, NSBSD will work in collaboration with each site to establish a pick-or or delivery system to ensure students are receiving breakfast and lunch.

## Periodic Review

NSBSD will review the Districtwide Mitigation Plan through the FY 22 process provided by the Sr. Leadership Team. This process will include information provided in collaboration with local public health providers. The Plan will be reviewed on a monthly basis, or as needed, to support changes in local COVID-19 cases and CDC guidelines to ensure student and community safety.

Each site will be responsible to establish a local Team to develop a site-based Mitigation Plan. This Plan will be available to parents, with COVID—19 updates, at [www.nsbsd.org](http://www.nsbsd.org)