

A Safe Return to School 2021-2022 School Year



Maine Department of Education

September 14, 2021

9:00 am



Strategic Priorities

- Inspire TRUST in our organization, and in our public education system
- Develop, support, and sustain a robust EDUCATOR WORKFORCE
- Promote EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE and EQUITY for all Maine learners
- Ensure STUDENT and SCHOOL SAFETY, HEALTH, and WELLBEING
- Support a CULTURE of INNOVATION and CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT, led by all experts in the field
- Foster and strengthen the capacities of our Department of Education WORKFORCE.

Covid-19 Update

- Maine is experiencing a sharp increase in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations driven by the Delta variant and felt predominantly by those who are not vaccinated
- Cases detected in schools are also increasing as COVID becomes more prevalent in communities
- Vaccination rates are collected for public reporting by DHHS
- At this time DOE is posting weekly confirmed outbreaks

US CDC Guidance

In 2020-2021, in the absence of useful federal guidance, Maine CDC and Maine DOE released our 2020-2021 Framework for Returning to In-Person Instruction

In recent months, US CDC and US DOE have provided clear and specific health and safety guidance for in-person education

To prevent confusion, Maine CDC adopted US CDC's Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools

US CDC Guidance

In addition to requiring face coverings indoors, schools should:

- Implement hand hygiene protocols
- Ensure adequate ventilation
- Utilize enhanced cleaning processes
- Maximize physical distancing to the extent feasible
- Consider grouping students to create smaller cohorts / minimize intermingling
- Daily symptom screening and stay home when sick

Maine CDC Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

- The SOP describes the required community health measures when a positive case is reported. Schools need to follow these steps in order to reduce virus transmission in schools
- The SOP, developed in 2020, is continually updated by Maine CDC throughout the pandemic as new information emerges
- The SOP is required by Maine CDC in accordance with their responsibilities related to communicable disease response/mitigation

SOP Defines Close Contacts



- 20-21 SY: Close contacts were anyone within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes or with direct physical touch
- 21-22 SY: Same definition: Close contacts continue to be anyone within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes or anyone with direct physical touch. **NEW** is the addition of **EXEMPTIONS TO QUARANTINE** for those close contacts

Once you Define Close Contacts, who Quarantines?

- 20-21 SY: All close contacts must quarantine for 14 days; later reduced to 10 days. Out of an abundance of caution, in 2020 it was **often entire classroom, team, or entire bus**
- 21-22 SY: All who meet definition of close contact are identified and notified, BUT there are exceptions to quarantining (minimizing disruption of in-person learning)

Table 2 of SOP

For each close contact (CC) who is asymptomatic and who has not tested positive for COVID 19, use the following matrix to determine quarantine:

| Where was the exposure?  | | Outside of school | Classroom | Bus, lunch area, or other school areas |
|--|---|-------------------|---|--|
| What exceptions do they qualify for?  | | | | |
| 1 | Fully vaccinated | No quarantine | No quarantine | No quarantine |
| 2 | Positive within 90 days and no longer infectious | No quarantine | No quarantine | No quarantine |
| 3 | Pool testing participant | Quarantine | Community quarantine/ May attend school-based activities* | Community quarantine/ May attend school-based activities* |
| 4 | School enforces mandatory masking policy, exposure was 3-6', & both CC & COVID+ case are students | Quarantine | Community & activity quarantine/May attend school-day hours** | Quarantine |
| 5 | None | Quarantine | Quarantine | Quarantine |

* Individual may attend all school and school-affiliated activities, but must maintain quarantine outside of school activities

** Students may attend class and other school-day events, but must quarantine outside of the school day

How Might Schools Reduce Quarantine Disruptions?

- Vaccination (offer clinics, communicate with families around the importance and availability of vaccination)
- Universal mask wearing indoors
- 6 ft or more of distance, whenever feasible
- Pooled testing program for weekly monitoring
- Reduce transmission in the community, and therefore in schools

BinaxNOW Pooled Testing

- Schools are prioritized to receive test kits
- Pooled testing continues to be increasing statewide
- As of Friday, 393 schools have signed on for pooled testing, with 66 up and operational. There have been 934 tests run and 36+ pools. (3.8% positivity rate)

Continued Emergency Response & Deployment of Support

- Federal Education Relief
- BinaxNow Pooled Testing
- Social Emotional and Mental Health Support
- Innovation – RREV & MOOSE
- Daily Office Hours and Professional Learning
- U.S. CDC Guidance & Maine CDC Standard Operating Procedure
- School Nursing Support and Technical Assistance
- Child Nutrition
- Assessment & Achievement
- Maine School Safety Center
- Educational Leaders Engagement
- Statewide Vaccination and School Closing Surveys
- Ventilation

School Nursing Team Support

- Contact Tracing Nurse Team of 12 retired school nurses provides outreach to close contacts, enters them into state's database.
 - Average daily close contacts week of 9/6: 1866 close contacts (highest April 15: 4921)
 - Average daily hours of support: 292 hours
- New for 2021, Public Health Regional Liaison Team- 9 nurses designated by superintendent region, offering direct support for pooled testing, contact tracing, or other technical assistance.
- New Tele-health Nursing Option for Schools
 - Funded in partnership with DHHS

PreK-12 Education for All

- Expanding pre-k programs
- Mobile Assessment Unit bringing psychological evaluations to remote and rural areas of the state
- Expanding CDS run preschool classrooms in areas with unmet need

Innovation – MOOSE

MOOSE Year One

- 364 Maine educators representing 119 school districts (from all 16 counties)
- 300 modules developed
- More than 200,000 site visits
- Nearly 20,000 site users

MOOSE Year Two

- 5 distinguished educators
- PK-12, integrated learning progressions in computer science, career exploration, history of Holocaust and genocide, climate education, and STEAM
- Over 100 educators developing modules for phase 2 (September 2021-March 2022)

Innovation – Assessment Redesign

Assessment & Accountability Redesign

- 80 educators engaged
 - Regional diversity and representation
 - Variety of educator and administrative roles
 - Successes, Challenges, Barriers & Priorities identified
- Work groups to reconvene beginning October 2021
- Smaller focus groups convening
 - Administrators, Educators, Families in mixed cohorts
 - Week commencing 9/20/21
 - Focus on perceptions of assessment

Social Emotional Learning

An established best practice that builds student resilience, sense of safety and academic achievement while reducing school violence, truancy, and discipline.

SEL4ME: Maine's free pK-12, Social Emotional Learning program

- 48 schools
 - 7,000 students
 - 55,000 modules used since Nov 2020
-
- Social Emotional Learning Instruction Training: Over 1500 contact hours accessed by educators
 - Adult Social Emotional Development Training: Over 500 contact hours accessed by educators

School Based Mental Health

- Weekly Content Hour: Over 1/3 of Maine school mental health support positions registered for a weekly content hour that focuses on student staff and community mental health resources and support
 - Over 6,000 contact hours accessed by educators focusing on school based mental health
- Free, DOE developed trainings:
 - Over 5,500 contact hours accessed in:
 - Supporting student mental health
 - Best practice, trauma informed approaches
 - Educator and school leadership wellbeing and support

Maine School Safety Center (MSSC)

- Person Protective Equipment Distribution 7,676,168.00 items delivered
- Ongoing support for the development of school-based Emergency Operation Plans, including pandemic planning
- School Resource Officer (SRO) Summit & Maine Criminal Justice Academy (MCJA) SRO Academy: DOE developed 40-hour training
 - Over 10hrs of training focusing on best practice supports including mental health, SEL, relationship engagement, and restorative practices
- Developing evidence based Behavioral Threat Assessment program and support for schools

Child Nutrition

- Summer meals were offered at 650 sites
- DOE and DHHS continued collaboration to support Pandemic-EBT
- U.S. Department of Agriculture extended free meals for the duration of the 2021-2022 school year during educational days. CACFP may operate during noneducational day.
- Meal application support and summer marketing campaign (PSAs, local news, fact flyers, etc.)
- Farm and Sea to School - 7,000 lbs. of Maine white fish donated to schools

Air Quality Projects

State Funds

During the 2020 application cycle, \$4,828,659 was approved for (11) indoor air quality projects

Revolving renovation funds available approximately \$49.1M

Federal Funds

SAUs have allocated \$16 million for air quality projects:

- unit ventilators and heating controls, HVAC system with new rubber flex connector, air Handling Units, bipolar ionization system, rooftop HVAC units that allow the highest level of air filtration through HEPA filters, stand-alone air purifiers for classrooms

Rulemaking: The Maine State Board will vote on Chapters 60, 61, and 125 on September 15

Federal Emergency Relief Programs

Funding established in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act, and the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act.

| Authorizing Act | Award Name | Award Amount | Expenditures | Encumbrances | Balance |
|---|-----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| CARES <small>enacted March 27, 2020</small> | ESSER I | 43,793,319 | 18,081,023 | 24,555,047 | 1,157,249 |
| | CRF | 342,000,000 | 292,336,880 | 45,119,012 | 4,544,108 |
| | GEER I | 9,273,788 | 6,798,608 | 1,179,389 | 1,295,792 |
| | RREV | 16,958,613 | 321,912 | 3,120,670 | 13,516,031 |
| | Child Nutrition | 27,701,541 | 27,701,541 | - | - |
| CRRSA <small>enacted December 27, 2020</small> | ESSER II | 183,138,601 | 16,249,534 | 151,251,336 | 15,637,731 |
| | GEER II | 4,082,962 | 11,534 | 494,466 | 3,576,962 |
| | EANS I | 12,751,099 | 50,945 | 10,542 | 12,689,612 |
| ARP <small>enacted March 11, 2021</small> | ESSER III | 411,303,282 | - | - | 411,303,282 |
| | EANS II | 12,527,260 | - | - | 12,527,260 |
| | ARP-HCY | 2,694,256 | - | - | 2,694,256 |

ESSER: Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund

CRF: Coronavirus Relief Fund

GEER: Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund

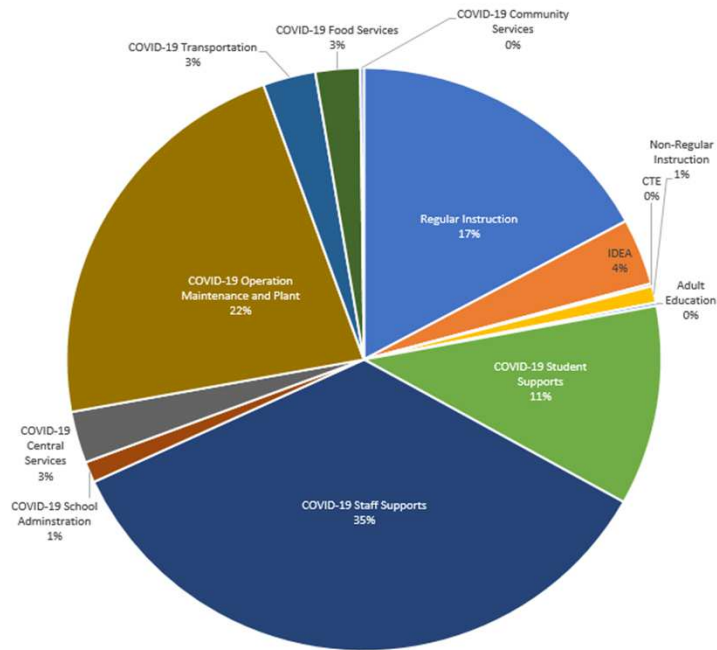
RREV: Rethinking Remote Education Venture

EANS: Emergency Assistance for Non-public Schools

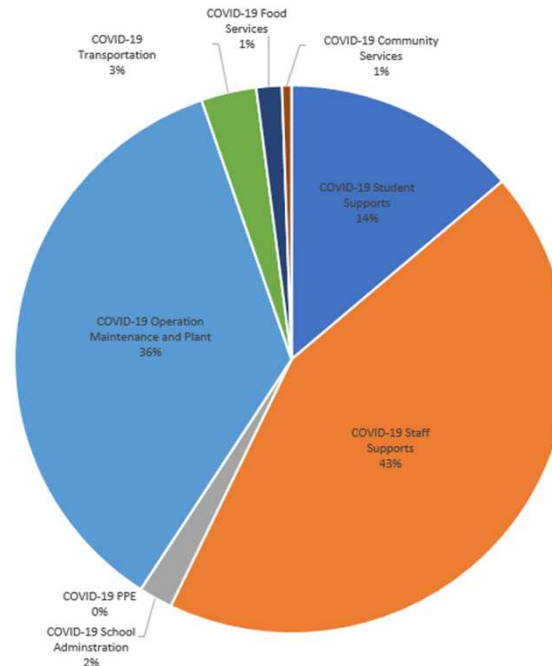
ARP-HCY: American Rescue Plan - Homeless Children and Youth

CARES & CRRSA ESSER

CARES ESSER
Application Budgets as of September 13, 2021



CRRSA ESSER
Application Budgets as of September 13, 2021



Maine DOE – Report Backs

- DOE has more than 50 report backs for the 130th 2nd Legislative Session
- A list of all required report backs are publicly available here:

<https://www.maine.gov/doe/about/laws/summary/130>

Thank you for this opportunity.

We will now welcome questions.