



Dr. Matthew L. Beck
Superintendent of Schools

November 29, 2023

Greetings Sparta Community,

Our district is currently updating our [Safe Return to School Plan](#), which is one of the components required for the continuation of receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funding through the federal ARP Act.

Additional information pertaining to ARP and ESSER provided by the New Jersey Department of Education states:

“ The ARP Act provides an additional \$122 billion in Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) to States and school districts to help safely reopen, sustain the safe operation of schools, and address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the nation’s students. As with the previous ESSER funds available under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, and the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA), the purpose of the additional funding is to support local educational agencies (LEAs) in preparing for and responding to the impacts of COVID-19 on educators, students, and families.”

Additionally, according to the New Jersey Department of Education, the ARP Act requires each LEA that receives ARP ESSER funds to develop, maintain, and regularly update a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services for all schools. The ARP Act further requires that the LEA seek public comment on the Safe Return Plan and take those comments into account in finalization of the Safe Return Plan.

Pursuant to the above requirements, particularly that of soliciting public comment for the Safe Return Plan, I am inviting our community to offer input on our plan submission by clicking [this link](#) and accessing our public comment Google Form survey. The survey allows for input in each of the categories required as part of the Safe Return Plan.

I appreciate your feedback and input in this required component of the process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matthew L. Beck".

Dr. Matthew L. Beck
Superintendent of Schools