



## BRANCHBURG TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

"Excellence in Education"

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**Rebecca Gensel, Superintendent**

June 14, 2021

Dear Branchburg Families,

In March of 2021, President Biden signed the Federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act, Public Law 117-2, into law. The ARP Act provides additional funding through the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) fund 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. 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.

This linked [Safe Return to Schools](#) Plan is the required document that we will be submitting on behalf of the Branchburg Township School District. As you will see, it is a broad overview of our plan for a safe return to school in September. Although not specifically outlined in this document, the Board of Education, the Administrative Team, and I will be allocating the funding primarily to support smaller class sizes by hiring additional teachers, addressing the social/emotional learning needs of our staff, and ensuring the safety and cleanliness of our school environment.

You are invited to share your thoughts on this plan via email to: [safetreturn@branchburg.k12.nj.us](mailto:safetreturn@branchburg.k12.nj.us) or by submitting a public comment to the Board of Education via the email address: [publiccomment@branchburg.k12.nj.us](mailto:publiccomment@branchburg.k12.nj.us). The Public Comment email address will open 24 hours prior to the meeting and close once the meeting has begun. You are also invited to attend the meeting in person to share your thoughts and ideas regarding our return to school in September. The Board meeting will be held in the Board of Education offices adjacent to Branchburg Central Middle School and will begin at 6:00pm on Thursday evening, June 17th. Due to Board training and recognition of our District retirees which will be taking place at the beginning of the meeting, we expect to begin our agenda items closer to 8:00pm if you should wish to attend for public comment.

Your support throughout this school year has been greatly appreciated, and I look forward to developing a plan with you that best serves the students of Branchburg Township.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Gensel  
Superintendent