



ARP ESSER Health and Safety Plan Guidance & Template

Section 2001(i)(1) of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires each local education agency (LEA) that receives funding under the ARP Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund to develop and make publicly available on the LEA's website a *Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan*, hereinafter referred to as a *Health and Safety Plan*.

Based on ARP requirements, 90 percent of ARP ESSER funds will be distributed to school districts and charter schools based on their relative share of Title I-A funding in FY 2020-2021. **Given Federally required timelines, LEAs eligible to apply for and receive this portion of the ARP ESSER funding must submit a Health and Safety Plan that meets ARP Act requirements to the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) by Friday, July 30, 2021, regardless of when the LEA submits its ARP ESSER application.**

Each LEA must create a Health and Safety Plan that addresses how it will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff, and which will serve as local guidelines for all instructional and non-instructional school activities during the period of the LEA's ARP ESSER grant. The Health and Safety Plan should be tailored to the unique needs of each LEA and its schools and must take into account public comment related to the development of, and subsequent revisions to, the Health and Safety Plan.

The ARP Act and U.S. Department of Education rules require Health and Safety plans include the following components:

1. How the LEA will, to the greatest extent practicable, implement 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 in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning;
2. How the LEA will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address the students' academic needs, and students' and staff members' social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services;
3. How the LEA will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff and the extent to which it has adopted policies, and a description of any such policy on each of the following safety recommendations established by the CDC:

- a. Universal and correct wearing of [masks](#);
- b. Modifying facilities to allow for [physical distancing](#) (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);
- c. [Handwashing and respiratory etiquette](#);
- d. [Cleaning](#) and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving [ventilation](#);
- e. [Contact tracing](#) in combination with [isolation](#) and [quarantine](#), in collaboration with State and local health departments;
- f. [Diagnostic](#) and screening testing;
- g. Efforts to provide COVID-19 [vaccinations to school communities](#);
- h. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and
- i. Coordination with state and local health officials.

The LEA's Health and Safety Plan must be approved by its governing body and posted on the LEA's publicly available website by July 30, 2021.* The ARP Act requires LEAs to post their Health and Safety Plans online in a language that parents/caregivers can understand, or, if it is not practicable to provide written translations to an individual with limited English proficiency, be orally translated. The plan also must be provided in an alternative format accessible, upon request, by a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Each LEA will upload in the eGrants system its updated Health and Safety Plan and webpage URL where the plan is located on the LEA's publicly available website.

The ARP Act requires LEAs to review their Health and Safety Plans at least every six months during the period of the LEA's ARP ESSER grant. LEAs also must review and update their plans whenever there are significant changes to the CDC recommendations for K-12 schools. Like the development of the plan, all revisions must be informed by community input and reviewed and approved by the governing body prior to posting on the LEA's publicly available website.

LEAs may use the template to revise their current Health and Safety Plans to meet ARP requirements and ensure all stakeholders are fully informed of the LEA's plan to safely resume instructional and non-instructional school activities, including in-person learning, for the current school year. An LEA may use a different plan template or format provided it includes all the elements required by the ARP Act, as listed above.

* The July 30 deadline applies only to school districts and charter schools that received federal Title I-A funds in FY 2020-2021 and intend to apply for and receive ARP ESSER funding.

Additional Resources

LEAs are advised to review the following resources when developing their Health and Safety Plans:

- [CDC K-12 School Operational Strategy](#)
- [PDE Resources for School Communities During COVID-19](#)
- [PDE Roadmap for Education Leaders](#)
- [PDE Accelerated Learning Through an Integrated System of Support](#)
- [PA Department of Health - COVID-19 in Pennsylvania](#)

Health and Safety Plan Summary: (Kathy Krueger)

Initial Effective Date: (August 30th, 2020)

Date of Last Review: (June 30, 2021)

Date of Last Revision: April 2020

How will the LEA, to the greatest extent practicable, support prevention and mitigation policies in line with the most up-to-date guidance from the CDC for the reopening and operation of school facilities to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning?

GCMS will be operating on a full time in person schedule for Fall 2021. GCMS will continue to follow our six pillars to health and safety: physical distancing, health monitoring, masking, preventative hygiene, cleaning/disinfecting, and training. All staff will be provided training on the updated Health and Safety Plan and current CDC guidelines prior to the start of school. GCMS will be prepared to shift to a virtual model at any time during the 2021 school year if a school closure is imposed.

1. How will the LEA ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address the students' academic needs, and students' and staff members' social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services?

Ongoing professional development and periodic surveys will be provided to assess student and staff mental health. In addition, families will be surveyed prior to the start of school to assess parent needs and understanding of all Covid strategies that are in place. A psychologist on staff will assist the administrative team with supporting the emotional well-being of students and staff. Staff and students eat in the classroom setting, and all are encouraged to eat outdoors at our picnic areas weather permitting.

2. Use the table below to explain how the LEA will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff and the extent to which it has adopted policies, and a description of any such policy on each of the following safety recommendations established by the CDC.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
a. Universal and correct wearing of masks ;	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All staff and/or students who do not qualify for the mask exemption are required to wear a face mask or face shield when in a congregate setting.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students and staff must wear a mask/face shield to participate in out of classroom activities • Staff may remove masks in a private workspace or in non-congregate settings • Provide retraining of proper mask wearing and usage • Reinforce use of PPE for all staff • Vaccinated staff will follow current CDC guidelines pertaining to mask wearing. • Mask washing procedures will be reinforced • KN95 masks will be available to staff
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 feet physical distancing will be maintained to the greatest extent possible • Furniture is arranged to avoid clustering • Classrooms will maintain a “community bubble” concept • Students who qualify for the mask exemption will not travel throughout the building, unless in case of an emergency • Sharing of instructional materials will be minimized to every extent possible • Maintain community bubbles to the greatest extent possible • Use of mask or face shield when using corridors • Individual desks are set up in every classroom for staff to eat • A large gym has been provided for staff to eat lunch in a socially distanced environment • Picnic tables are available for every classroom to encourage eating outdoors
<p>c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand washing training completed with all staff • Sinks are available in every classroom

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual reminders of hand washing protocols are posted throughout building • Hand sanitizer available to all staff and students in classrooms and in common areas
<p>d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High frequency cleaning and disinfecting schedule – janitorial staff use an EPA registered high grade disinfectant and cleaning process • Use of a misting schedule weekly for added layer of sanitation • Classroom equipment is wiped down in between uses • Adaptive equipment is cleaned between uses. • Merv 13 filters installed throughout school • HVAC preventative maintenance protocol in place
<p>e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact tracing is mandatory for all staff entering in classrooms and any other congregate setting (gym, lunchroom) • Signs are posted at every door for signing in • Contract tracing forms are entered into a spreadsheet daily • A well-ventilated room with a sink has been identified for quarantine purposes • Emergency bin with PPE is stationed at the entrance of the quarantine
<p>f. Diagnostic and screening testing;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families will be asked to temperature scan and assess for symptoms of illness at home before arriving to school • Covid sick policy is in effect, with tracking by a monitoring team to follow up with all staff who report symptoms • Covid testing is provided through Worknet •

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<p>g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cades held multiple vaccine clinics, under the Phase 1 classification, to offer all staff and families the opportunity to get vaccinated. • Information about new and upcoming vaccine clinics are shared with families
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students who qualify for the mask exemption will not travel outside of their classroom, unless in case of an emergency • Reinforcement protocols introduced for students to practice mask/shield wearing • Individual space outside of the classroom is provided for all nebulizer treatments
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<p>Follow all guidelines in accordance with the following agencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDC • CCHD (Chester Co. Health Dept) • CHOP Policy Lab • PDE