



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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: Susquehanna Community S.D.

Initial Effective Date: August 17, 2021

Date of Last Review: June 20, 2022

Date of Last Revision: February 16, 2022

1. 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 in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning?

The school district will review all CDC requirements and recommendations as they are released. The superintendent of schools shall check for CDC updates on a biweekly basis. The district's Health and Safety Committee will meet no less than quarterly during the 2021/2022 school year to review recommendations and requirements issued by the CDC. The Health and Safety Committee will issue action plans to each school of the district to be followed based upon their review and analysis of CDC requirements and recommendations.

2. 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?

The school district will ensure continuity of services when live, in-person instruction is interrupted through the following strategies:

- Ensure that every student has a working technology device and Internet access to receive instruction through Google Classroom.**
- Ensure all teachers have the technology and skills to teach effectively through Google Classroom.**
- Conduct mental health check in's with all students and staff members during periods of virtual and live, in-person instruction.**
- Maintain the food service operation with The Nutrition Group to ensure that district food service employees will work with The Nutrition Group to provide meals during periods of school closure.**

3. 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 <u>masks</u> ;	<p>-The school district will follow all state and federal mandates or orders related to indoor and outdoor masking. The district will ensure that every employee and student has access to school provided masks if the employees and/or students do not have access to masks. Employees will be trained in the proper wearing of masks and will in turn, train and monitor students to ensure proper mask wearing. The district will ensure that every student and employee has access to a mask on an as needed basis.</p> <p>-The district encourages all unvaccinated and vaccinated employees and students to wear masks during the 2021/22 school year or until time as the Centers for Disease Control removes its recommendation for all unvaccinated and vaccinated persons to wear masks in school settings.</p> <p>-The Superintendent may temporarily mandate masks to be worn by all, vaccinated and unvaccinated, students, staff and visitors during the school day and at extracurricular events if Covid-19 conditions within the County and/or school buildings warrant until such conditions permit the mandate to be lifted.</p> <p>-Masking of unvaccinated and vaccinated individuals in the district will be mandatory if Susquehanna County is in the high transmission phase of Covid-19. The HIGH PHASE occurs when there are equal to or greater than 100 new cases in a population of 100,000 or a testing positivity rate of 10% or higher.</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p>Mandated masking of all employees and students in either building will occur if either building has a rolling 14-day case count of three or more cases.</p> <p>-The district may request proof of Covid-19 vaccination from vaccinated employees and students.</p> <p>-As per the CDC's mandate of January 29, 2021, all individuals, regardless of vaccination status, are required to wear masks while being transported through district sponsored transportation. Drivers, when alone in the transportation vehicle, are not required to wear masks.</p> <p>-Masks will not be required when employees or students are outdoors regardless of transmission level or rolling 14-day case counts.</p> <p>Athletes participating in a sport or contest will not be required to wear masks indoors or outdoors.</p> <p>a. 1/19/2022: The Board of Education will vote on the issue of converting to a masking optional policy on February 16, 2022. If a masking optional policy is adopted by the Board of Education on February 16, 2022, the policy would go into effect on February 21, 2022.</p> <p>b. 2/16/2022: Effective February 21, 2022, the Susquehanna Community School District will move to optional indoor masking in the buildings of the school district. The movement to optional indoor masking is a result of a large decline in cases in Pennsylvania and the entire nation along with the recognition that there has been ample time for parents to have their children vaccinated and for employees to acquire the vaccine</p>

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	<p>should they have had the desire to do so. The move to optional indoor masking is based upon current conditions in our nation, state and county over the past few weeks. However, should a large increase in cases in the school district, Susquehanna County or Pennsylvania occur in the future, mandatory indoor masking may return to the school district as a strategy to prevent the transmission of the virus. Individuals identified as close contacts and those who are recovering from Covid-19 will be mandated to mask in all school settings for the specified time periods. Masking on all district transportation will continue as per federal mandate.</p>
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<p>The district will maintain three feet of physical distance between students in the vast majority of all settings. The district, if necessary, may utilize current non-instructional space for instructional purposes to support social distancing. The district may use a hybrid learning approach to reduce the number of students in the schools of the district at any given time. The district will have items in classrooms removed to reduce classroom congestion and allow for physical distancing to the maximum extent possible.</p>
<p>c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</p>	<p>Handwashing supplies will be made available to all students and staff members. Students will be taught handwashing and respiratory etiquette at multiple points during the school year.</p>
<p>d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</p>	<p>Ventilation will be improved during the 2021/22 school year due to classroom-based air-purifiers being added to each and every classroom in the district. Air purifiers will also be added to offices and other areas where groups congregate. Facilities will be cleaned and disinfected daily. Two maintenance positions specifically focused on disinfecting the</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p>schools will be maintained for the 2021/22 school year. The majority of district bathrooms will be converted to touchless bathrooms during the 2021/22 school year.</p>
<p>e. <u>Contact tracing</u> in combination with <u>isolation</u> and <u>quarantine</u>, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<p>When identified positive cases of Covid-19 exist in the District, the District will conduct and support contact tracing. The district will require isolation and quarantine of infected individuals and close contacts, unless close contacts participate in the TTS (Test To Stay) Program. The Superintendent will work in consultation with the PA Department of Health to determine when school closures are necessary as a response to Covid-19 cases.</p> <p>i. Effective 1/19/2022: SCSD will conduct contact tracing to identify close contacts. The PA Dept. of Health's HAN 619 guidance will be utilized to determine those that are considered to be close contacts. Symptomatic close contacts will be required to quarantine according to HAN 619 guidance. Asymptomatic close contacts can continue with in-person learning and activities but will be required to wear a mask in ALL settings for 10 days. Close contacts who choose not to mask properly will be required to quarantine at home.</p>
<p>f. <u>Diagnostic</u> and screening testing;</p>	<p>The district is participating in symptomatic testing and close contact testing through the TTS (Test To Stay) Program. All athletes will be screened daily when Susquehanna County is in the substantial or high phase of transmission. Screening shall consist of checking the students temperature and asking the student general health questions.</p>
<p>g. Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to school communities</u>;</p>	<p>The district has conducted four separate vaccination clinics for different age groups between December of 2020 and December 8th of 2021. The district will</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	continue to host vaccination clinics on the school campus whenever the opportunity arises.
h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	The district and IEP Teams, when necessary, will analyze the impact of every health and safety policy on students with disabilities. The district will provide the appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities to both ensure their success and the health and safety of the regular education population.
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	The district will report all positive cases of Covid-19 and close contacts to the PA Department of Health. The district will coordinate prevention and mitigation efforts to ensure alignment with requirements and recommendations issued by the PA Dept. of Health.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **the Susquehanna Community School District** reviewed the Health and Safety Plan on **June 20, 2022**.

The plan review was approved by a vote of:

8 Yes 1 absent
 No

Affirmed on: **June 22, 2022**.

By:

Jamie Koziol
(Signature* of Board President)

Jamie Koziol
(Print Name of Board President)

*Electronic signatures on this document are acceptable using one of the two methods detailed below.

Option A: The use of actual signatures is encouraged whenever possible. This method requires that the document be printed, signed, scanned, and then submitted.

Option B: If printing and scanning are not possible, add an electronic signature using the resident Microsoft Office product signature option, which is free to everyone, no installation or purchase needed.