



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: ~~October 16, 2023~~ June 19, 2024

Date of Last Revision: August 3, 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 will check for CDC updates weekly. The district's Health and Safety Committee will meet at least once each semester during the 2022/23 school year to review requirements and recommendations issued from the CDC. The Health and Safety Committee will issue action plans to each school to be followed based upon the committee's 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, including but not limited to 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 needed 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; and
- 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
<p>a. Universal and correct wearing of <u>masks</u>;</p>	<p>The school district will follow all state and federal mandates related to indoor and outdoor masking. The district will ensure all students and employees have access to masks. Employees and students will be trained in the proper wearing of masks. The Superintendent of Schools may temporarily mandate masks to be worn by all, vaccinated or unvaccinated, individuals while on school sponsored transportation, during the school day and during extracurricular activities if Covid-19 conditions within the school district or within the local communities warrant it.</p>
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for <u>physical distancing</u> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<p>The district will adopt social distancing requirements as conditions warrant. If necessary, the district will use current non-instructional space for instructional purposes to support social distancing. Classroom reconfiguration and classroom set up will be modified, if necessary, to support reduced classroom congestion and allow for physical distancing to the maximum extent possible.</p>
<p>c. <u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</u>;</p>	<p>Handwashing supplies will be made available to all students and staff. The majority of bathrooms will be "touchless" for the 2022/23 school year. Students will be taught handwashing protocols and cough/sneeze etiquette.</p>
<p>d. <u>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation</u>;</p>	<p>Additional air purification devices were added to all classrooms during the 2021/22 school year. Facilities will be cleaned and disinfected daily.</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<p>e. <u>Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine</u>, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<p>The district will conduct contact tracing to identify close contacts if required by the PA Department of Health. Currently, Individuals with active Covid-19 will be required to quarantine for five days from symptom onset and be recommended to wear a mask for five days after quarantine is over. Symptomatic close contacts, if required to be identified, will be required to quarantine according to HAN 619 guidance. Asymptomatic close contacts, if required to be identified, do not have to quarantine but will be recommended mask in all school settings for 10 days. If close contacts are identified through mandated contact tracing, close contacts who choose not to mask at school will be required to quarantine at home. If an outbreak occurs, the district may mandate masking for five additional days upon returning from isolation for Covid and the district may conduct contact tracing. Close contacts shall be required to mask, if asymptomatic, during an outbreak. An outbreak will be defined as increased absenteeism facility-wide with parents and staff reporting Covid-19 compatible symptoms over a three day period, regardless of epi linkage. The absenteeism rate would consist of five percent or more of each buildings total population being absent with Covid.</p>
<p>f. <u>Diagnostic and screening testing</u>;</p>	<p>The district may continue to utilize the Test to Stay Program during the 23/24 school year if the program is reinstated by the Commonwealth and if there is a need to do so. The screening of athletes may occur if Covid-19 conditions in the school community or within the local communities warrant it.</p>
<p>g. <u>Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities</u>;</p>	<p>The district held numerous vaccination clinics during the 20/21 and 21/22 school year. Additional vaccination clinics may be held at the school whenever the opportunities arise.</p>
<p>h. <u>Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies</u>; and</p>	<p>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</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<p>the appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities to both ensure their success and the health and safety of the school community.</p> <p>The district will report, as required, all positive cases of Covid-19 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 Department of Health.</p>

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Susquehanna Comm. S.D** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on June 19, 2024.

The plan as approved by a vote of:

 9 Yes

 0 No

Affirmed On: June 19, 2024

By:

Amanda Cook
(Signature* of Board President)

Amanda Cook
(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 in electronic signature using the resident Microsoft Office product signature option, which is free to everything, no installation or purchase needed.