



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: Williamsport Area School District

Initial Effective Date: August 1, 2021

Date of Last Review: February 1, 2022

Date of Last Revision: February 1, 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?

We will monitor mandates from Pennsylvania Department of Education and Pennsylvania Department of Health on a daily basis.

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 District has processes to switch instructional platforms as needed these additional platforms include provisions for academic needs, and students' and staff members' social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services.

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> ;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools will open with mask coverings as optional at the personal choice and preferences of our families. • As mandated by the state of Pennsylvania, masking is still required for public transportation/school buses, to and from school, including athletic transportation.
b. Modifying facilities to allow for <u>physical distancing</u> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Pre-K to 12 schools should implement strategies that limit the number of individuals in classrooms and other learning spaces, and interactions between groups of students. • All schools should have protocols for distancing student desks/seating and other social distancing practices that allows at least 3 feet of separation among students and staff throughout the day

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain a distance of at least 3 feet from other adults to the maximum extent feasible • Maintain at least 3 feet from students, whenever possible and when not disruptive to the educational process. • Students, teachers and other staff are strongly encouraged to follow social distancing throughout the day with 3 feet of separation between desks and other seating
<p>c. <u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage handwashing and classroom sanitation practices. • Use of hand sanitizer dispensers in rooms and throughout the building • Teach students how to disinfect their personal space • Teach/remind students of coughing/sneezing etiquette • Signs for healthy measures posted in restrooms all classrooms and key locations throughout the buildings.
<p>d. <u>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prior to the start of the school year the district will provide all custodial and maintenance employees with an in-service. • This in-service will ensure that appropriate procedures are in place and employees have received proper training in these procedures. Each employee will be provided with these detailed procedures. By working with the custodians, the head custodian in each building will monitor and reinforce procedures to ensure they are being followed properly. • Routine daily disinfecting of facilities will continue to occur. Additional disinfecting measures, such as fogging/spraying of facilities, will be taken should a positive case occur in a facility. • The Custodial Supervisor and Assistant Supervisor of Maintenance & Facilities will on a random basis selected areas in each building to evaluate. If the head custodian notes multiple areas of deficiencies that are not corrected, the Custodial Supervisor or Assistant Supervisor of Maintenance & Facilities will conduct an evaluation. The district will follow PDE and DOH recommendations as they are provided to the district. • The HVAC system will be monitored to make sure it is operating properly. Fresh air into the classrooms is monitored by CO2 sensors to make sure the proper fresh air is being maintained. Filters will be monitored and cleaned or changed when necessary.

ARP ESSER Requirement

Strategies, Policies, and Procedures

	<p>This will be noted on the monthly building inspection sheets.</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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact tracing will be completed in the district based on current CDC guidance for school and home settings. • Students and staff who are identified as a close contact to someone who has tested positive in the school setting do NOT need to quarantine from school, but are required to wear a mask in school at all times for 10 days from the date of exposure. • Any student who is not willing or medically able to wear a mask in school following being identified as a close contact will need to quarantine for 10 days and can return on day 11. • Staff who are identified as a close contact will be required to mask for 10 days and do not have the option to quarantine, unless approved by Human Resources • For a positive case in the home setting or household exposure, different quarantine guidelines than school exposure are to be followed. This can include up to a 10-day quarantine depending on vaccination status with household members. • A weekly notification to families to check the District's dashboard via link provided in a text.
<p>f. <u>Diagnostic</u> and screening testing;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All staff in the district will be provided basic training on protocols for monitoring children for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 based on the most current guidance from the CDC. • The training will be provided through one of the district's learning management platforms. Staff will successfully complete a quiz at the end of the training to ensure understanding, and this completion will be monitored to ensure compliance. • All health services staff in the district will be provided comprehensive training by the Director of Health services on protocols and procedures for monitoring staff and students health in relation to COVID-19 for the 2021-2022 school year. This training will be provided in person and with support and advice from the district's pandemic coordinator and Pennsylvania Department of Health. • Students and staff who exhibit COVID symptoms based on CDC guidance will be required to quarantine from school until they receive a negative COVID test or can provide a doctor's note to return to school.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students and staff who exhibit COVID symptoms per the CDC guidelines during the school day will be screened by district nursing staff and quarantined following the guidelines in section (e) of the plan.
g. Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to school communities</u> ;	The district will coordinate with community partners and rely upon UPMC and River Valley Health and Dental to lead vaccination clinics within the community.
h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools will open with mask coverings as optional at the personal choice and preferences of our families. Any student who cannot wear a mask or face shield due to a medical condition, including those with respiratory issues that impede breathing, a mental health condition, or disability, and students who would be unable to remove a mask without assistance are not required to wear face coverings. Accommodations for masking on buses will be recognized per the IEP team. Individuals who are communicating or seeking to communicate with someone who is hearing impaired or who has another disability, where the ability to see the mouth is essential to communication, are not required to wear a mask; however, individuals should consider using another type of face covering such as a plastic face shield.
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	Depending upon the public health conditions in the county, the district's plan needs to be flexible, adaptable, and change with new developments. District leadership will follow and consult with state health officials, Pandemic Coordinator, and health-field experts to determine whether schools will remain open, closed, or if modifications to the Health and Safety Plan are needed. It should be expected that there may be a cycling back and forth throughout the school year between less restrictive to more restrictive designations as public health indicators improve or worsen. When and if a change would need to occur from one phase to another, the district will clearly communicate these changes to their families through SwiftK-12, district website, and social media outlets.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for Williamsport Area School District reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on February 1, 2022.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

7 Yes
0 No

Affirmed on: (INSERT DATE: February 1, 2022)

By:

Lori A Baer

(Signature* of Board President)

Lori A Baer

(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.