



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: Susquenita School District

Initial Effective Date: July 01, 2021

Date of Last Review: December 05, 2023

Date of Last Revision: July 01, 2021

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?

Prior to the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year, the district convened a committee to develop a comprehensive health and safety plan. Early in the year, students were introduced to a hybrid model and then transitioned into full-time face-to-face instruction. Through the continued mitigation efforts, our students successfully attended face-to-face. Susquenita School District School Board created a COVID-19 advisory group. This group had several meetings with district administration and nursing staff to discuss what is working, and what may need to be changed. The group will continue to recommend for the 2021-2022 school year face-to-face instruction for all levels. The revised 2021-2022 health and safety plan will be reviewed regularly and posted to our District website. The COVID-19 Advisory Group and District Administration also continue to review guidance and information provided from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) and the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE).

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

Continuity of Service:

Susquenita School District will continue to meet the needs of students through:

1. Continue to differentiate instruction in the classroom to adjust instruction for all learners.
2. Continue to support the social-emotional needs of all learners.

Academic Supports:

1. Identify learning growth and gaps through the use of iReady, Reflex Math, and the use of the Classroom Diagnostic Tools (CDT), PSSA and Keystone Exams, and reading benchmark assessment data.
2. Empower teachers to use a variety of instructional strategies to engage, challenge, and differentiate instruction for students.
3. Support students who are quarantined or absent from school due to illness through asynchronous learning and as appropriate, synchronous opportunities.

Social-Emotional Support:

The Susquenita School District will continue, as was provided during the 2020-2021 school year student assistant programs. Students may refer to a peer or themselves. Parents, staff, teachers, and students may also make a referral. Susquenita Elementary School will continue to utilize the school-wide positive behavior support (SWPBS) system, “the High Five”. The SWPBS encourages positive behavior through a tiered system of support. Each school also has a child study team to analyze data and determine interventions and data for student supports. Finally, for the 2021-2022 school year the District has added an additional School Counselor to support students. Three counselors will work at the High School and teams of two will assist students at the elementary and middle school levels. This team of professionals will work together to provide a continuum of support for students.

Food Service:

The National School Lunch Program will provide free lunches to all students until June 30, 2022. Susquenita School District also provides healthy breakfast options for students.

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>;	The District will follow any state requirements or mandates related to the wearing of masks. If required, students and staff will be reminded of the correct way to wear a mask and/or face shield.
b. Modifying facilities to allow for <u>physical distancing</u> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);	Cohorting was used during 2020-21. The use of cohorting in the future will be based on the current conditions of the pandemic in our local context. Physical distance will be based on the maximum extent possible, and this will include all cafeteria areas.
c. <u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</u>;	Students will be provided age-appropriate lessons on hand-washing and hygiene.

	Students and staff will be provided access to facilities with soap and water to wash hands per CDC guidelines after using the restroom, sneezing, coughing, blowing of their nose, and before and after eating. Sanitizers with the recommended 60 percent of alcohol are available in classrooms, cafeterias, hallways, and other public spaces. The District will ensure adequate supplies (e.g., soap, paper towels, hand sanitizer, tissue) to support healthy hygiene practices. Posters and signs will be displayed throughout the district buildings on how to stop the spread of Illness.
d. <u>Cleaning</u> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <u>ventilation</u> ;	Follow CDC requirements for Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility Classrooms will be disinfected using electrostatic sprayers at least weekly. Increase ventilation through intake of outdoor air, use of fans, and the regular servicing and maintenance of the District HVAC systems.
e. <u>Contact tracing</u> in combination with <u>isolation</u> and <u>quarantine</u> , in collaboration with the State and local health departments;	School Staff will make recommendations on isolation and quarantine based on the most recent PA DOH Guidance. Students and staff experiencing symptoms should stay home. If symptoms emerge during the school day, report to the nurse for evaluation.
f. <u>Diagnostic</u> and screening testing;	Provide information to staff, students, and families related to Symptoms & Testing Follow the guidance provided by the PA Dept of Health

g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;	Provide information to our school community regarding COVID vaccination
h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	Develop for students at higher risk a student-specific plan that facilitates his/her safe return to school
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	The COVID-19 Advisory Group, Pandemic Coordinator, and school nurses will continue to collaborate and coordinate with state and local health officials.