



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: School District of Lancaster

Initial Effective Date: July 21, 2021

Date of Last Review: July 17, 2022

Date of Last Revision: January 18, 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 of Lancaster ("SDoL" or "the district") will implement the strategies, policies, and procedures outlined in the table below when required by local, state, or federal mandate, or recommended by the Center for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) or PA Department of Health (DOH). In order to ensure that the prevention and mitigation policies are in line with the most up-to-date guidance, the district administration will monitor local, state, federal mandates and CDC and DOH recommendations on an ongoing basis. When new recommendations or mandates are announced, the district will convene a group of priority team leaders to discuss the changes and recommend guideline updates to the Superintendent and Cabinet Team. As circumstances and health recommendations change, the district administration will update, publish, and communicate changes to these guidelines.

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?

Continuity of Services | Academic Needs

The district has developed a Theory of Action that outlines the efforts to ensure continuity of education. Under this structure, priority teams have been identified. Each team, whose role is to identify achievement gaps and develop plans to accelerate learning, is comprised of district and school administration and representation of each collective bargaining unit.

Families have the option of selecting from one of three learning options that best meets the needs of their student(s). The district offers (1) full onsite instruction, (2) Cyber Pathways Academy (virtual), and (3) Full Circle Learning, which is a hybrid learning model that bring Kindergarten-Grade 3 students onsite each day while allowing for both synchronous and asynchronous learning offsite.

Continuity of Services | Social, Emotional, & Mental Health Needs

The district will continue existing work that prioritizes school climate and culture in an effort to directly address the social-emotional and mental health needs of students through the following Tier 1 systems and practices of an MTSS framework: PBIS, Equity Training,

Restorative Practices, and Future Ready Lancaster (college and career). Furthermore, the district is engaged in a new initiative to build the capacity of adults with respect to emotional intelligence so that they can better care for themselves and in turn their students. The district will not only maintain the existing school-based behavioral health services in all of our buildings, but we have allotted funds to ensure students without adequate health insurance are able to access the services as well. We are adding therapeutic groups for trauma and grief by partnering with local mental health agencies. We have increased the number of mentors in our Check and Connect program, which is an evidenced-based truancy prevention program. Finally, we will provide targeted professional development opportunities for our student services staff (counselors, social workers, school psychologists, etc.) to address the anticipated student needs.

Continuity of Services | Student Health Services

The SDoL Health Services Department is providing COVID-19 case management, documentation, data collection, and education for students, families, staff and the community. The district nurses will follow guidelines in responding to individuals who are exposed to COVID-19, positive, and/or presumed positive.

The Health Services Department is dedicated to providing optimal care for students and staff while teaching and learning onsite. Providing this care has required school health rooms to implement increased infection control strategies. For effective implementation of these strategies, the health rooms adhere to specific guidelines to decrease the potential for exposure to students and/or staff who are sick.

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> ;	If required by local, state, or federal mandate or recommended by the CDC and DOH, the district will update, publish, and follow Face Covering Guidelines.
b. Modifying facilities to allow for <u>physical distancing</u> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);	If required by local, state, or federal mandate or recommended by the CDC and DOH, the district will update, publish, and follow Space Utilization & Classroom Layout Guidelines.
c. <u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</u> ;	If required by local, state, or federal mandate or recommended by the CDC and DOH, the district will update, publish, and follow Hand Washing & Sanitizing Protocols.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
d. <u>Cleaning</u> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <u>ventilation</u> ;	The district has procured and installed additional ventilation equipment per industry recommendations.
e. <u>Contact tracing</u> in combination with <u>isolation</u> and <u>quarantine</u> , in collaboration with the State and local health departments;	The district will follow COVID Reporting Guidelines, which will be maintained in accordance with local, state, or federal mandates and/or CDC and DOH recommendations.
f. <u>Diagnostic</u> and screening testing;	The district will partner with community agencies, including school-based health clinics, to provide these services.
g. Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to school communities</u> ;	The district will partner with community agencies, including school-based health clinics, to provide these services.
h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	The district will follow due process related to IDEA and ADA to accommodate these requests on a case-by-case basis.
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	The district will follow COVID Reporting Guidelines, which will be maintained in accordance with local, state, or federal mandates and/or CDC and DOH recommendations.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **The School District of Lancaster** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **Tuesday, January 18, 2022**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

9 - Yes

0 - No

Affirmed on: January 18, 2022

By: Robin Goodson



(Signature* of Board President)



(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.