

# 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:

- 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;
- How the LEA will 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;
- 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. <u>Cleaning</u> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <u>ventilation</u>;
- e. <u>Contact tracing</u> in combination with <u>isolation</u> and <u>quarantine</u>, in collaboration with State and local health departments;
- f. <u>Diagnostic</u> 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:

- <u>CDC K-12 School Operational Strategy</u>
- 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: Hampton Township School District

#### Initial Effective Date: June 15, 2021

#### Date of Last Review: February 28, 2022

#### Date of Last Revision: February 28, 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?

Hampton Township School District will develop practices and policies with the guidance provided by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) *Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools through Phased Prevention* and the Pennsylvania Department of Education's COVID-19 Resources for Pre-K to 12 Schools to ensure Safe operation of full in-person instruction and with guidance from the Allegheny County Health Department.

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?

The Hampton Township School District will provide full in-person instruction as well as Hampton Online Academy to meet student's academic and health needs. The district will closely monitor transmission rates in Allegheny County and, in consultation with the Allegheny County Health Department, will make decisions about school remote learning if indicated. Student services, including School Health, School Counseling, and Nutrition will continue to operate during a potential remote learning scenario.

 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 move from Universal Masking to Optional Masking in all settings, including transportation, activities, and athletic events beginning on March 1, 2022.
b. Modifying facilities to allow for <u>physical</u> <u>distancing</u> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);	Due to optional masking, educational and communal environments will not require additional social distancing.
c. <u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</u>	Students will be encouraged and provided with opportunities for hand washing. Signage for handwashing will be displayed to remind students of proper handwashing procedures. Adequate supplies (e.g., soap, paper towels, hand sanitizer, tissue) to support healthy hygiene practices will be available. Students will be provided access to alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Hand sanitizer will also be located in several areas of the building.
d. <u>Cleaning</u> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;	<ul> <li>The District will use the CDC's Guidance for Cleaning &amp; Disinfecting Schools.</li> <li>Frequently touched surfaces and objects within the school and on buses will be cleaned and disinfected on a regular basis. This includes, but is not limited to, door handles, sink handles, and drinking fountains.</li> <li>Instructions will be issued to ensure safe and correct storage of cleaning and disinfecting products.</li> <li><u>Ventilation</u></li> <li>Ensure HVAC systems (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems) are operating correctly.</li> <li>Adjust settings on the Building Automation systems to the maximum outside air setting.</li> <li>Classrooms and common areas will be ventilated with additional outdoor air circulation when possible, using windows and doors.</li> </ul>

	Filtration systems have been upgraded in high occupancy areas throughout the District with the addition of Bipolar Air Ionization Unit installation. The District has Implemented a plan to monitor humidity levels during the winter months.
e. <u>Contact tracing</u> in combination with <u>isolation</u> and <u>quarantine</u> , in collaboration with the State and local health departments;	<ul> <li>Parents are asked to continue to contact the school nurse or complete District forms if a student is positive for COVID-19.</li> <li>The District will no longer conduct contact tracing. Parents may voluntarily quarantine students based on close contact that might occur outside of school.</li> <li>Students and staff returning to school or work after testing positive for COVID-19 can return after 5 days and mask on days 6-10 per the CDC shortened isolation protocol. If masking is not preferred a 10 day isolation is required.</li> <li>If a student is displaying symptoms of COVID-19, they may be asked to wear a mask in the nurse's office and may be sent home due to symptoms.</li> </ul>
f. <u>Diagnostic</u> and screening testing;	All students and staff are strongly encouraged to remain home if exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19. Students and staff will consistently be made aware of the signs and symptoms of COVID- 19. Students and staff will go to the nurse immediately if feeling symptomatic. The District will share resources with the school community to help families understand when to keep children home.
g. Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to</u> <u>school communities;</u>	The District will help to publicize vaccination opportunities within the local community.
h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	Accommodations should not be necessary while the District offers optional masking.

i. Coordination with state and local health officials. The district will work closely with the ACHD for appropriate response to changing pandemic conditions.
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## Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Hampton Township School District** reviewed and approved the updated Health and Safety Plan on February 28, 2022.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

Affirmed on: February 28, 2022

By:

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(Signature\* of Board President)

#### Bryant B. Wesley, II

(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.