



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 consider 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;

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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 concerning 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

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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 Thorough an Integrated System of Support](#)
- [PA Department of Health - COVID-19 in Pennsylvania](#)

Health and Safety Plan Summary: **Charleroi Area**

Initial Effective Date: **July 28, 2020**

Date of Last Review: **July 12, 2022**

Date of Last Revision: **August 16, 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?**
 1. The CHARLEROI AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT will monitor the latest recommendations from PDE, PADOH, and CDC and update their Health and Safety Plan as needed. Board policies will be reviewed and adjusted as needed to assure compliance with the health and safety plan. The plan will be presented to the governing Board for approval when changes are necessary. Facilities and practices will be adapted to the extent possible to ensure that appropriate prevention and mitigation processes are followed. In addition to practicing standard preventative measures such as handwashing, cleaning practices, and the use of PPE when required, the CHARLEROI AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT will continue to encourage the vaccination of students and staff. The CHARLEROI AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT will continue to practice standard mitigation efforts to include reducing close contact when feasible.

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?**

Educational models will be adapted to the needs of the students as appropriate, including virtual if needed. Social, emotional, mental health and other needs will be monitored and provided by school health providers, social workers and other mental behavior specialists when needed. Food service will be provided using various models as appropriate to the situation, including the availability of free meals if needed for students throughout the entire year.

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.**

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ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Universal and correct wearing of masks; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charleroi Area School District will continue to apply a layered prevention strategy to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. <u>The District is recommending, not requiring, face coverings/masks, regardless of vaccination status, in schools when community transmission levels are high (as designated by the CDC).</u> The District will consider requiring face coverings/masks in the event of a local, state and/or federal mandate. The District strongly encourages staff, students and families to follow the health guidance provided by the CDC, PADOH and/or ACHD. The District reserves the right to modify the Health and Safety Plan in response to additional guidance, or modifications to previously provided guidance, or local, state or national orders, from PDE, PADOH, ACHD and/or CDC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding); 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District's goal is to resume pre-COVID measures in our schools and during school activities (classrooms, cafeterias, buses, athletic events, musical performances, etc.). • The Charleroi Area School District will adhere to any existing, valid and binding orders from the PA Dept. of Health regarding physical distancing. • We will review any recommendations from the CDC and determine if/how we can implement prevention and mitigation measures, to the greatest extent practicable based on our community/district needs.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handwashing and respiratory etiquette; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handwashing and respiratory etiquette are always promoted and strongly encouraged. Soap or hand sanitizer will be made available at

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Cleaning</u> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <u>ventilation</u>; 	<p>sinks, in bathrooms and wherever students/staff eat.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buildings will be cleaned daily. • Staff are encouraged to open windows for additional ventilation. We will increase the percentage of fresh air coming into our buildings, as needed. • New Needle Point Bipolar Ionization HVAC units have been installed in all buildings and classrooms will be analyzed to determine if any additional work is needed to improve air quality and/or ventilation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Contact tracing</u> in combination with <u>isolation</u> and <u>quarantine</u>, in collaboration with the State and local health departments; 	<p>Per CDC guidance and PA HAN 583 of August 11, 2022:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Recommending that instead of quarantining if you were exposed to COVID-19, you wear a high-quality mask for 10 days and get tested on day 5.</u> • Reiterating that regardless of vaccination status, you should isolate from others when you have COVID-19. • You should also isolate if you are sick and suspect that you have COVID-19 but do not yet have test results. • If your results are positive, follow CDC's full isolation recommendations. • If your results are negative, you can end your isolation. • <u>Recommending that if you test positive for COVID-19, you stay home for at least 5 days and isolate from others in your home. You are likely most infectious during these first 5 days. Wear a high-quality mask when you must be around others at home and in public.</u> • If after 5 days you are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of medication, and your symptoms are

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ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p>improving, or you never had symptoms, you may end isolation after day 5.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regardless of when you end isolation, avoid being around people who are more likely to get very sick from COVID-19 until at least day 11.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diagnostic and screening testing; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check for signs and symptoms of students and staff daily upon arrival. • Consider a process to address privacy concerns of monitoring practices and the potential stigma associated with monitoring and confirmed exposure or cases. • Develop a system for home/self-screening and reporting procedures. • Encourage staff to stay home if they are sick and encourage parents to keep sick children home. • Information pertaining to diagnostic testing across the county will be provided to staff, parents/guardians on an as-needed basis and/or as it is made available to the school systems. • Our Health Services Team is always available to answer questions for students, staff and parents/guardians. In addition, they are available in our buildings to address any COVID-related questions/matters.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Charleroi Area School District recently partnered with Allegheny Health Systems to provide vaccination opportunities for community members and students in May, June, November and December of 2020. • We will continue to create vaccination opportunities with our school community when we receive information about such opportunities.

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ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Charleroi Area School District will provide students with disabilities with respect necessary accommodations for students, to health and safety policies; and as deemed appropriate by IEP teams, with respect to health and safety policies.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination with state and local health officials. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Charleroi Area School District will officials. coordinate with state and local health officials on an as-needed basis related to COVID matters. • CASD will also will work together with the Joint Task Force, PADOH, community health agencies and County Emergency Management Agencies to coordinate resources in accordance with their health and safety plan.

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Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Charleroi Area School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **August 16, 2022**

The plan was approved by a vote of:

7 Yes

0 No

Affirmed on: **August 16, 2022**

By:

Kenneth J. Wiltz
(Signature* of Board President)

Kenneth J. Wiltz
(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.