



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: COVID-19

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](#)
- [**Public Health Guidance for School Communities**](#)

Health and Safety Plan Summary: **Scranton School District**

Initial Effective Date: **July 1, 2021**

Date of Last Review: **June 6, 2022**

Date of Last Revision: **June 6, 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 Scranton School District (SSD) will align to guidance from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and/or Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA DOH) to the greatest extent practicable on all orders of health and safety related to the prevention and mitigation of COVID-19. The Superintendent will bring current recommendations to the school board when passing a resolution/motion associated with COVID-19, so decisions could be made in the utmost of transparency. As prevention and mitigation policies and procedures change, they will be brought to the school board, to formally update the health and safety plan.

CLEANING

The Scranton School District maintenance and custodial staff will have all district buildings cleaned and sanitized for the return to school; most importantly, daily sanitation procedures will be put in place to assure the building is cleaned and sanitized daily. High volume and high touch areas (restrooms, cafeteria, offices, doorknobs, etc.) will be sanitized each day. Hand sanitization units will be available throughout each building, such as, but not limited to: hallways, cafeterias, medical rooms, main entrances, etc.

DAILY HYGIENE

Students will receive explicit instruction for personal hygiene including, but not limited to coughing, sneezing, hand washing, picking up items from the floor, placing non-edible items in mouths, touching faces, touching one another, etc. Staff and students will be instructed on all signage throughout locations and expectations for use of this signage.

SSD students and staff will follow CDC and/or PA DOH/PDE guidelines for hand hygiene to the greatest extent practicable. Prior to school starting, meetings will be held with all staff to review hygiene procedures and how to reinforce them with students in the school. Staff and students will be provided with time and resources throughout the school day to implement hygiene routines. Staff and students should wash hands when possible or sanitize hands before/after lunch, before/after recess, and before/after other transitional times where feasible.

VACCINATION

The SSD provided several COVID-19 vaccination clinics for faculty and staff. Four COVID-19 vaccination clinics were held for the community. A fifth COVID-19 vaccination clinic will be held in August and continue into the 2021-22 SY.

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 social and emotional well-being of students and staff will be supported in the following manner: Administration works closely with Community School Based Behavioral Health (CSBBH) Teams in 17 out of 17 of our school buildings, Systems of Care through the Lackawanna County Office of Youth and Family Services to provide mental health, food, and safety resources to at-risk homeless students and their families. The District contracts with the Scranton Counseling Center and the Friendship House to provide student mental health needs & services; most importantly, the District employs a full-time masters-level clinician to address students' mental and behavioral health needs. Moreover, the SSD will continue training and implementation of restorative practices, trauma informed care for our schools and community. Youth Mental Health and First Aid will also take place at all levels.

ACADEMIC NEEDS

The Scranton School District is committed to returning to in-person instruction, five days per week for the 2021-2022 school year. Concurrently, the SSD is building in academic support and interventions to ensure that students are successful upon return. However, the SSD understands that current public health conditions may require a fluid transition between remote, hybrid and face to face options; SSD has developed a Temporary Emergency Instructional Time plan for instruction that allows for ease of transition in learning from face-to-face, to blended approaches, to complete remote instruction. Within programs, teachers will work together to create a parallel learning system that highlights authentic learning experiences both in and out of the classroom. Teachers will create both synchronous and asynchronous experiences as students transition between face-to-face instruction, hybrid and remote learning. Teachers will provide direct instruction, guided support, one-on-one feedback, assessments, progress monitoring and therapies through a variety of in-person and digital tools.

The district will hold a comprehensive summer program targeting grade bands with specific focus on remediation and enrichment in English Language Arts (ELA), math, science, music and art. This program will run in the summer of 2021.

The LEA will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services which address the students' academic needs. In doing so, school administrators and staff will be cognizant of students' needs. Staff will address the academic needs of students upon their return in the fall. It is our expectation upon return, administration and staff will be prepared to address and support

students' academic needs. In addition to instruction provided during the school day, the District will hold after school academic programs throughout the 2021-22 school year.

Beginning of the year academic benchmark assessments will be used in ELA and Math to determine areas of need to assist in making informed data driven decisions. Support will be available to students who show deficits through remediation, differentiation of instruction, and collaboration with school administration and colleagues to address academic issues.

Administrators and staff will engage in dialogue and communication with parents to address students' social and emotional needs. Schools will engage support from their school's support teams - such as the school based behavioral health teams, guidance, liaison from the Office of Youth and Family services, and share outside agencies to families needing support.

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL-LEARNING (SEL)

The SSD recognizes the need to help students and teachers to feel safe and secure in a positive learning environment. The COVID-19 pandemic has created both unique traumas and a common experience of additional mental stress on both adults and children. School districts have a responsibility to assist students in their social and emotional development.

The SSD will be implementing a social and emotional learning (SEL) benchmark assessment to determine the needs of the student population and target social and emotional concerns. The assessment will be administered to all students district wide at the start of the school year. It will be administered again in the spring to determine progress.

The SSD will be implementing a SEL curriculum for students in grades K-12. Students will receive lessons regularly throughout the school year. Lessons will be incorporated into regular classroom instruction and promote skill development that helps students to respond to both personal experiences and the shared common experiences related to COVID-19.

Both the benchmark assessment and social emotional curriculum are aligned with the five Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) core competencies for learning:

- Self Awareness
- Self Management
- Responsible Decision-Making
- Relationship Skills
- Social Awareness

Staff mental health will be addressed through the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) which is benefit provided by the Scranton School District to provide confidential, professional assistance for employees and dependents experiencing personal and/or professional problems such as:

- Emotional Health/Wellness
- Parenting/Child Problems
- Alcohol & Drug Abuse/Dependency
- Marital Conflict
- Family Concerns
- Grief
- Eating Disorders
- Job Stress
- Personal Loss
- Depression
- Other Life Stress

ELL

The district will ensure the academic needs for the English Learners by assessing their language proficiency in all four domains, reading, writing, speaking and listening in the fall 2021 to identify learning loss. The ELD (English Language Development) program is using title funding to purchase supplemental resources for additional learning. ELD support will also be offered in the Elementary and Secondary Summer Academy. ELD Specialists will provide small group instruction, and one-on-one support for the English Learners daily. The ELD program will also engage students and families of English Learners by providing a new additional Application, "Talking Points", which allows families and district staff to text in the family's preferred language. By ensuring communication in the appropriate languages to students and families of English learners, academic and social and emotional needs can be addressed daily.

FOOD SERVICE

The Scranton School District will continue to operate the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program under the provisions of the Community Eligibility Program. This will offer all students of the Scranton School District an opportunity to receive a free lunch and breakfast each day. The District is also enrolled in the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program for all of our Elementary Schools. This will allow our elementary school students to sample a variety of produce they might not otherwise have the opportunity to sample and also encourages healthier snack choices while in school.

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 |
|---|--|
| <p>a. Universal and correct wearing of <u>masks</u>;</p> | <p>Effective Tuesday, March 8, 2022 the SSD will follow the CDC guidelines on masking in our school buildings and school buses. Universal masking by all students and staff will be optional while Lackawanna County is in the low or medium</p> |

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| | level of transmission based on the COVID-19 County Check Table. Universal masking is recommended for school districts in a high level of COVID-19 transmission, but this is not mandated. |
| b. Modifying facilities to allow for <u>physical distancing</u> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding); | The Scranton School District will follow the current CDC and/or PA DOH/PDE guidelines for physical distancing to the greatest extent possible. |
| c. <u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</u>; | <p>The Scranton School District will follow the current CDC and/or PA DOH/PDE guidelines for hand washing and respiratory etiquette.</p> <p>Signage will continue to be posted to remind students and staff of proper handwashing techniques.</p> |
| d. <u>Cleaning</u> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <u>ventilation</u>; | <p>Follow the current CDC and/or PA DOH/PDE guidelines for cleaning and ventilation recommendations to the greatest extent practicable.</p> <p>Daily cleaning will be conducted by the Scranton School District maintenance staff.</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>The SSD has worked with the local PA DOH/PDE office that has provided guidance with all of our contact tracing measures..</p> <p>All cases will be reported and the SSD will follow the guidance and guidelines set forth by the PA DOH.</p> |
| f. <u>Diagnostic</u> and screening testing; | <p>Students and staff displaying the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 will immediately be isolated and be referred to a health care provider for testing. Documentation to return to work or school can be provided by a licensed clinician.</p> <p>Students and staff should self-screen for symptoms and an elevated temperature each morning. If symptomatic, students and staff should not report to school and are required to seek medical attention for testing and treatment.</p> |
| g. Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to school communities</u>; | <p>The SSD has partnered with Hometown Health to run vaccination clinics at SHS to assist in vaccinating as much of the population in the community as possible. This service will continue in the 2021-22 school year.</p> <p>The SSD has currently held four COVID-19 vaccination clinics for the community at the present</p> |

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| | <p>time. Our fifth COVID-19 vaccination clinic will be held in August and continue into the 2021-22 SY.</p> |
| <p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p> | <p>Scranton School District will follow current CDC and/or PA DOH/PDE guidelines and recommendations to the greatest extent practicable for students with disabilities.</p> <p>The District fully recognizes that every student with a disability is entitled to a free appropriate public education including services, or accommodations, or both, based on their individualized education program (IEP) or 504 Plan.</p> <p>It may not be feasible, depending on the needs of the individual child or adolescent, to adhere to all COVID-19 guidelines. Accordingly, IEP teams may need to assess/determine a student's ability to meet guidelines on a case by case basis, which may require creative solutions. If a student with a disability is unable to follow mask, distancing, or other health and safety guidelines, schools will at all times follow applicable federal and state law, and will collaborate with the student's parent/guardian, medical provider, certified school nurse and school administrators to develop an appropriate educational plan of care for students (i.e., 504 Plan or IEP).</p> <p>During the summer of 2021, the SSD will conduct two programs for students with disabilities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Extended School Year (ESY) 2. "COVID-19 Compensatory Services (CCS)" <p>per student IEPs.</p> |
| <p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p> | <p>The SSD has and will continue to work in conjunction with PDE and PA DOH/PDE, supporting their guidance and mandates to the greatest extent practicable to assist us in all mitigation efforts.</p> |

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **SCRANTON SCHOOL DISTRICT** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **MONDAY, JUNE 6, 2022**.

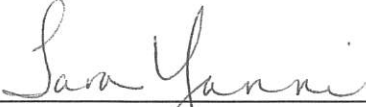
The plan was approved by a vote of:

 9 Yes

 0 No

Affirmed on: **MONDAY, JUNE 6, 2022**

By:



(Signature* of Board President)

Tara Yanni

(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.