



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

Health and Safety Plan Summary: Karns City Area School District

Initial Effective Date: July 20, 2021

Date of Last Review: December 7, 2023

Date of Last Revision: December 7, 2023

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 Karns City Area School District began, and maintained, a full 5 day/week in-person instructional program during the 2021-2022 school year, with an optional online component for students whose families did not feel comfortable sending their children to the physical building. The District intends to continue with a similar instructional approach in 2023-2024, with full, in-person learning 5 days per week, with an online option. Throughout the 2023-2024 school year, the District will maintain reasonable prevention and mitigation strategies to support the academic achievement, social/emotional wellness, and the health and safety of our students and staff. These strategies will be consistent with some strategies employed throughout SY 2021-2022: social distancing when feasible, increased cleaning measures, and education on proper hygiene. Masking inside Karns City Area School District facilities, as well as on District-provided transportation is optional. Should the PA Departments of Health and Education or the Federal Government issue new masking mandates, the District will consult with the Karns City Board of School Directors and the District solicitor in order to respond appropriately.**

Moreover, the Karns City Area School District will regularly review CDC and DOH recommendations and apply revised guidance when applicable and feasible for the safe operation of the District.

The District has created a COVID-19 link, housed on the District website. Viewers will be directed to current PA Department of Health resources regarding COVID-19.

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 Karns City Area School District successfully ensured continuity of services through a variety of systems since the beginning of the pandemic. For example, upon closing in March 2020, the District deployed Chromebooks and educational packets to maintain some level of valuable learning. During the summer of 2020, the District invested in a K-12 1:1 initiative and offered synchronous and asynchronous learning via Google G-**

Suite during the 2020-2021 school year, in addition to remaining open for in-person instruction 5 days per week throughout the entire school year. School personnel, such as guidance counselors and the school psychologist, were available for online and in-person students to help meet their social-emotional needs in SY 20-21. In-person instruction was interrupted only briefly during the 2020-2021 SY, but services never ended; food services continued and were available for *all* students. This was done via food pick-ups outside the cafeteria as well as a “meals-on-the-bus” food delivery model. Throughout the 2020-2021 school year, regular communication regarding COVID-19 was conveyed via the school’s website and Blackboard Alert calling system. Moving into 2021-2022, the District operated an in-person instructional model, five days per week; however, the District acknowledged that some families may not have been comfortable sending their children to school, as a result of the pandemic. Therefore, in order to bolster its online course offerings, the District partnered with the Seneca Valley School District to offer a video-based, online instructional model. The District did not have to close at all during the 2021-2022 or 2022-2023 school years due to COVID-19. Related services were available to online learners in 2022-2023. The District will continue using this model in 2023-2024. That is, the District will be open for in-person instruction 5 days per week, but it will maintain its online program for those students who wish to learn from home. Should the District have to close due to a COVID-19 outbreak, it will be prepared to operate remotely, using Google Classroom, should the state grant this alternative. A remote learning schedule will be available for students should an outbreak occur. In the same way, the District will work with its food service provider to provide meals to students, should school close due to COVID-19.

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> ;	Mask-wearing inside of all District facilities and on district-provided transportation is optional.
b. Modifying facilities to allow for <u>physical distancing</u> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate signage and communication will be provided regarding physical distancing etiquette if necessary. • Volunteers and visitors will comply with visitor screening procedures. • Field trips will be assessed on a case-by-case basis for health and safety related needs.
c. <u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</u> ;	Students and staff will continue to be educated on all proper hygiene techniques. Hand sanitizing stations are and will be readily accessible inside and

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	outside classrooms throughout the District. Posters and floor markings will clearly articulate the above-referenced hygiene and mitigation strategies.
d. <u>Cleaning</u> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <u>ventilation</u> ;	Karns City Area School District facilities are cleaned and disinfected daily.
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 Karns City Area School District will rely on the latest information from the PA Department of Health regarding contact tracing, isolation, and quarantining.
f. <u>Diagnostic</u> and screening testing;	Students and parents will be directed to current PA Department of Health information regarding proper screening and testing procedures.
g. Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to school communities</u> ;	The Karns City Area School District has partnered with UPMC to offer a vaccine clinic at the Karns City Junior/Senior High School on July 16, 2021, with a second dose on August 6, 2021. If future vaccination clinics are needed, the District will consult with the PA Department of Health, the school board, and the solicitor.
h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	Appropriate accommodations will be made for students with disabilities based on a student's IEP and/or guidance provided by a student's physician.
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	The Karns City Area School District will continue to collaborate and coordinate with state and local health officials during the 2023-2024 school year on as as-needed basis. The District will meet with Butler County governmental and health officials when necessary. Similarly, Butler County school districts' leadership teams will meet throughout the year to address pandemic-related concerns, should the need arise.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Karns City Area School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **December 7, 2023**

The plan was approved by a vote of:

8 Yes

0 No

Affirmed on: **December 7, 2023**

By:



(Signature* of Board President)

JOSHUA PRICE

(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.