



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: Mifflinburg Area School District

Initial Effective Date: 7/1/2021

Date of Last Review: 01/09/2024

Date of Last Revision: 01/09/2024

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 will adhere to mandates and requirements as ordered by the PA government regarding mitigation strategies and will notify staff and families of changes while the school year is in session.

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 Mifflinburg Area School District will continue to provide each student with a technology device and mode of access to the district's online platform as needed. All teachers will plan their lessons and activities within designated course management systems, and students will be able to access lessons and assignments with their devices throughout the year. The District will plan to continue to offer two models of instruction for all students in grades K-12 during the school year: in-person learning at the school sites, and cyber education through our e-Learning Academy.

Employees will continue to have access to District school nurses for medical education and basic medical screenings. Students will also have access to school nurses and screenings as well as social emotional lessons and counselling to address health, wellness, emotional and social needs.

While the district will make every effort to remain open, families choosing the district's online platform (E-learning) will be offered the opportunity to get meals through the schools based on their status of pay, reduced or free status.

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 masks ;	Face Coverings will be allowed but not required. Face coverings will be made

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	available for those desiring a face covering.
b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);	The district will returned to normal operations for the 22-23 school year and will continue normal operations moving forward.
c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette ;	<p>Frequent hand washing with students and employees will be encouraged throughout all schools.</p> <p>The District will continue to post visible signage throughout the buildings that encourages individuals to properly wash their hands, and cover sneezes/coughs. Additional training in these practices will be available as needed.</p> <p>Hand sanitizer will be readily available in classrooms and throughout buildings.</p>
d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation ;	<p>The District will continue cleaning and sanitizing each classroom, restroom, hallway, and high-touch points throughout the day. Disinfecting wipes will be made available in all classrooms and learning spaces.</p> <p>The District has installed bipolar ionization systems, integrated into the HVAC systems in each building to improve air quality. Our HVAC systems have been designed to bring in fresh outdoor air at recommended intervals.</p>
e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine , in collaboration with the State and local health departments;	<p>Contact tracing is no longer required.</p> <p>Recommendations for all illness (including COVID) are provided to families. Should additional conditions from the state be administered, the School Board will vote on those conditions at the following Board Meeting.</p>
f. Diagnostic and screening testing;	The District will continue to provide educational information to students, families, and employees about symptoms of COVID-19, and will continue to encourage use of our established self-screening checklist.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p>Families should not to send their child to school if he/she is displaying symptoms of Covid-19 or other illnesses. Families will be encouraged to contact their Primary Care Physician for further guidance.</p> <p>District employees should not to come to work if they are displaying symptoms of Covid-19 or other illnesses. Employees will be encouraged to contact their Primary Care Physician for further guidance.</p>
<p>g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;</p>	<p>The district will provide information about vaccination sites and opportunities when requested.</p>
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<p>Students with disabilities will have access to the same programs and opportunities as non-disabled peers, as well as accommodations detailed within their IEP or 504 plans based on their individual needs. 504/IEP teams will address potential needs related to COVID-19 and will determine appropriate accommodations.</p>
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<p>The School District's Pandemic Coordinator (the Superintendent), as well as the District school nurses, will maintain communication with the Department of Health if needed. This collaboration will serve to coordinate mitigation efforts and local interpretations of current orders. Pandemic practices or procedures from the State will be discussed with the School Board with a potential vote on those items at the following Board Meeting.</p> <p>The School District's Pandemic Coordinator or designee will attend potential meetings and consult with local health officials as needed.</p>

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Mifflinburg Area School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on August 9, 2022.

Jan 9, 2024 - Revised

The plan was approved by a vote of:

9 Yes

0 No

Affirmed on: 8/9/2022 + 1/9/2024

By:



(Signature* of Board President)

Thomas Eberhart

(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.