



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 to 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,

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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.

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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: Avonworth School District

School Board Initial Approval Date: July 19, 2021

Initial Effective Date: August 24, 2021

Revised Effective Date: February 13, 2024

Date of Last Review: February 12, 2024

Date of Last Revision: February 12, 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 to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning?
 - a. **The safety of our employees and students is our top priority. If and when information is provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DoH), or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) related to the safety of staff and students, the District administration will review it and make recommendations based on the information shared.**
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?
 - a. **To support students' mental health needs, the Avonworth School District added the support of a social worker and licensed professional counselor to provide additional mental health support for students. Care Solace has been made available to District families and staff.**
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.

The Avonworth Board of School Directors grants the superintendent the authority to immediately change the Health & Safety Plan based on changing conditions or future CDC or Allegheny County Health Department updates (March 7, 2022).

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
a. Universal and correct wearing of <u>masks</u>;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Masks are optional for K-12 staff, students, and visitors during the school day, on buses, and when attending all evening activities.
b. Modifying facilities to allow for <u>physical distancing</u> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A parent/guardian may contact the child’s building principal to request and discuss any accommodation desired for their child.
c. <u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</u>;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hygiene and respiratory etiquette practices for students and staff, including the manner and frequency of hand-washing and other best practices are routinely reviewed with staff and students at the Avoworth School District.
d. <u>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation</u>;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Avonworth School District routinely follows best practices concerning cleaning and disinfecting surfaces and increasing ventilation when and where feasible.
e. <u>Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments</u>;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Avonworth School District recommends parents/guardians follow the advice provided by their child’s physician and utilize the most up-to-date guidance from the CDC for all health-related concerns.
f. <u>Diagnostic and screening testing</u>;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Avonworth School District’s routine guidance to families (concerning their student) and staff is to remain at home if experiencing a temperature over 100 degrees and/or multiple symptoms of illness. Also, a staff member or student will be sent home if experiencing a temperature over 100 degrees and/or multiple symptoms of illness. Lastly, staff and students are asked to remain home until fever and symptom-free for 24 hours.
g. <u>Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When made aware, the District will communicate vaccination opportunities, including, but not limited to, vaccination clinics held in District buildings, clinics held at other local agencies, and clinics held in the greater Pittsburgh area.

<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students with unique safety protocols and complex needs will have their needs addressed within their Individual Health Plan, Individual Education Plan, and/or 504 Plan.
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Avonworth School District administration routinely attends meetings at the Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU) where information is shared by the AIU's Director of Safety and Security concerning any pertinent updates from the Allegheny County Health Department, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or the Pennsylvania Department of Education.• The District's administration will review and make recommendations accordingly based on any information related to the health and safety of staff and students provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Allegheny County Health Department.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for Avonworth School District reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **July 19, 2021.**

The plan was approved by a vote of:

 5 **Yes**

 4 **No**

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Avonworth School District** reviewed and approved revisions to the Health and Safety Plan on **August 9, 2021.**

The plan was approved by a vote of:

 8 **Yes**

 1 **No**

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The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Avonworth School District** reviewed and approved revisions to the Health and Safety Plan on **September 13, 2021.**

The plan was approved by a vote of:

8 Yes

1 No

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Avonworth School District** reviewed and approved revisions to the Health and Safety Plan on **January 10, 2022.**

The plan was approved by a vote of:

9 Yes

0 No

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Avonworth School District** reviewed and approved revisions to the Health and Safety Plan on **January 18, 2022.**

The plan was approved by a vote of:

8 Yes

1 No

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Avonworth School District** reviewed and approved revisions to the Health and Safety Plan on **February 7, 2022.**

The plan was approved by a vote of:

7 Yes

1 No

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Avonworth School District** reviewed and approved revisions to the Health and Safety Plan on **March 7, 2022.**

The plan was approved by a vote of:

9 Yes

0 No

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Avonworth School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **August 8, 2022.**

The plan was approved by a vote of:

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 9 Yes

 0 No

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Avonworth School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **February 13, 2023**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

 8 Yes

 1 No

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Avonworth School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **August 14, 2023**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

 7 Yes

 1 No

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Avonworth School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **February 12, 2024**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

 8 Yes

 1 No

Affirmed on:

By:



(Signature of Board President)

Yu-Ling Cheng

(Print Name of Board President)

*Electronic signatures on this document are acceptable using one of the two methods detailed below.

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Option A: The use of actual signatures is encouraged whenever possible. This method requires the document to be printed, signed, scanned, and 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 is needed.