



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: **Millville Area School District**

Initial Effective Date: **March 25, 2024**

Date of Last Review: **October 9, 2023**

Date of Last Revision: **February 14, 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 Millville Area School District prioritizes the health, safety, and welfare of administration, faculty, staff, and students. In tandem with the guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and the PA Department of Health, the district will maintain policies, procedures, and practices that reduce the threat of spreading communicable disease and maintain continuity of education for K-12 students.
 - On March 1, 2024, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated and simplified its guidelines for respiratory virus precautions. These streamlined recommendations aim to help prevent the spread of illnesses more effectively. The *Millville Area School District Health and Safety Plan* and guidelines adhere to the updated CDC guidelines in order to reduce and minimize the spread of illness and disease and to maintain the health and safety of district stakeholders.
 - The updated CDC guidelines explain that the mandatory five-day isolation period for individuals testing positive for COVID-19 **is NO longer required**.
 - Rather, the *Millville Area School District Health and Safety Plan* which is aligned to the updated CDC guidance indicates that in the event that if an individual tests positive or is experiencing symptoms of a respiratory illness, he/she should:
 - **Stay home until symptoms are improving overall for at least 24 hours.**
 - **If a fever was present, remain home until fever-free for over 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications, in addition to overall symptom improvement.**
 - While **isolation is no longer mandatory**, individuals **are still encouraged to take extra precautions for at least five days after the illness starts, including:**
 - Wearing a mask
 - Practicing social distancing when possible
 - Avoiding large crowds
 - Following good hygiene practices (covering coughs/sneezes, frequent handwashing)

- Cleaning frequently touched surfaces
 - Staying up-to-date with vaccinations
 - **These updated guidelines prioritize individual responsibility and aim to minimize disruptions while still mitigating the spread of respiratory viruses within our community.**
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 Millville Area School District is committed to removing any and all barriers that may impede a student's education. Consistent with that aim, the Millville Area School District provides a continuum of supports that address the social-emotional and mental health needs of students. The district has implemented and maintains the following supports to address the needs of students:
 - In collaboration with Columbia, Montour, Snyder, and Union Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, the Millville Area School District maintains a highly-qualified and certificated Prevention Specialist/Outreach Coordinator that provides a variety of student-based services which include but are not limited to: 1.) Prevention Education, 2.) Social-Emotional Wellness Instruction, 3.) Crisis Intervention and Family Support, and 4.) Coordination of Community-Based Mental Health Services.
 - The Millville Area School District provides all students K-12 with Social Emotional Wellness classes and lessons. All students in grades 7 and 8 have a Social-Emotional Wellness class that is led by either guidance counselors and/or the prevention specialist whereby they engage in the Navigate 360 Social Emotional Wellness curricula. Additionally, the guidance counselors provide Social Emotional Wellness instruction utilizing the Navigate 360 resources regularly to students in grade K-6 and 9-12.
 - Additionally, the district has employed the Positive Action curricula K-12 whereby all students begin their school day with a proactive and developmentally appropriate social-emotional wellness lesson.
 - The Millville Area School District has provide its faculty and staff with First Aid Mental Health Training so that they are adept at recognizing and appropriately responding to students who present with mental health needs.
 - The Millville Area School Districts recognizes the necessity to provide a continuum of support to address the social emotional and mental health needs of district employees. To that end, the district maintain an employee assistance program (EAP) that employees can utilize as a resource if their mental health needs necessitate. Additionally, the district has provided a variety of professional development trainings and opportunities to staff which

have focused upon assessing their mental health needs and strategies to promote their social and emotional well-being.

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 ;	Mask wearing is OPTIONAL. School personnel and students are encouraged to consider wearing a mask subsequent to their return to school after testing positive for COVID 19.
b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);	Personnel and students are ENCOURAGED to maintain social distance to the greatest extent possible subsequent to their return to school after testing positive for COVID 19.
c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette ;	Personnel and students are ENCOURAGED to maintain hygienic practices including the utilization of hand sanitizer and frequent hand-washing to reduce the spread of illness and disease. The district maintains availability of hand sanitizer dispensers in all district buildings.
d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation ;	The district maintains the highest degree of cleaning in order to maintain a safe learning environment for all stakeholders.
e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine , in collaboration with the State and local health departments;	The district does NOT maintain nor enforce mandatory isolation and quarantining practices. However, individuals are ENCOURAGED to isolate while experienced symptoms and for at least 24 hours after fever has diminished without medication.
f. Diagnostic and screening testing;	The district ENCOURAGES individuals to self-administer a COVID 19 test and/or consult a health practitioner when symptoms of COVID 19 present themselves.
g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities ;	The district does not provide vaccination opportunities to the school community. The district

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	ENCOURAGES individuals to consider the benefits of vaccination as a means of deterring the contraction of COVID 19.
h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	The district maintains inclusive practices. The district maintains policies, procedures, and practices that ensure that students with disabilities are afforded with the accommodations necessary to yield maximum educational benefit and maintain the highest degree of well-being.
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	The district continues to coordinate its policies, procedures, and practices with local health agencies to ensure that it acts in a manner consistent with best practice and the most current guidance necessary to maintain health and safety of its faculty, staff, students, and community.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Millville Area School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **March 25, 2024**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

_____ **Yes**

_____ **No**

Affirmed on: **March 25, 2024**

By:

(Signature of Board President)*

(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.