



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: Marple Newtown School District

Initial Effective Date: March 20, 2024

Date of Last Review: March 19, 2024

Date of Last Revision: March 19, 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 Marple Newtown School District (MNSD) implemented a health and safety plan throughout the 2020-2021, 2021-2022, and 2022-2023 school years using mitigation strategies supported by the CDC, PA Department of Health (PA DOH), PA Department of Education (PDE), CHOP Policy Lab, and the Chester County Health Department. These strategies were successful in supporting the larger public health initiative to slow the spread of COVID-19 and to protect our district community, especially those at increased risk for severe illness. Further, our district supported and led vaccination clinics for the MNSD school community.

Our District will continue to review the latest guidance from the CDC, PA DOH, PDE, CHOP Policy Lab, and the local Health Department. This information will assist the District when reviewing our mitigation strategies for effectiveness. The guidance will also be used to revise our MNSD health and safety plan as necessary.

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?

On February 3, 2022, the Board voted to approve the completed template entitled *Emergency Instructional Time that was accepted by PDE*.

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> ;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District will follow any state, federal, and local mandates. • The District will consider recommendations and guidance from the CDC, PA DOH, PDE, CHOP Policy Lab, and local Health Department.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District is not mandating universal indoor masking. The District is allowing optional masking for all students and staff in the District. • The Board authorizes Administration to take emergency action to require universal masking in any building or grade level to respond to any outbreak of illness in the school community.
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for <u>physical distancing</u> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District will consider recommendations and guidance from the CDC, PA DOH, PDE, CHOP Policy Lab, and local Health Department.
<p>c. <u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</u>;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best practice encourages hand washing prior to meals and snacks, after meals and snack, transition back to class from being outside, after using the bathroom, and after blowing nose, coughing, or sneezing. The District will encourage our students, staff, and visitors/volunteers to implement these best practices. • The District will have available hand sanitizer in strategic locations of high traffic areas. • The District may post signs in buildings reminding students, staff, and visitors/volunteers of proper respiratory etiquette if necessary.
<p>d. <u>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation</u>;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District utilizes EPA Approved Disinfectants for use against COVID-19. There will be routine cleaning of our buildings, classrooms, common areas, transportation vehicles, and office spaces. • All individuals will be encouraged to sanitize/wash hands on a regular basis. Hand sanitizer stations will be available in common areas, hallways, and/or in classrooms where sinks for handwashing are not available. • The District will ensure ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air by opening windows and doors when possible. The District will change filters regularly for its ventilation systems.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District will follow any state, federal, or local mandates. • The District will consider recommendations and guidance from the CDC, PA DOH, PDE, CHOP Policy Lab, and local Health Department. • The District will follow any requirement to report all confirmed cases of COVID-19 to the appropriate health department. • The District will follow any requirement to isolate any confirmed positive COVID-19 individuals. • The District will not conduct close contact tracing, while in the school setting, unless otherwise ordered/mandated by state, federal, or local authorities. • Student, staff or visitor/volunteer who has tested positive for COVID-19, shall notify their direct supervisor or principal immediately. Guidance on isolation will be provided to the individual. • Student, staff or visitor/volunteer who believe they were in close contact with a COVID-19 positive case should consult their medical provider and encouraged to consult federal, state, and/or local health guidelines.
<p>f. <u>Diagnostic</u> and screening testing;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District will follow its <i>Immunization and Communicable Diseases</i> Policy for guidance on communicable diseases as COVID-19 is classified as such. • The District will maintain adequate, appropriate protective equipment for use when individuals become ill in the school setting. • All students, staff, parents/guardians, visitors/volunteers are instructed to stay home when sick or symptomatic. • Any individual who feels sick or exhibits onset symptoms during the school day will be instructed to report to the school nurse for evaluation. • Parents/Guardians are required to self-screen their child prior to reporting to school or programs and keep their child home if experiencing any symptoms. • Staff, students, and visitors/volunteers who are ill must stay home from work, school, or program. • Staff, students, and visitors/volunteers shall report immediately to their direct supervisor/principal if they are COVID-19 positive. These individuals will be subject to isolation as per mandated guidelines of the CDC, PA DOH, PDE or local Health Department.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District may implement a rapid antigen testing program for individuals who become symptomatic during school or working hours. • The District, in partnership with the DCIU, PA DOH, and CHOP, may have Binax Rapid tests available should a "Test to Stay" program be approved for us in the schools. Rapid tests may also be utilized as an initial safety measure in cases of symptomatic individuals.
<p>g. Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to school communities</u>;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District will provide information to families and staff regarding any District sponsored vaccine clinics for eligible students and/or staff members.
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For students with disabilities with medical diagnosis that required a prescribed health and safety plan, the IEP/504 team may reconvene to develop a specially designed instruction or strategies meet the needs of the student.
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District will follow any required reporting of cases of COVID-19, of which the district has been made aware, with the appropriate health department. • The District will consult with the appropriate health department on specific cases or issues as needed.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for Marple Newtown School District reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on March 19, 2024.


The plan was approved by a vote of:

6 Yes

0 No

Affirmed on: March 19, 2024

By:



(Signature* of Board President)

Matthew J. Bilker

(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.