



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
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- 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: Lower Dauphin School District

Initial Effective Date: July 25, 2023

Date of Last Review: August 28, 2023

Date of Last Revision: February 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 district will continually monitor this plan to include federal and state mandates and consider significant new guidance. The plan will be reviewed and revised as necessary. The revisions will be recommended to the Board for approval and changes will be communicated to students and families, staff, and the greater District community.

We will post the plan and updates to the health and safety plan on the district website, <https://www.ldsd.org/covid-19e>.

This plan will be reviewed every six months at a minimum during the period of the LEA's ARP ESSER grant.

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?

Social, emotional, and mental health needs will be monitored and addressed throughout the school year. Services will be provided through the utilization of the district's Mental Health system of supports. This system includes the appropriate utilization of school counselors, therapists in emotional support and autistic support classrooms, therapeutic first aid at the middle school and high school, school based outpatient counseling, social work services, home-school visitor services, professional development for all teaching staff members, the Student Assistance Program, and partnerships with Juvenile Probation and Hummelstown Police Department.

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
<p>a. Universal and correct wearing of masks;</p>	<p>Face coverings for students, staff, and bus drivers while on district transportation will be optional.</p> <p>Use of face coverings for all students and staff in all other school settings will be optional.</p>
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts /podding);</p>	<p>Students will be socially distanced pursuant to CDC and PDE guidelines.</p>
<p>c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</p>	<p>Ensure adequate supplies (soap, paper towels, alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol, tissues) to support healthy hygiene practices.</p> <p>Students will be encouraged to use hand sanitizer, provided at stations within the cafeterias, prior to consuming food or beverages.</p> <p>Ensure handwashing strategies to include washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing their nose, coughing or sneezing. If soap and water are not available and hands are not visibly dirty, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.</p> <p>Post CDC handwashing resources including health promotional materials and information on handwashing techniques.</p>
<p>d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</p>	<p>The district will frequently monitor and follow the CDC's Guidance for Cleaning & Disinfecting Schools.</p> <p>Update training for custodial staff as needed.</p> <p>Increase use of outside air circulation as conditions allow.</p> <p>Student dining areas and serving areas will be thoroughly cleaned between lunch periods.</p>
<p>e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<p>Staff members who test positive for COVID-19 will notify Human Resources.</p> <p>The district will submit required reports to the Pennsylvania Department of Education.</p> <p>An online reporting mechanism will be made available for parents to report student positive cases of COVID-19 to the school district electronically. The electronic reporting system will be a secure online</p>

**ARP ESSER
Requirement**

Strategies, Policies, and Procedures

form which will provide confidentiality. Parents can still call the school directly to report positive cases.

Each case (or possible case) will be handled on an individual basis as each case may have different factors that impact the decision making process.

School nurses and other healthcare providers should use Standard and Transmission-based Precautions with caring for sick people.

Provide appropriate PPE for staff who work with suspected cases during the school day.

Guidance for Close Contacts

Parents should call the school nurse if you are a close contact. Students may continue to come to school if they are asymptomatic. The nurse will provide additional guidance. (Masks may be recommended during periods of high community transmission.)

Close contacts include:

- You were within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more
- You provided care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19
- You had direct physical contact with the person
- You shared eating or drinking utensils
- They sneezed, coughed, or somehow got respiratory droplets on you

Isolation for Confirmed Cases

Individuals who have tested positive will isolate for the duration of their symptoms and will be allowed to return to school if they are asymptomatic for 24 hours after their symptoms are resolving (without a fever for 24 hours without the use of medication). Upon their return, the individual may wear a mask for a period of five (5) days when they are around others to minimize the risk of infecting people they encounter.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
f. Diagnostic and screening testing;	<p>Student symptom screening will be done at home by parent/guardian each morning before school day.</p> <p>No children with symptoms should be sent to school.</p> <p>All staff will perform a symptom screening on themselves prior to leaving for work and will stay home if ill.</p> <p>Students and staff will go to the nurse immediately if feeling ill.</p> <p>The district will share resources with the school community to help families understand when to keep children at home.</p>
g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;	<p>The district will post information on the district website when made aware of local vaccination clinics being offered.</p>
h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	<p>Special arrangements will be made for students and staff deemed to be at high-risk. Accommodations will be made on a case-by-case basis and will be based on the underlying issue.</p> <p>If a student or staff member is identified as being at high-risk, a team will convene to discuss the appropriate accommodations for the individual. If it is a student either the 504 or IEP team would convene, if it is a staff member they would work with the Director of Human Resources and go through the interactive ADA process.</p> <p>Ensure any parts of the health and safety plans should be sensitive to the needs of students and staff with medical issues.</p>
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	<p>Notify stakeholders of any closures or restrictions put in place due to COVID-19 exposure.</p>

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for Lower Dauphin School District reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on February 19, 2024.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

8 Yes

0 No

Affirmed on: February 19, 2024

By:

Debra J. Macut
(Signature* of Board President)

Debra J. Macut

(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.