pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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 Thorough an Integrated System of Support
- PA Department of Health - COVID-19 in Pennsylvania

Health and Safety Plan Summary: Derry Township School District

Initial Effective Date: July 26, 2021

Date of Last Review: July 8, 2024

Date of Last Revision: May 24, 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 in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning?

   Derry Township School District (DTSD) will continue to implement prevention strategies and recommendations provided by local, state and federal health officials and agencies. We will update our plan as needed and the Pandemic team will meet at a minimum every 6 months for plan review.

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 district has fully implemented asynchronous learning opportunities via SeeSaw and Canvas, regardless of student circumstances, academic instruction can continue. The district has implemented a K-12 social emotional initiative for both students and adults. Services such as Student Assistance Program, mobile therapy, social work, and school counseling can and will be provided via remote access (Zoom is the platform used by the district).

   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;	*Masks are optional, but not required in all Derry Township School District buildings.*
b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);	*If students will be using shared objects, hand sanitizer will be available prior to and after use.*
c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;	*Teachers and staff will teach and reinforce correct hand-washing procedures to all*

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	students. (Use of soap and water for at least 20 seconds). *Staff and students will be encouraged to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue. Used tissues will be thrown in the trash and hands washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol will be provided to students and staff for use.*
d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;	*District staff will clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces (e.g., playground equipment, door handles, sink handles, water bottle fillers) within the school and on school buses at least daily or between use as much as possible.* *District vehicles (e.g., buses, maintenance trucks, mowers, vans) will be cleaned and disinfected regularly.* *The Director of Buildings and Grounds will ensure ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible.*
e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;	*Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine will only occur if mandated by state and/or federal legislation.*
f. Diagnostic and screening testing;	*If available, the district will supply employees and families with rapid antigen tests.*
g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;	*The District will sponsor on-site COVID-19 vaccination clinics for staff when feasible.* *The District will sponsor influenza vaccination education to reduce the risk of influenza.* *Vaccinations are and unless changed by law, will remain, optional.*
h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	*Students who need accommodations will work with IEP and 504 teams to determine appropriate programming.*
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	*The district's pandemic coordinator or designee will continue to follow state guidance for reporting.*

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures

***NOTE:** All elements of this plan are subject to change based upon changing conditions and guidance from the CDC, DOH, and PDE. The Pandemic Team will review the Health & Safety plan as a minimum of every 6 months as required by federal mandate.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Derry Township School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **July 29, 2024**.

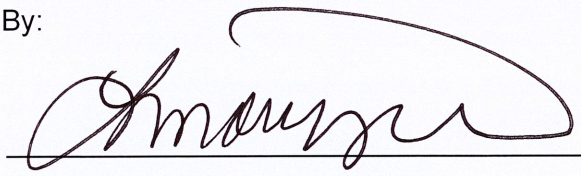
The plan was approved by a vote of:

9 **Yes**

0 **No**

Affirmed on: **July 29, 2024**

By:



(*Signature* of Board President*)

Lindsay K. Drew

(*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.