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: School District of Haverford Township

Initial Effective Date: 7/8/2021

Date of Last Review: August 1, 2024

Date of Last Revision: August 1, 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 school district implemented a health and safety plan throughout the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school year using mitigation strategies supported by the CDC, PA Department of Health, CHOP PolicyLab, and during the 2020-2021 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 vaccination clinics for our teachers and staff and led vaccine clinics for students.

Our district will continue to review the latest guidance from the CDC, PA Department of Health,-CHOP PolicyLab, and the Delaware County Health Department. This information will assist the district when reviewing our mitigation strategies for effectiveness. The guidance will also be used to revise our health and safety plan as necessary. The chart below provides strategies, policies, and procedures to be used within the district.

Of important note, for the 2024-2025 school year, the district will implement requirements from the Pennsylvania Department of Education, PA Department of Health, CDC or the Delaware County Health Department.

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 will operate all programs in an in-person format except students opting into Haverford Online, the District's virtual program. The district provides internet hotspots to the families who need it. These methods were utilized successfully during the 2021-2022 school year.

A focus on social, emotional and mental health interventions will continue in the district across all grade levels. Students will continue to have access to their school counselors as part of their school day at all grade levels. In our elementary schools, guidance lessons will continue to be a part of our students' programming. Should families want information or need additional support outside of the school, the district has a team in place to help connect families with existing resources within the community. The district will continue to monitor students' needs when the school year begins.

The Emergency Instructional Time Template can be viewed in its entirety on the district website.

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;	The CDC guidance states "Schools should work with local public health officials, consistent with applicable laws and regulations, including those related to privacy, to determine the prevention strategies needed in their area by monitoring levels of community transmission (i.e., low, moderate, substantial, or high) and local vaccine coverage, and use of screening testing to detect cases in K-12 schools." The District will implement mandates from the PA Department of Education, PA Department of Health, CDC, or the Delaware County Health Department. The District will rely on our board policy for communicable diseases to guide responses to COVID-19. The district will support all individuals who prefer to continue to wear a mask. The district will provide masks to those who wish to use them.
b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);	The District will continue to provide routine maintenance and repairs of school facilities. The District will operate in-person for all educational programs. Unless mandated, there will be no requirements for physical distancing during the 2024-2025 school year. The District will implement mandates from the PA Department of Education, PA Department of Health, CDC, or the Delaware County Health Department.
c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;	Best practice encourages hand washing prior to meals and snacks, after meals and snacks, 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 contractors to implement these best practices.
d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;	The district utilizes EPA Approved Disinfectants for use against COVID 19. There will be routine cleaning of our buildings, classrooms, common areas, and office spaces.

e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;	When required, the district will report all confirmed cases of COVID-19 that are reported to the district to the health authority - local or state on the prescribed template for such instances. When required, the district will provide the health department a list of close contact(s) of individuals who were in contact with the COVID-19 positive individual while at school to the best of its ability. When required, the district will provide information on the most recent recommendations from our local health authority regarding isolation and quarantine to members of our school community. When required by local or state health authorities, the district will contact trace.
f. Diagnostic and screening testing;	The district will follow its *Immunization and Communicable Diseases* Policy for guidance on communicable diseases as COVID-19 is classified as such. The district will maintain adequate personal protective equipment for use when individuals become ill. Staff, children, students, and clients who test positive for COVID-19 must stay home from work, programs, and schools. The district may implement a rapid antigen testing program for individuals who become symptomatic during school or working hours, if available.
g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;	The CDC states, "achieving high levels of COVID-19 vaccination among eligible students as well as teachers, staff, and household members is one of the most critical strategies to help schools safely resume full operations." The district will provide information to families on vaccine clinics and/or how to get a COVID-19 vaccine for their child or family member. A link to vaccine.gov will be posted on the district website to assist families in finding a location where the vaccine is available.
h.Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	For students with disabilities who are eligible for an IEP or a 504 Plan including those with medical diagnosis that require a prescribed health and safety plan, the IEP team, 504 team, or building administration may reconvene to develop specially designed instruction or strategies to meet the needs of the student, and, if necessary, to consider reasonable accommodations to allow the student to continue in-person learning to the greatest extent practicable.

i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	When required, the district will report cases of COVID-19 and its efforts on contract tracing with the health department. When required, the district will consult with the health department on specific cases or issues.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **the School District of Haverford Township** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on August 1, 2024

The plan was approved by a vote of:

___6__ Yes

_____ No

_3____ Absent

Affirmed on: 8/1/24

By: Bridget Wiedeman

Bridget Wiedeman
School 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.