

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: Fox Chapel Area School District

Initial Effective Date: August 10, 2021

Date of Last Review: September 2024

Date of Last Revision: September 9, 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 Fox Chapel Area School District will offer full-time, in-person learning for all students in pre-K to grade 12. In addition, online learning options will be available to those K-12 families that wish to keep their child at home. COVID-19 prevention and mitigation strategies will be informed by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), state, and local health guidance to promote the health and safety of all students, staff, and the greater community. The Fox Chapel Area School District safely opened for in-person instruction prior to the availability of vaccines and successfully maintained in-person instruction with minimal disruption throughout the 2020-2021 school year. The district also maintained in-person instruction throughout the 2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023, and 2023-2024 school years.

The district will maintain a pandemic coordinator to oversee and respond to needs associated with COVID-19, including active cases, quarantine, mitigation supplies, communication, and all other required or recommended aspects of pandemic oversight. The pandemic coordinator will be in regular communication with school nurses and administrators to respond to COVID-19 cases and will also consult with the Allegheny County Health Department for guidance.

Screening of students prior to arrival to school will be conducted by parents/guardians, and students exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms should not be sent to school. Students who arrive at school with symptoms or develop them during the school day will be immediately isolated from their peers and

sent home.

Visitors will adhere to all mitigation procedures. Alternative options (such as online opportunities) for required meetings with visitors will be available when possible.

The district's Health and Safety Plan will be reviewed periodically with building administration and staff, and undergo periodic review with the School Board per the requirements of the American Rescue Plan grant, or sooner, if needed.

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 Fox Chapel Area School District was able to maintain a continuity of services, including academic, social-emotional, and other needs, including food distribution, after the March 2020 closure and throughout the 2020-2021 school year, with little disruption. The district was able to maintain a continuity of services throughout the 2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023, and 2023-2024 school years. The district will continue to provide both in-person and an online learning model for all students K-12 with appropriate supports in place.

The district purchased and allocated technology resources to all students that will be used in both learning models (in person and online) but will allow flexibility in the event of school closures or other disruptions that affect in-person instruction.

The district will ensure continuity of education and provide educational resources for students when they must quarantine.

Students may transition to different learning models at the end of a 9-week marking period. Students may only transition to different learning models at other times based on outstanding individual circumstances such as medical purposes prescribed by a physician or other health care provider.

The district has a comprehensive system of supports to address social-emotional, mental health, and other non-academic needs of students and staff. The district employs or contracts with:

- 11 school counselors**
- 3 social services liaisons**
- 2 school psychologists**
- 2 behavior specialists**
- K-12 school-based mental health providers in each building**
- K-12 crisis management teams within each building**
- Transition coordinator**
- Family Behavioral Resources**

In addition, teachers and other staff members monitor students and refer them to Student Assistance Programs (SAP) and other resource programs to help identify needs and to develop plans to promote their social-emotional and academic health.

Staff members have access to employee assistance programs and other mental health resources provided by the school district and through local health care providers covered by the consortium health insurance plan.

Food distribution will continue to be provided to all students in school buildings and, in the case of a school closure or unusual circumstance, may be provided through grab-and-go pick up.

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> ;	<p>The CDC has changed the COVID-19 guidelines and is now focusing on "Respiratory Virus Guidance." The organization offers core prevention strategies to mitigate the risks of COVID-19 transmission. The district will continue to follow CDC guidelines.</p> <p>Modifications to this strategy may occur at any time based upon active cases within a building or districtwide, transmission within a building, or after consultation with the Allegheny County Health Department or other health officials.</p>

b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);

Student seating will be arranged to allow for social distancing when necessary.

Cafeterias will be utilized for food service and consumption. Additional spaces may be used. Students will be encouraged to wash their hands before and after lunch periods.

c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;

Hand washing/sanitizing will be encouraged frequently including upon entry to the building, before and after meals or snacks, after using the bathroom, and after transitions from one building space to another. Signage will be used to reinforce hand washing/sanitizing.

Instruction will be provided to students on handwashing, respiratory hygiene, and cough etiquette on a regular basis.

Students will be permitted to carry and use individual water bottles. Cups to fill water and/or bottled water will be available for students in buildings where bottle filling stations are not available.

d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;

All school district buildings will be frequently cleaned and disinfected to mitigate the spread of contagions on surfaces or in the air. The district will clean and disinfect surfaces and objects within the school and on school buses. Spaces include classroom and common areas, offices, restrooms, door handles, and on district transportation.

HVAC systems will run at increased capacity, when needed, to circulate new outside air into the buildings.

Disinfecting wipes and/or supplies will be made available for staff use in each classroom.

Professional development for appropriate staff members will occur to ensure that mitigation efforts such as cleaning, sanitizing, disinfecting, and ventilating are done correctly and frequent monitoring for adherence to district procedures will be implemented.

E. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;

The district will follow recommendations in response to positive COVID-19 cases based on CDC and other applicable guidance. The district will consult with the Allegheny County Health Department regarding positive cases as necessary or required.

Each building will have a designated isolation space separate but near the nurse's office for students to await pickup by a parent/guardian when exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19.

f. Diagnostic and screening testing;

The district will provide voluntary COVID-19 testing (with parent/guardian permission) based upon availability and guidance from the Pennsylvania Department of Health. The district will encourage students and staff to self-screen for symptoms and to stay home when they are sick. The district will communicate testing opportunities to the community when requested.

The CDC has changed the COVID-19 guidelines and is now focusing on "Respiratory Virus Guidance." The organization offers core prevention strategies to mitigate the risks of COVID-19 transmission. The district will continue to follow CDC guidelines.

g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;

The district will continue to partner with local resource providers to communicate vaccination opportunities, including, but not limited to, vaccination clinics held in district buildings, clinics held at other local agencies, and clinics held in the greater Pittsburgh area.

Continued communication of these resources will be sent to the community as they become available and if age restrictions change, allowing additional students to be vaccinated.

h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and

All students within the Fox Chapel Area School District will be monitored by building-level teams for academic, behavioral, and social or emotional progress. The pupil services team will then identify and allocate support based on the individual student need. The pupil services department will provide psycho-educational assessment, school counseling, health/wellness checks, student assistance, school-based mental health or teletherapy, and/or social work services to students within the Fox Chapel Area School District.

All school personnel, including contracted related service providers, will follow the district's Health and Safety Plan and ensure implementation of special education services identified within each student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP). If the district is required to transition to hybrid or fully remote learning, case managers will schedule a parent/teacher conference to discuss the contents of the IEP and make any agreed revisions to support students in alternative learning environments. When working with students through alternative delivery models, the district will work with families to provide the greatest educational opportunity given the circumstances, while also ensuring a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE). To this end, the district will:

- Ensure students are able to access appropriate resources given their needs
- Provide equal access to learning and required materials
- Provide the services and supports in the IEP to the greatest extent possible
- Communicate with guardians throughout the processes
- Provide related services to the greatest extent possible
- Provide paraprofessional support as outlined through the IEP
- Provide assistive technology to meet the needs of individuals across learning environments

The district school counseling department ensures student support through Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 across all instructional models. If the district transitions to hybrid or fully remote learning, the school counseling department will reach out to families to address individual student needs based on the changes to the instructional delivery.

Gifted programming provides enrichment and a broad spectrum of educational opportunities while encouraging individual learners to develop personal responsibility, task commitment, self-discipline, independent learning skills, respectful conduct, and social-emotional balance. Online and in-person enrichment and advancement opportunities are made available to students through the Quest program during all instructional models and will be adapted to meet the instructional choice of families.

<p>i. Coordination with state and local</p>	<p>The district will coordinate with state and/or local health officials as needed.</p> <p>In addition to guidance, the district will rely on real-time recommendations and guidance from the Allegheny County Health Department on a case-by-case basis to determine the need for quarantines, isolations, or temporary school closures or restrictions due to cases of COVID-19.</p>
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Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for the Fox Chapel Area School District reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **August 9, 2021; January 10, 2022; March 14, 2022; June 13, 2022; September 12, 2022; May 8th 2023 (reviewed in March 2023); September 11, 2023; March 11, 2024; and September 9, 2024**

The plan was approved by a vote of:

9 Yes
0 No

Affirmed on: **September 9, 2024**

By:

(Signature* of Board President):



Marybeth Dadd - Fox Chapel Area School District 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.