



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: Wilkesburg Borough School District

Initial Effective Date: **August 24, 2021**

Date of Last Review: **August 14, 2024**

Date of Last Revision: **August 14, 2024**

The Wilkesburg Borough School District will provide instructional options that balance the educational needs of students with the health and safety of the community at large. The District recognizes the dynamic nature of this pandemic and understands that with additional research, the realities of health-related concerns, and the growing demands of the public health sector, we will be required to tailor and adjust the Health and Safety Plan as needed. Therefore, the District is prepared to move between phases efficiently, and will prepare the students and families for these adjustments as well.

Therefore, the options below will be offered to students and families at the Wilkesburg Borough School District for the 2024-2025 school year:

☒ **100% Full In-Person Learning** (5 days a week instruction for all Wilkesburg students in grades PreK-6 schools and will adhere to CDC recommendations)

☒ **Wilkesburg Virtual Academy** (5 days a week with asynchronous virtual option and daily staff support)

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 Wilkesburg Borough School District will provide in-person and virtual learning throughout the 2024-2025 school year, with support and guidance from local health officials and the State and County Health Departments. The District has created and followed a stringent and detailed Health and Safety Plan throughout the health crisis and will continue with essential components of this plan moving forward. The specific details of the health and safety plan are included in the chart below. Wilkesburg Borough School District will be offering a 100% in-person option to all families in the 2024-2025 school year, with continued adherence to CDC and Allegheny County Health Department official's recommendations. A virtual option for instruction and learning will be continued for this school year for those parents who prefer to have their children learn from home.

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?

Academically, the District has purchased a host of digitally progressive tools to assess student need and provide tailored instruction to all students in all subject areas, particularly in reading and math. In addition, the District has reorganized resources in order to provide additional interventions and reading support to students. Staff will continue to use multiple sources of data (PSSA's PVAAS, Acadience, etc..) to continue to assess learning loss due to Covid-19 and create additional opportunities (during school, after school, and summer school programs) for students to close the gap. A more inclusive educational environment has provided for more accountability and in-person opportunities for students. The District has and will continue to provide professional learning opportunities for staff members regarding typical childhood reactions to stress and trauma and mental health awareness, as well as trauma-informed practices. The District has purchased a new SEL screener and program to effectively identify and address student social and emotional needs of the students. The district also has contracted with Effective School Solution (ESS) to support the social and emotional needs of our students that may be connected to the pandemic. In addition, we have contracted with a local organization, Human Services Administration Organization (HSAO) to support students and parents with community resources for social, emotional, medical, and financial support. The Administrative team and teacher leadership will continue to develop transitional procedures and guidelines to accentuate safety measures at the school and provide effective instructional methodologies to support student learning. School counselors and supporting staff will continue using virtual meetings to collaborate with students and families with meaningful support for transitioning students back into the instructional setting. Counselors and SAP Team will be readily available for students expressing fears, loss, anxiety and/or signs of depression. Classroom paraprofessionals, behavior specialist, and school social worker will support the learning environment accordingly.

The District's provider for Food Services (The Nutrition Group) works in collaboration with the State and Local entities and our contracted vendors to ensure that equitable, accessible, and healthy food options are available to all Wilkinsburg families. Breakfast and lunch options will be provided that will adhere to the CDC, State, and County Department of Health guidelines.

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 ;	Masks – WSD will continue to monitor the

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	recommendations from the CDC, ACDH, PADOH, PDE and make recommendations, as necessary. - Any changes to this masking and social distancing plans can occur at any time due to the requirements set forth by CDC, County, and State Health Departments. - If masking is required, parents must provide masks to each of their children to be worn each day to school until restrictions are lifted (preferably, all students should have an extra mask as well). Each school is equipped with additional masks as needed. - If CDC, ACDH, PAHD, or PDE recommends, masks may be required for all school transportation and when students are working in small grouping areas.
b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);	Classroom / Learning Spaces – Kelly Primary and Turner Intermediate Schools – - WSD will continue to monitor the recommendations from the CDC, ACDH, PADOH, and PDE regarding social distancing and make recommendations as necessary. - All Wilkinsburg schools will be operating on a 5-day a week schedule, with a virtual learning option with daily staff support. - Staff members will organize classrooms in accordance with current CDC, State and County Health Department mandates and guidelines. As such, the arrangement of classroom furniture will support the appropriate physical distancing, including student desks/chairs spaced out accordingly <i>to maximum extent possible</i>. - Recess schedules may be staggered to limit the number of students, as

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	well as an effort to keep students in smaller groups if needed. • Hygiene practices will occur throughout the day and visual reminders about hygiene will be posted in all buildings. • An Isolation Room is located in the nurse's suite. • District will adhere to CDC, ACHD, PAHD, and PDE recommendations regarding school visitors. • If recommended by CDC, ACHD, PAHD, or PDE, teachers and staff will provide cues and protocols for physical distancing, as appropriate. Although, visual reminders for physical distancing and directional traffic may be posted in all buildings. • Cafeteria spaces may be arranged and organized in accordance with current CDC, State and County Health Department mandates and guidelines, <i>to the maximum extent possible</i>. As such, students will be spaced accordingly. Overflow rooms may be utilized during eating times to achieve this requirement. • If necessary, locker/cubby use may be limited to grade levels where students switch teachers and to avoid large grouping of students in close proximities.
c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette ;	Hygiene – • The Wilkinsburg Borough School District hygiene routines will begin at home prior to the student entering our school buildings. • If a student or staff member is ill, it is recommended they stay at home until symptoms subside or are cleared by a medical professional. • Ongoing reminders by staff for student handwashing will occur. • Each classroom will be provided with adequate amounts of cleaning

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	supplies including hand sanitizer, wipes/paper towels, and spray bottles with the necessary amount of alcohol content to mitigate germs and viruses. • Adequate amounts of soap, touchless paper towel dispensers, and touchless trash cans are available in each building. • Sanitizing stations are strategically placed throughout the buildings, especially near doors or high touch areas. • Students will be expected to wash hands before eating and will be asked to utilize hand sanitizer when entering the classroom and as instructional situations warrant throughout the school day. All students are required to wash/sanitize hands when leaving and entering the classroom. Sanitizers are available for additional use in each classroom.
d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;	Daily Cleaning Protocols • Custodians will clean and disinfect high touch areas as CDC, State and County Health Department mandates and guidelines require. Each school has their own electrostatic sprayer to assist with daily cleaning protocols. • When staff and students are in the buildings, custodians will disinfect high touch areas routinely (i.e., door handles, dispensers, light switches, elevator buttons, water fountain bottle filling station buttons, stairway handles, toilets, faucets, sinks, etc.). • After occupants leave for the day, a thorough cleaning will be completed in each bathroom. Toilets, sinks, and dispensers will be cleaned and disinfected. Floors will be swept and mopped. Dispensers will be checked for supplies, cleaned and disinfected.

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	- Floors will be either swept by vacuum or dust mop. Areas that have tile will be mopped periodically. - The Custodial staff and teaching staff will communicate when there is a need for products related to disinfection. - Teachers and students will work collaboratively to clean surfaces before and after use (whether this is daily or at the switch of classes, based on where the staff member works). All classrooms will be equipped with one-time sanitizing wipes. When students leave the classroom, they will disinfect their desk/area when they return. - Teachers will lead and model with students the correct hand washing in the morning, before and after lunch, and prior to leaving school. - Custodial staff will clean and sanitize any facilities and equipment after use by any outside organizations. This includes playground, multi-purpose room, library, cafeteria, or any classrooms. Nightly Cleaning Protocols - The PM Custodial staff will allow for sufficient HVAC air exchanges and ample time for the electrostatic sprayer disinfectant and surface viruses to die. - Cleaning will be completed in all rooms, bathrooms, cafeterias, locker rooms, and hallways. - After cleaning is finished, the custodial staff in each building will use the electrostatic sprayer/canister sprayer to disinfect all surfaces and high touch point areas. - Custodians will check the high efficiency (MERV-13) filters routinely to make sure they are cleaned and replaced as necessary.

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	• Inventory check and restock of supplies will occur in each classroom. This may include vinyl gloves, disinfectant, extra disposable masks, sanitizer, bottles of disinfectant, etc. • If students in outside groups use the facilities (cafeteria, gymnasium, bathrooms), the maintenance staff will wipe down high touch areas, as well as clean and disinfect bathrooms and floors as required. • Cleaning and disinfecting of playground equipment. Saturday Cleaning- Saturday cleaning and disinfecting may be implemented to support the 5-day school schedule. Procurement of Supplies – The Wilkinsburg Borough School District has made a concerted effort to procure masks, ample cleaning solution, gloves and other available personal protective equipment (PPE) in accordance with CDC, State and County Health Department mandates and guidelines. All supplies meet CDC requirements for handling the transmission of COVID-19 or other virus-related illnesses; adhering to SDS guidelines to ensure that cleaning solutions are acceptable for use in our schools. Supplies will be available in all classrooms. Face masks have been purchased and available to all students and staff. Face shields have been purchased and available to all staff. Cleaning and Sanitizing Protocols – Cleaning and sanitation procedures will be implemented in accordance with CDC, State and County Health Department mandates and guidelines. Increased frequency of sanitizing high touch areas, doors, knobs, etc., will help to mitigate transmission of germs and viruses. Doors will be propped open for ventilation as needed and touch-free

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	sanitizing stations will be spread strategically throughout the buildings (especially next to doors that need to stay closed for safety reasons). Teachers and students will work collaboratively to help sanitize desks and spaces after each class period. Signage in each classroom will help to convey cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting procedures. High touch areas will be wiped down or sprayed daily. High touch areas in the main office will be cleaned periodically throughout the day. To assist with these procedures, each classroom is fully equipped with hand sanitizer, sanitizing wipes and spray bottles of cleaning solution. Staff can request additional supplies at any time, and more supplies will be delivered promptly. Touch free sanitizers are installed in all buildings to enhance safety protocols. Physical Education Teacher will clean and sanitize all equipment used at the end of each school day. Air and Ventilation Systems –The District has purchased and has installed higher rated filters (MERV-13) to ensure all airborne particulates are captured. HVAC systems will run during unoccupied hours which will further dilute the air in classrooms and keep the air clean. The evening hours will allow for multiple air exchanges in each classroom to clear out additional particles and airborne pathogens that may still be present. The current air ventilation system has been analyzed, upgraded, and is sufficient for exchanging air effectively and keeping indoor spaces safe. Training - The custodial and maintenance staff members will be retrained for proper cleaning procedures and expectations for cleaning routines and protocols. Staff members will be retrained proper protocol and application of specific cleaning solutions and tools. Ongoing trainings and specific supervision strategies are implemented to ensure effectiveness of cleaning processes

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	and procedures. The trainings/protocols will be implemented by district leadership, and/or additional outside trainers as necessary.
e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;	Quarantining Procedures – WSD will continue to adhere to CDC, PAHD, ACHD, and PDE recommendations regarding isolation and quarantining. The Wilkinsburg Borough School District has reconfigured Health Offices by utilizing adjacent spaces to allow for safe student and staff member care. One area is designated for healthy students with routine needs, medication, diabetic checks and first aid/injury assessments. A second space is utilized by students and staff who are ill and being evaluated for possible infection. An air purification system will be installed in all suites to support proper air flow as an additional safety precaution. HEPA filtration systems are installed in all quarantine rooms in the District. School Health Staff will provide protocols for staff that align with current CDC, State and County Health Department mandates and guidelines. All Health Staff are equipped with proper personal protective equipment (PPE) and will have adequate supplies available at all times. Classrooms are equipped with basic first aid supplies to handle common first aid requests in class. Returning to School - The Wilkinsburg Borough School District adheres to all guidelines CDC, State and County Health Department mandates and guidelines regarding safe return after being infected or exposed to Covid-19 or any other pandemic related illness. Visitors-- The Wilkinsburg School District adheres to all guidelines CDC, State and County Health Department mandates and

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	guidelines regarding school visitors (essential or nonessential) into the building. The District will continue to use a touchless forehead temporal artery thermometer as needed. Procedures will be reviewed with all office staff and security personnel. Social Distancing- • The District will continue to expand the walking distance to .7 miles to limit the number of students on bus transportation. • The District will continue to increase the number of buses to support social distancing on school transportation.
f. Diagnostic and screening testing;	Monitoring Health – • The Wilkinsburg Borough School District has purchased digital “no-touch” thermometers to provide an additional line of defense for identifying students and staff members who may have contracted COVID-19 or other virus-related illnesses and are exhibiting high temperatures. • As a precautionary monitoring measure, all students, staff and essential visitors should be monitored and evaluated at home each day prior to entering each building. • Parents will be required to keep their children home if their child is exhibiting any symptoms of illness. • The Staff are fully aware of the necessary precautions to minimize the possibility of spreading viruses. The school staff monitors absenteeism, physical distancing practices, and re-entry considerations on a case-by-case basis in accordance with CDC, PAHD, or Allegheny County Health Department recommendations.

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	• If a student is observed as having symptoms, the staff will alert the building Health Staff, and the Health Staff will initially see the student outside of the classroom, and subsequently make decisions on additional care based on their examination. An isolation room will be available for students that exhibit symptoms related to Covid-19 or other virus-related illnesses. • If students develop a fever while in school, parents will be required to pick them up from school.
g. Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to school communities</u> ;	Vaccinations - The District will collaborate with local health officials in order to make vaccination accessible and easy for families to participate. The District supports vaccinations for all students, as they become available, and will routinely encourage parents to ensure that their children become vaccinated.
h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	Students with Disabilities – The Wilkinsburg Borough School District is required to ensure students with disabilities receive a free appropriate public education (FAPE) at all times. All students with disabilities must follow all health and safety protocols. However, safe accommodations can be made through each student’s individualized education plan (IEP) and transportation. Staff will gather baseline data, monitor student’s current educational levels, and determine if additional accommodations or services are needed. Quality Learning Opportunities – A more inclusive educational environment will provide for more accountability and in-person opportunities for students. School personnel have created professional learning opportunities for staff members regarding typical childhood reactions to stress and trauma and mental health awareness. The District has purchased additional training

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	opportunities to support the mental health awareness of staff and students. The Administrative team and teacher leadership will continue to develop reentry procedures and guidelines to accentuate safety measures at the school and provide effective instructional methodologies to support student learning. School counselors will continue using virtual meetings to collaborate with students and families with meaningful support for transitioning students back into the instructional setting as needed. Counselors, a social worker, and a behavior specialist will be readily available for students expressing fears, loss, anxiety and/or signs of depression. Classroom paraprofessionals will support the learning environment accordingly.
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	Coordination with State and Local Health Officials – The Wilkinsburg Borough School District Health Staff and Superintendent periodically collaborates with the officials from the State and Allegheny County Health Departments. The Health Staff works collaboratively with the administration, teachers, and custodians, to ensure that all procedures and protocols are properly adhered to, and that communication is seamless in regard to symptoms and confirmed cases of COVID-19. The District works in collaboration with the State and Allegheny Health Department on all issues related to COVID-19.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for the **Wilkinsburg Borough School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on August 27, 2024

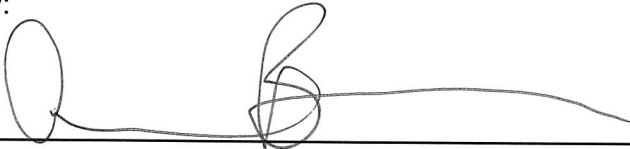
The plan was approved by a vote of:

7 Yes

0 No

Affirmed on August 27, 2024

By:



(Signature* of Board President)

Amanda Barber

(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.

Revised and amended on November 23, 2021

Board action is requested approve amending the District's Health and Safety plan as follows. Old: Visitors are limited to essential personnel only. Updated: Visitors are limited to essential personnel only or those with administrative approval from the Superintendent.

Revised and amended on March 22, 2022

Board approved amending the District Health and Safety Plan to make mask optional for all students and staff, effective March 31, 2022. Furthermore, district will revise their health and safety plan to eliminate temperature checks.

August 14, 2024

Revised and amended on August 23, 2022

Board approved amending the District Health and Safety Plan to adhere to the current CDC recommendations on August 24, 2022.

Revised and amended on January 24, 2023

Board approved amending the District Health and Safety Plan to adhere to the current CDC recommendations on January 24, 2023.

Reviewed and amended on August 22, 2023.

Board approved edits and revisions to the District Health and Safety Plan and will continue to adhere to CDC recommendations on August 22, 2023.

Reviewed and amended on February 27, 2024

Board approved edits and revisions to the District Health and Safety Plan and will continue to adhere to CDC recommendations on January 27, 2024.

Reviewed and amended on August 27, 2024

Board approved edits and revisions to the District Health and Safety Plan and will continue to adhere to CDC recommendations on August 27, 2024.