



# ARP ESSER Health and Safety Plan Guidance & Template

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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: **School District of the City of Erie**

**Initial Effective Date:** July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**Date of Last Review:** July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021/ December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021/June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022/March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**Date of Last Revision:** N/A

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 plans to adhere to the Center for Disease Control as well as the Pennsylvania Department of Health guidelines for COVID-19 prevention in school. The District will or has already adopted the following recommendations:

- Masks will be worn by any individual as designated by the guidance set forth by the Center for Disease Control;
  - The District is working on a COVID screening testing process;
  - The District will continue to upgrade the ventilation systems located in some of our buildings to meet the standards set forth by universal building code and recommendations from health officials;
  - The District will adhere to three feet of social distancing when indoors when applicable;
  - The District will continue to communicate with the county Department of Health for any updates, as well as, to assist with contact tracing and case investigation.
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 is in the process of surveying the students who participated in their education during the 2020-2021 academic year virtually to determine if they are interested in a virtual option. Based on those responses from parents the district will determine how many classrooms if any will be needed to continue to provide instruction virtually, either through a synchronous or asynchronous model.
  - The District has committed to addressing the social-emotional needs of the students both with in school, as well as outside of school. The District has contracted out with a local service provider for Blended Case Managers who will work with families to address individual, family, social and community barriers to learning. In addition the District has committed to the hiring of additional mental health specialist. By doing so we will ensure each of our 16 buildings has their own dedicated MHS.

- From an academic standpoint the District is committed to keep the class size for in-person learning below 20 students at the elementary level. Studies have shown that when class size is at or below 20 students, the students are able to engage with the teacher more frequently, and learning improves.
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> ;	On June 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2021 the Board of School Directors approved a motion to amend the current Health and Safety Plan to include the CDC and Pennsylvania Department of Health's guidance on face coverings. Masks will still be required of all individuals regardless of vaccination status when on public or district run transportation.
b. Modifying facilities to allow for <u>physical distancing</u> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);	The District is setting up classrooms throughout the District to allow for at least three feet of social distancing when applicable. At the elementary and middle school level students will be placed in pods or self-contained as to limit the number of individuals any one student interacts with.
c. <u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</u> ;	As we did during the 2020-21 school year students will learn proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette. Signs will be placed through our buildings reminding students of both handwashing and respiratory etiquette.
d. <u>Cleaning</u> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <u>ventilation</u> ;	During the 2020-2021 school year 13 of the 16 buildings had bipolar ionization as well as UV-lighting installed into the air handling units and unit ventilators throughout the buildings. Additionally during the summer of 2021, 12 of the 16 buildings are having boiler plant upgrades, which will improve the efficiency of the heating and ventilation systems in the buildings. The buildings which did not have the above listed work are receiving those same upgrades through a larger construction project which is currently happening.



ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p>From the cleaning side the district will continue to utilize the classroom cleaning checklist which was started during the 2020-2021 school year. Each room will be equipped with their own cleaning product (dawn dish soap), in addition to the hydrogen peroxide cleaning solution which is used by the custodial staff. Every two hours the high touched areas will be disinfected by the custodial staff.</p>
<p>e. <u>Contact tracing</u> in combination with <u>isolation</u> and <u>quarantine</u>, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<p>The District will continue to have a Pandemic Coordinator who will have regular ongoing communication with the county department of health. The District will adhere to the guidance set forth for quarantine and isolation as amended from time to time by the CDC.</p>
<p>f. <u>Diagnostic</u> and screening testing;</p>	<p>The District is working with two different entities to set up diagnostic and screening testing for COVID-19. The District will offer to all employees and students who give consent to receive COVID-19 testing during the course of the regular school day. Such testing will be crucial to identification of any potential COVID-19 cases among the population which may or may not be fully vaccinated.</p>
<p>g. Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to school communities</u>;</p>	<p>The District has already partnered with the local hospitals to have a vaccination day for the high school students. We will continue to work with the local hospitals and community centers to promote vaccinations for any and all stakeholders.</p>
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<p>The District's special education department will work with individual families on a case by case basis to determine what if any accommodations are required to best service the students of the District. The accommodations which are found in an individual's IEP or 504 plan will be taken into consideration when determining appropriate mitigation factors with special education students.</p>
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<p>As previously mentioned the District's Pandemic Coordinator from the 2020-2021 school year will still be working in that</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p>capacity. The Pandemic Coordinator will have regular ongoing communication with the county department of health to ensure the district is up to date with the most current information and guidance as given by the CDC and the state health officials.</p>

## Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **School District of the City of Erie** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

The plan was approved by a vote of:

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes

\_\_\_\_\_ No

Affirmed on: **August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

By:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature\* of Board President)

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(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.