



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: **Washington School District**

Initial Effective Date: **July 1, 2021**

Date of Last Review: **July 22, 2021-August 23, 2021**

Date of Last Revision: **July 22, 2021-August 23, 2021**

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? Washington School District will monitor the latest recommendations from PDE, PADOH, and CDC and update their Health and Safety Plan as needed. Board policies will be reviewed and adjusted as needed to assure compliance with the health and safety plan. The plan will be presented to the governing Board for approval when changes are necessary. Facilities and practices will be adapted to the greatest extent possible to ensure that appropriate prevention and mitigation processes are followed. In addition to practicing standard preventative measures such as handwashing, cleaning practices, and the use of PPE when required, Washington School District will continue to encourage the vaccination of students and staff. Additionally, we will continue to practice standard mitigation efforts to include reducing close contact to the greatest extent possible.

1. 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? Educational models will be adapted to the needs of the students as appropriate, including virtual if needed. Social, emotional, mental health and other needs will be monitored and provided by school health providers, social workers and other mental behavior specialists when needed. Food service will be provided using various models as appropriate to the situation, including the availability of free meals if needed for students throughout the entire year.
2. 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Universal and correct wearing of masks;	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Washington School District will develop mitigation plans and procedures, when applicable, that are in line with the most recent PDE, PA DOH, and CDC guidance. These plans will be updated every six months as needed. As of June 28, 2021, Pennsylvania's Universal Masking Order has been lifted.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p>As a result, students and staff in Washington School District will not be required to wear face coverings when on district property. We will respect individual decisions if students, parents/guardians, and staff decide to wear face coverings on district property or at district sponsored events.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During a Special Board Meeting on August 23, 2021 at 12PM, A motion was made by the Board to REQUIRE face masks on district property in indoor settings. The motion was passed on a 7-2 roll call vote. Effective immediately, all students and staff will be required to wear masks indoors and the Board will revisit the decision at the September 20, 2021 Board Voting Meeting. • Per federal transportation mandate, Washington School District will require students to wear masks, regardless of vaccination status, while traveling on school busses for school or school related activities.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding); 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students and staff will socially distance themselves to the greatest extent possible • Identify and utilize large spaces (i.e. gymnasiums and outside spaces – as weather permits) for social distancing • Reduce desks and furniture when feasible to increase social distancing • Establish distance between the teacher's desk/board and students' desks. • Turn desks in the same direction when possible • Limit physical interaction through partner or group work.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handwashing and respiratory etiquette; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teach and reinforce good hygiene measures such as handwashing and covering coughs • Provide hand soap, hand sanitizer with at least 70% alcohol, cleaning wipes/disinfectant spray, tissues, and paper towels in all classrooms and frequently trafficked areas • Post signage in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate how to stop the spread of germs and diseases • If students or staff experience cold symptoms or COVID-19 symptoms (such as cough, congestion, fever, etc.) district

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p>personnel may ask the parent/guardian of the student to wear a mask to potentially reduce the spread of germs and disease</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District personnel may ask students to stay home when experiencing cold or COVID-like symptoms to potentially reduce the spread of germs and disease.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily cleaning of schools with soap and water, disinfectants and sanitizers to decrease how much of the virus is on surfaces and objects, which reduces the risk of exposure. • Provide additional cleaning to frequently touched surfaces and objects including door handles, sink handles and drinking fountains. • At least daily and throughout the day disinfecting schools and transportation vehicles using EPA- approved disinfectants against COVID-19 to reduce the risk • Use of routine cleaning practices for indoor areas that have not been used for 7 or more days or outdoor equipment • Follow standard protocols to clean surfaces that are not high touch. • Ensure ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible (for example, by opening windows and doors as long as safety is not compromised).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with school administrators and school nurses to identify an isolation room or area to separate anyone who exhibits COVID-like symptoms • School nurses and other healthcare providers should use Standard and Transmission- Based Precautions when caring for sick people • Establish procedures for safely transporting anyone who is sick home or to a healthcare facility • Contact the local health authority before acting in response to a known or suspected communicable disease • Contact the local health authority for further guidance if a parent/guardian/caregiver

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p>notifies the school of potential exposure by a student, staff member, or school visitor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fill out and submit the Self Report and Line List forms provided by PDE and PADOH Joint Task Force for contact tracing • Send out notifications to building staff, students, and parents/guardians with the appropriate information as needed • Work closely with the community health center nurses to follow-up and complete contact tracing • Develop policies and procedures based on PDE, PA DOH, and CDC guidelines. Ensure that staff and students meet all requirements before returning to school safely
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diagnostic and screening testing; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check for signs and symptoms of students and staff daily upon arrival • Consider a process to address privacy concerns of monitoring practices and the potential stigma associated with monitoring and confirmed exposure or cases • Develop a system for home/self- screening and reporting procedures • Encourage staff to stay home if they are sick and encourage parents to keep sick children home.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with community health centers and hospitals to provide brochures and other information as to when and where staff and students can receive vaccinations at their sites
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that policies regarding parts of the health and safety plans should be sensitive to the needs of students and staff with medical issues. • Provide appropriate accommodations in compliance with federal and state laws for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies and procedures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination with state and local health officials. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Washington School District will continue to work with the PA DOH and follow guidance set forth by PDE, PA DOH, and CDC to keep students and staff safe and healthy

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Washington School District** reviewed and approved the **REVISED Health and Safety Plan on August 23, 2021.**

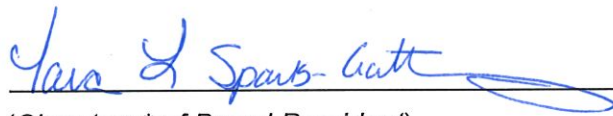
The plan was approved by a vote of:

7 Yes

2 No

Affirmed on: **August 23, 2021.**

By:



(Signature* of Board President)

Tara Sparks - Gatling

(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.