



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: **Southern Huntingdon County School District**

Initial Effective Date: **August 25, 2021**

Date of Last Review: **July 19, 2022**

Date of Last Revision: **March 21, 2023**

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?

A cleaning and disinfecting schedule will continue to be followed. Classroom windows will be opened for ventilation, when possible. Social distancing will be encouraged, when possible. Signs will remain posted throughout the building to remind students and staff of washing hands, etc. Hand sanitizers will be available throughout the building. Signs reminding students/staff to cover their mouth/nose when coughing/sneezing will be posted throughout the buildings.

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?

Parents and staff will be reminded that if they are sick they should stay at home. Remote learning will be available for those not able to attend in person and will also be available for individuals who are uncomfortable returning to school.

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 ;	Masking for students, faculty and staff is optional when present in SHCSD facilities and on busses.
b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);	When possible, social distancing will be followed.
c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette ;	Signs will be displayed throughout the buildings reminding students/staff to wash their hands and the proper way to wash their hands. Signs reminding students/staff to cover their mouth/nose

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	when coughing/sneezing will be posted throughout the buildings.
d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation ;	A cleaning and disinfecting schedule will continue to be followed. Classroom windows will be opened for ventilation, when possible.
e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine , in collaboration with the State and local health departments;	The School Nurses will continue to follow contact tracing guidelines as per PA Dept. of Health and/or CDC in the event a positive case.
f. Diagnostic and screening testing;	It is the responsibility of the individual.
g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities ;	Vaccine Clinics will be offered when available.
h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	Students who are uncomfortable returning to in-person school will be offered remote learning. The IEP Team will meet to determine an appropriate accommodation for students with disabilities.
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	PA Dept. of Health and/or CDC guidelines will be followed.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Southern Huntingdon County School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **March 21, 2023**.


The plan was approved by a vote of:

9 Yes

0 No

Affirmed on: **March 21, 2023**

By:


(Signature* of Board President)

Candace Sonnenberg

(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.