



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: West Shore School District

Initial Effective Date: August 1, 2021

Date of Last Review: July 15, 2021

Date of Last Revision: July 15, 2021

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 West Shore School District will routinely review, evaluate, and support, to the greatest extent feasible, its practices in light of the most up-to-date guidance from the CDC, as well as any requirements, recommendations, or guidance from the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) and Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning.

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 West Shore School District will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address our students' academic needs, and students' and staff members' social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, including student health and food services, by continuing to offer programs and services to meet those needs, including counseling services, health services, and nutrition services and by removing or mitigating any barriers that may prevent students and staff from accessing those services.

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;	District staff and students will not be required to wear face masks while at school or on buses unless it is <i>required</i> by order, regulation, or other legal authority of the CDC, PA DOH, and/or

	<p>PDE. The District will have a supply of masks available for individuals who would like to wear them.</p>
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<p>The District's intent is for all schools to be open for in-person instruction five (5) days a week. To the extent required and practicable, seating and spaces in buildings and buses will provide for physical distancing.</p>
<p>c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</p>	<p>Students and staff will be encouraged to wash hands frequently. Additional reinforcement and monitoring of hand washing will be provided prior to lunch and upon return from breakfast, lunch, snack, and recess.</p> <p>Hand sanitizing products will be readily available in common areas. Students and staff are permitted to bring personal hand sanitizers to school.</p>
<p>d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</p>	<p>Occupied areas, such as offices, classrooms, meeting rooms, workrooms, and bathrooms, high-touch surfaces, such as water fountains, door handles, and light switches will be cleaned each day while students and/or staff are present. Windows on buses will be opened, when possible, to increase air circulation.</p> <p>Safe cleaning products (ex. soap and water) for use on individual or shared learning spaces and materials will be provided for staff and student use throughout the day.</p>
<p>e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<p>The District will act as a resource for students and families to assist and support any required contact tracing, isolation, or quarantine timeframes as ordered by DOH.</p>
<p>f. Diagnostic and screening testing;</p>	<p>The District will encourage students and staff to monitor themselves daily for symptoms, prior to reporting to school/work. District Health Services staff will continue to monitor students while they are in school and to act as a resource for families.</p>
<p>g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;</p>	<p>The District will continue to provide resources on its website and would consider being a host site for an outside</p>

	provider to administer vaccinations to students/school employees.
h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	School nurses and administrators will work with parents to discuss concerns related to the Health and Safety Plan. Any needed accommodations will be documented in a Section 504 plan or IEP, as appropriate. Cases will be reviewed on an individual basis.
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	The District will continue to coordinate with state and local health officials as appropriate.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **WEST SHORE SCHOOL DISTRICT** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **July 15, 2021**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

_____ **Yes**

_____ **No**

Affirmed on: **July 15, 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.