



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: Union School District

Initial Effective Date: July 15, 2021

Date of Last Review: July 15, 2021

Date of Last Revision: January 20, 2022

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?

Union School District will continue to follow the mandates put in place by state and federal officials/agencies as they relate to mitigation and prevention requirements. As mandates and guidance change in relation to COVID19 on a regular basis, the district will be flexible in changing techniques and operating procedures in response to the current mandates and guidance at the time. The school district will continue to practice good hygiene such as having students cover their cough, regular washing of hands, use of hand sanitizer, regular cleaning of school facilities, etc. Students experiencing symptoms of COVID19 will visit the nurse for assessment and determination of whether they should see a physician and/or be quarantined for the currently recommended/required period of time. The school district will follow all requirements as determined through the DOH, in relation to quarantines for close contacts of a positive case of COVID19.

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?

Union School District will provide in-person educational services for students unless a closure is necessary either through mandate, or inability to staff school buildings. In the event of a closure, students will be able to access their education remotely through the use of school issued Chromebooks and in home internet service. Students who cannot access the internet will be given the option to use a school district issued Wifi hotspot to provide access. Students who cannot utilize in home internet nor a hotspot due to lack of data service will be provided printed educational materials. Students will also be given tele-access to a licensed therapist through contract with SPERO Group to address mental health and counseling concerns. If a closure occurs for a duration greater than a business week, the school may choose to provide meal 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 <u>masks</u>;	Union School District will follow all state/federal mandates as it pertains to the wearing of facial coverings/masks for the prevention of spread of COVID19.
b. Modifying facilities to allow for <u>physical distancing</u> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);	Union School District will continue to utilize social distancing practices when practical to the extent mandated by state/federal guidelines. When necessary, the district may elect to utilize physical barriers in lieu of social distancing.
c. <u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</u>;	All persons will continue to utilize positive personal hygiene practices to include regular handwashing/use of hand sanitizer, covering of coughs, use of tissues, etc.
d. <u>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation</u>;	All facilities will be cleaned/sanitized on a regular basis to minimize the spread of microbes. When/where possible, increased flow of fresh air will be facilitated by the opening of windows, use of fans, and maximizing the returning fresh air in ventilation units.
e. <u>Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments</u>;	All contact tracing, isolation, and quarantining practices will follow those mandated by the Pennsylvania Department of Health and/or the Center for Disease Control at the time of incident.
f. <u>Diagnostic and screening testing</u>;	All symptomatic individuals within each building will be referred to the school nurse for diagnostic screening/testing utilizing the most relevant and updated screening tools/processes at the time of incident.
g. <u>Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities</u>;	Union School District will keep employees, students, and community members apprised of any locally available/provided vaccination opportunities as we are made aware.
h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	Each student who may have unique health needs and/or students with disabilities shall be assessed on an individual basis for the development and implementation of a health and safety plan which meets the student's individual needs.
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	All efforts to prevent the spread of COVID19 shall be in accordance with all

	state and local health official mandates. Any incident involving a positive COVID19 case shall include coordination with the state department of health.
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Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for Union School District reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on July 15, 2021.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

Yes

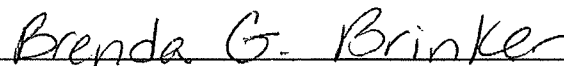
No

Affirmed on: January 20, 2022

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.