



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: Ellwood City Area School District

Initial Effective Date: June 29, 2021

Date of Last Review: June 24, 2021

Date of Last Revision: June 24, 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 Ellwood City Area School District will follow the PA DOH and CDC guidance and use evidence-based practice in evaluating circumstances related to community spread and positivity rates, as published on the PA DOH Early Warning Dashboard, in order to keep all individuals safe and healthy. The Ellwood City Area School District will follow mitigation protocol (proper handwashing, proper distancing as feasible, guidance to minimize the spread of germs, and proper cleaning for academic, extracurricular, and sports participation. This plan is subject to change per guidance of the PA Department of Education, PA Department of Health, and the CDC.

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 Ellwood City Area School District will hold in-person education for all students. Those students unable to attend in-person will be provided with alternative options (ie. ECAVA - Ellwood City Area Virtual Academy - or other Cyber/charter options). Students will be provided with school counselors, school nurse and nursing personnel, pupil personnel resources, teaching and coaching staff, that can assist with mental health, physical health and safety, social and emotional needs. In addition, the cafeteria supervisor with the district administrative team will address any food needs for community and students as permitted by the PA Department of Education and Department of Agriculture.

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> ;	Based on the Governor's actions to no longer mandate masks after June 28,

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p>2021, masks will be optional within school buildings. However, the District will follow any guidance of the CDC, PA DOH, PA DOE and/or Governor's orders regarding safety protocol if the need exists.</p>
<p>b. <u>Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing</u> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<p>The LEA asserts that education and instruction is a social endeavor. Students and teachers learn and teach best when there is a sharing of ideas, hands-on activities and cooperative groups among students. This requires limited physical distancing in the classrooms and learning facilities. The LEA will create physical distancing to the extent practicable and will follow all CDC, PA DOH and DOE guidance regarding physical distance.</p>
<p>c. <u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</u></p>	<p>All students and staff will be reminded about proper hygiene practices via educational tools (i.e. signs in visible areas, and verbal reminders).</p> <p>Handwashing with soap and water should be done for 20 seconds at regular intervals throughout the school day:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Upon arrival at school ● Midmorning ● Before lunch ● After lunch ● Before departing the school building <p>Coughing and sneezing should be done into a tissue or elbow and followed by handwashing.</p> <p>Reminders to students and staff to avoid touching their face, putting hands in mouth or nose.</p> <p>Alcohol based sanitizers with at least 60% alcohol will be widely available in classrooms, common areas, and throughout the school building.</p> <p>LEA faculty and staff will monitor and advise students on proper handwashing and respirator etiquette.</p>
<p>d. <u>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</u></p>	<p>Proper Cleaning/Sanitizing/Disinfecting (restrooms, drinking fountains, hallways, center owned equipment and vocational areas) will be done daily?</p> <p>Utilize safe options with low residual and no odor that can lead to other health concerns for</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p>disinfecting and cleaning in classrooms and other areas.</p> <p>Air flow and building ventilation will be monitored for air circulation, temperature, and air quality. The LEA has taken measures to upgrade air quality and ventilation in district buildings.</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 LEA will continue to follow current guidance for PA DOH and PA DOE regarding the isolation and quarantine of district students, faculty and staff. The LEA will continue to work with the PA DOH to ensure proper contact tracing for incidents that create possible exposure within the school buildings and athletic facilities.</p>
<p>f. <u>Diagnostic</u> and screening testing;</p>	<p>School Nurses and the LEA Doctor will continue to follow the screening tools provided by the PA DOH and CDC when students and staff present as ill. If/when the County Community Spread returns high levels, the District will return to daily temperature screening upon entry to the buildings.</p>
<p>g. Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to school communities</u>;</p>	<p>The LEA will act as an information resource to the community regarding the availability of vaccinations via the District website, Facebook page, and robo-call software. The LEA will continue to work with county agencies and local medical providers to promote vaccination clinics.</p>
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<p>Students with disabilities will follow the same protocols to keep them safe and healthy. Accommodations will be made on an individual basis and will maintain confidentiality and respect. The LEA will, when necessary, develop 504 accommodation plans for students that demonstrate learning difficulty due to an individual health issue.</p>
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<p>The LEA will work with all state and local health authorities to provide a safe and healthy learning environment within the district. The Ellwood City Area School District values the expertise of the PA DOH and CDC and will follow changing guidance in an attempt to help stop the spread of the COVID-19 Virus.</p>

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement


The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Ellwood City Area School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **June 24, 2021**

The plan was approved by a vote of:

8 Yes
0 No

Affirmed on: **June 24, 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.

