



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: **Montoursville Area School District**

Initial Effective Date: July 19, 2021

Date of Last Review: July 19, 2021

Date of Last Revision: July 19, 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 district has and will continue to review any recommendations and follow any laws or mandates we receive from the Pennsylvania Department of Education or Pennsylvania Department of Health as well as consider the unique needs of our community and district.

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 district will continue to operate in a fully functioning in-person setting for every approved school day. We will also continue to offer a virtual option for families who would feel more comfortable in an online environment. We will have full student access and will operate all of our normal programs, supports and 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 ;	The School Board voted on May 24, 2021 that we will maintain mask optional status for the 2021-2022 school year. However, following current federal statues established in January 2021, students will need to be masked while on the public school buses or in district vans until such law is amended or abolished.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);	To the greatest extent possible the district will try to maintain physical distancing.
c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette ;	The district will continue to promote healthy hygiene practices and illness prevention strategies.
d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation ;	The district will continue its rigorous schedule of cleaning and sanitation, routine replacement of air filters and ventilation management.
e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine , in collaboration with the State and local health departments;	<p>The district will continue to follow the Pennsylvania Department of Health contact tracing requirements. Exceptions will be allowed by either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntarily providing proof of vaccination status OR • Voluntarily providing proof of positive antibody testing <p>Should persons provide such information they will be exempt from quarantine.</p>
f. Diagnostic and screening testing;	No MASD employee will provide screening or testing. Nor will testing be allowed within the school buildings. The district will, however, share with any interested persons such facilities that offer testing and screening within the community.
g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities ;	As voted on by the School Board on June 22, 2021, vaccinations will not be required of staff or students in order to return for the 2021-2022 school year. The district will share with any interested persons such facilities that offer vaccinations.
h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	The Montoursville Area School District will follow the recommendations of CDC, PDE, and PA DOH regarding all health and accommodations for students with disabilities. The school district's Director/Supervisor of Special Education will meet with all special education teachers to assure that all the appropriate health and safety measures are in place and adapted to meet the individual student's needs. In addition the special and regular education teachers collaborate to identify any health or safety accommodations needed with their identified students.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	The district will follow the laws and mandates of the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Pennsylvania Department of Health and review any recommendations made by the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for the Montoursville Area School District reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on July 19, 2021.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

_____ **Yes**

_____ **No**

Affirmed on: July 19, 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.