pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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:

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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.

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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 Thorough an Integrated System of Support
- PA Department of Health - COVID-19 in Pennsylvania

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Introduction: School district operations will be implemented in the same manner as those in place prior to the pandemic; the exceptions will be fully described within this document. This plan reflects those components that we will keep in place, as referenced in our Pandemic Health and Safety Plan, as well as promoting general health and safety for all students, employees and visitors as well as remaining compliant with national, state and local health guidance.

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 will continue the Pandemic Planning Committee meetings to review current case data, as well as available CDC guidance, and recommend modifications and adjustments to the current health and safety plan as needed. The plan will be reviewed and revised as necessary at the district level by the district's Health and Safety Planning team as well as the building level teams. The revisions will be recommended to the Board for approval and changes will be communicated to students, staff and the greater school community.

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 use the current mechanisms in place (modified schedules, remote/asynchronous learning and distribution of services) to ensure the continuity of educational services as required by PA School Code and Federal Law.

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Our methods for educational delivery for the 2021-22 school year will be:

1. Instruction will resume on September 1, 2021 on a normal, Monday through Friday schedule.
2. The following options will be available to families:
    1. Face to face, in classroom instruction
    2. Online option (Bridges/BCIU Academy) K-12
    3. Combination of face to face and cyber programming, as appropriately determined according to medical need.
    4. Homeschool (this option has long been available to our homeschool families)

Student medical issues which require a temporary leave from school will be addressed on a case-by-case basis to determine appropriate instructional alternatives to continue the student's education in consideration of information provided by the student's health care provider, parent/guardians, principal and counselor, and IEP team, if applicable.

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 Governor's Universal Masking Order is set to expire prior to July 1, 2021. Masks will be worn in conjunction with Gubernatorial mandate and CDC guidance to the extent possible.
b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);	When necessary, the District will shift to remote learning for the entire population or a specific subset of students, in consultation with the Bucks County Health Department. This may include modified schedules and blocks of days that include asynchronous learning. Classroom configurations will promote learning and maximize distancing where feasible.

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ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	Students will be taken outdoors as often as possible. Building faculty meetings, full administrative team meetings, and professional development activities will occur in person unless designated as virtual by the meeting coordinator.
c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;	General hand hygiene will be practiced throughout the day to minimize spread through use of common items. Proper hand washing technique signs will be posted in all bathrooms and sinks
d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;	The District will maintain its sanitizing and cleaning routines, including the procurement and distribution of PPE and cleaning materials when necessary and appropriate. All District facilities are fully air conditioned, and have maximum fresh air exchange rates programmed into the building HVAC controls.
e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;	Seating charts and schedules will be provided to the BCDH to determine contacts as well as appropriate isolation and/or quarantine measures, in consultation with the Bucks County Health Department. We will use strategies similar to those used with influenza, other infectious diseases in the event of a confirmed case of COVID 19.
f. Diagnostic and screening testing;	A list of Local Pharmacies, Urgent Care Clinics, and County Testing sites will be provided and updated as needed.

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ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	Students and employees are encouraged to report positive cases of COVID 19 to their building nurse The District will consult with the Bucks County Health Department on decisions impacting the closure or classrooms, schools, or the district in the event of an outbreak. Although the flu vaccine and COVID vaccine are not required for school attendance or employment, it is encouraged for all students and staff to get the flu vaccine and COVID vaccine.
g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;	Vaccination clinics will continue to be scheduled, based on survey data and community need/request. Continue to work with BCDH to provide opportunities for students and community members to receive vaccinations District communication methods will be used to distribute information regarding vaccination clinics and designated hours.
h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	Accommodations, including remote learning and modified schedules will be employed to allow flexibility for students with disabilities.
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	The District will continue to partner with the Bucks County Intermediate Unit and the Bucks County Health Department to coordinate responses to outbreaks of COVID-19, in accordance with established procedures.

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Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for SD of Borough of Morrisville reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on (TENTIATIVE: JUNE 23, 2021).

The plan was approved by a vote of:

__7__ Yes

__2__ No

Affirmed on: (INSERT DATE: MONTH, DAY, YEAR)

By:

(*Signature* of Board President*)

Damon Miller

(*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.