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:

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

Health and Safety Plan Summary: School District of Borough of Morrisville

Initial Effective Date: June 17, 2021

Date of Last Review: August 23, 2023

Date of Last Revision: September 23, 2022

School District of Borough of Morrisville

Introduction: The School District of Borough of Morrisville's Health and Safety Plan is informed by guidance from our federal, state, and county authorities. These include and are not limited to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PADOH), the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), and the Bucks County Department of Health (BCDH). Our District will continue to work in coordination with these agencies and our local partners to develop and refine expectations that meet all requirements.

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 Federal, State and Local 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 Pandemic Planning Committee as well as the building level teams. The revisions will be recommended to the Board for approval and changes will be communicated to all stakeholders.

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 ensure safe learning and working environments for all district students and staff members and will continue with our goal to provide in-person instruction during the 2022-2023 school year. The district will continue to ensure that all students receive instruction that meets state and federal standards and have the necessary supports for success, including access to technology and connectivity.

Our methods for educational delivery for the 2022-23 school year will be:

1. Regular in-person instruction will start on September 6, 2021, on a normal, Monday through Friday schedule.
2. Traditional homeschool options remain in place per board policy.
3. The district partners with the Bucks County Intermediate Unit to offer a cyber option through the Bridges Virtual Academy.

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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 School District of Borough of Morrisville will follow the most up to date Guidance for K-12 Schools from the CDC. • Operational Guidance for K-12 Schools and Early Care and Education Programs to Support Safe In-Person Learning.
b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);	The district will rely on best practices, informed by federal, state, and local guidance, to design and implement high-quality teaching and learning environments. The district will continue to rely upon the BCDH's guidance for students, staff, and community.
c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;	General hand hygiene will be practiced throughout the day to minimize spread through use of common items. All individuals will continue to be encouraged and reminded to sanitize or wash their hands on a frequent basis. Hand sanitizer will continue to be made available in all common areas, hallways, and/or lobby areas where sinks for handwashing are not available, in order to encourage frequent use. The District will continue to post signs in highly visible locations that promote everyday protective measures/hygiene and how to stop the spread of germs.
d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving	The District will maintain its sanitizing and cleaning routines, including the procurement and distribution of PPE and cleaning materials when necessary and appropriate.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
ventilation;	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;	The School District of Borough of Morrisville will follow the most up to date Guidance for K-12 Schools from the CDC and the BCDH. • Operational Guidance for K-12 Schools and Early Care and Education Programs to Support Safe In-Person Learning The district will follow the BCDH's guidance, as Bucks County's local health authority, regarding the following: • Per the BCDH, Bucks County Schools currently are not required to report positive cases of COVID-19 to the Bucks County Department of Health nor to the Pennsylvania Departments of Health or Education. • Individuals may continue, but are not required, to report testing positive to covid@mv.org. • Because reporting positive cases of COVID-19 is no longer required, the district will no longer send notifications of a positive case to parents and team members from specific classrooms, schools, or offices. • Because reporting positive cases of COVID-19 is no longer required and because contact tracing is no longer occurring at the BCDH, the district will no longer collect close contact information from any individual who tests positive for COVID-19. As such, the district will no longer utilize the close contact tracker. • Normal absence reporting expectations and procedures remain in place for any individual who tests positive for COVID-19. Per the BCDH, the predetermined period of isolation and quarantine are no longer required. Instead, an individual who tests positive for COVID-19 should not report to school/work until they have resolving symptoms and have been fever-free for 24-hours without medication. • For students, all normal absence reporting expectations remain in place.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	• For staff, in the event an absence is required, normal absence reporting requirements should be followed, including securing a doctor's note for an illness that lasts three (3) or more consecutive days. • Per the BCDH, asymptomatic individuals should not be isolated or quarantined from school/work, regardless of exposure to a positive case. • The BCDH does not recommend individuals get tested for COVID-19 if they are asymptomatic. In the event an individual who is asymptomatic does test for COVID-19 and is positive, the BCDH recommends that the individual consider staying home for a day or two to ensure they do not become symptomatic. • The district will continue to consult with our partners at the BCDH for any circumstances that require guidance and/or adjustment. • COVID-19 infections will be handled similarly to other conditions in existing school nursing policies. Any staff member absent for three or more days is expected to submit a physician's certification to jtorres@mv.org prior to returning to work. District contractors will be expected to notify their employer and follow the employer's absence reporting procedures. The District's Administration and Pandemic Team will continue to monitor COVID-19 cases related to our ability to safely and effectively provide in-person instruction.
f. Diagnostic and screening testing;	The School District of Borough of Morrisville will follow the most update guidance from the BCDH. All staff, students, families, and contractors should continue to self-monitor and all individuals should stay home when they are ill and consult their health care provider for further guidance. All staff are expected to follow district absence and attendance reporting procedures and enter appropriate information into our absence reporting system in a timely manner. Any staff member absent for three or more days is expected to submit a

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	physician's certification to Human Resources prior to returning to work.
g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;	The district will continue to work with federal, state, and local health care agencies, including the BCDH to promote opportunities for individuals to receive vaccinations. • BCDH Immunization Information
h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	The mission of this health and safety plan is to ensure the continuation of in-person instruction in all District programs. Accommodations and specially designed instruction will be provided to specific students as needed, this may include remote learning, modified schedules, or other strategies in accordance with IEP/504 requirements to allow flexibility for students with disabilities. We will maintain regular communication with families to ensure support is provided.
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	The School District of Borough of Morrisville will rely on best practices, informed by federal, state, and local guidance, to design and implement high-quality, student-centered instructional environments. The District will continue to partner with the Bucks County Intermediate Unit, federal, state, and local health authorities, including the Bucks County Department of Health, to support our school community needs.

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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.

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Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **SD of Borough of Morrisville** approved the Health and Safety Plan on September 28, 2022 and reviewed the Health and Safety Plan on August 23, 2023.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

7 **Yes**

0 **No**

Affirmed on: **August 23, 2023**

By:

_____

(*Signature* of Board President*)

Mr. Damon Miller, School District of Borough of Morrisville Board of School Directors

Attest:

_____

(Signature of Board Secretary)*

Mrs. Jacquelyn Catalini, School District of Borough of Morrisville Board of School Directors

*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.