



# ARP ESSER Health and Safety Plan Guidance & Template

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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: McKeesport Area School District

**Initial Effective Date: August 12, 2021**

**Date of Last Review: August 11, 2021**

**Date of Last Revision: August 11, 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?

McKeesport Area School District's Building & Grounds Director will ensure that the OSHA and CDC requirements for COVID-19 are met. Cleaning, sanitizing, disinfecting and ventilation protocol training have been provided to maintenance and custodial staff by the Director of Building & Grounds. All high touch surfaces will be disinfected regularly, including water fountains, door handles, light switches, playground equipment and student desks. To reduce the number of high touch surfaces, all classroom, cafeteria, auditorium and gymnasium doors will remain propped open. Classrooms and common areas will be ventilated with additional circulation of outdoor air when possible, using windows, doors, and/or fans. All staff and students will be expected to sanitize or wash their hands frequently. Hand soap and hand sanitizer will be available in all restrooms and hand sanitizer will be made available in all common areas.

To the best of our ability, we will continue to maintain appropriate social distance, in our school buildings. All hallways and stairways will continue to be directional and are labeled. Larger areas of the buildings, such as the cafeteria and auditorium, will have more distance between students than in previous years. All staff and students will be expected to sanitize or wash their hands frequently. Hand soap and hand sanitizer will be available in all restrooms and hand sanitizer will be made available in all common areas.

Building facilities, such as the cafeterias, auditoriums and gymnasiums will be of limited use to the public.

Each principal will hold a staff meeting where social distancing and other COVID-19 protocol will be discussed. Staff will reinforce and promote proper hygiene, hand washing and hand sanitizing to their students.

All district parents/guardians will be expected to screen their child for symptoms at home each morning before the school day. District staff will be expected to screen themselves for symptoms prior to arriving to work. No staff or student who is ill should attend school.

Staff will be trained on protocols for monitoring student and staff health, including being made aware of the signs and symptoms of COVID-19. If a staff or student is showing symptoms, they will be required to report to the school nurse. Families will be notified of a confirmed case

that may have caused exposure through the Allegheny County Health Department’s contact tracing team, or a District representative, when applicable.

MASD has developed strategies that allow school buildings to remain open in the event of a confirmed case of COVID-19.

As of June 28, our Commonwealth lifted the mandatory mask mandate therefore allowing our staff and students the option to wear a mask on our campuses.

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?

In addition to offering full day, in-person instruction, we will continue to offer a fully remote option to families. Our food service department will operate normally, resuming hot lunch and breakfast service within the cafeteria setting. We will allow our service providers (ie: mental and social health) to come back into our buildings.

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> ;	As of June 28, our Commonwealth lifted the mandatory mask mandate therefore allowing our staff and students the option to wear a mask on our campuses.
b. Modifying facilities to allow for <u>physical distancing</u> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determine your maximum capacity for each room</li> <li>• Turn desks in the same direction.</li> <li>• Students sit on one side of tables/ desk facing the same direction.</li> <li>• Balance class numbers</li> <li>• Establish distance between the teacher’s desk/board and students’ desks</li> <li>• Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures such as:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Providing hand sanitizer for students and staff</li> <li>○ Allowing students and staff to wear face masks/coverings</li> <li>○ Limiting unnecessary congregations of students and staff</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
c. <u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</u> ;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teach and reinforce good hygiene measures such as handwashing, covering coughs, and face coverings</li> <li>• Provide hand soap and hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, paper towels, and no-touch trash cans in all bathrooms, classrooms and frequently trafficked areas</li> <li>• Post signage in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate how to stop the spread. COVID-19 symptoms, preventative measures (including staying home when sick), good hygiene, and school/district specific protocols.</li> </ul>
d. <u>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation</u> ;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daily cleaning of schools with soap and water will decrease how much of the virus is on surfaces and objects, which reduces the risk of exposure. Apply to frequently touched surfaces and objects including door handles, sink handles and drinking fountains.</li> <li>• At Least daily and throughout the day disinfecting schools and transportation vehicles using EPA-approved disinfectants against COVID-19 external icon to reduce the risk.</li> </ul>
e. <u>Contact tracing</u> in combination with <u>isolation</u> and <u>quarantine</u> , in collaboration with the State and local health departments;	Our District has a dedicated pandemic team who work regularly with both local and state health officials as it pertains to contract tracing and information gathering.
f. <u>Diagnostic</u> and screening testing;	All district parents/guardians will be expected to screen their child for symptoms at home each morning before the school day. District staff will be expected to screen themselves for symptoms prior to arriving to work. No staff or student who is ill should attend school.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
g. Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to school communities</u> ;	We have held three in-house vaccine clinics for our students. Also, we have partnered with the Allegheny County Intermediate Unit to offer a clinic for our entire staff.
h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Survey families with vulnerable children to gauge their intentions in returning to a traditional school setting while maintaining confidentiality consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other applicable federal and state privacy laws.</li> <li>• Provide remote/distance learning opportunities for vulnerable student populations in consultation with parents and public health officials.</li> <li>• Reconvene in-person IEP Meetings to adjust for Special needs.</li> </ul>
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	Our District has a dedicated pandemic team who work regularly with both local and state health officials as it pertains to contact tracing and information gathering. We will continue to follow all of the guidelines from the CDC, PDE, and Allegheny County Health Department.

## Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **McKeesport Area School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **August 11, 2021**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

6 Yes

3 No

Affirmed on: **August 11, 2021**

By:



(Signature\* of Board President)

Dennis Joe Lopretto

(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.