



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: **Pittsburgh Public Schools**

Initial Effective Date: July 29, 2021

Date of Last Review: July 28, 2021

Date of Last Revision: July 28, 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?

Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS) will continue to monitor the recommendations from PDE, CDC and the Governor of Pennsylvania. Recommendations will be implemented to the greatest extent possible. Enhanced cleaning, social distancing (per CDC guidelines), masking requirements and increased education on personal hygiene practices will continue to be implemented to keep our buildings open and operating safely. Pittsburgh Public Schools will also continue to monitor and contact trace, to quickly react to outbreaks should they occur.

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?

PPS will continue to address and adapt to the changing needs of students and staff members. In the 2020-2021 school year the District moved to a 1:1 technology model to ensure all students had access to the learning materials. These devices will continue to be available for use for in-person and/or remote instruction, if needed for the 2021-22 school year.

Students' social, emotional, mental health, and other needs will continue to be monitored by classroom teachers, school social workers, school nurses and other behavior specialists. Employees have 24/7 access to support through the District's Employee Assistance Program. Staff resources, such as the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), are available for employees and members of their household. Schools will continue to use the Multi-Tiered System of Support and the Student Assistance Program (SAP) process to identify academic and social/emotional, mental health needs.

Throughout the 2020-21 school year, PPS provided meals to students during full remote and hybrid learning through grab and go sites throughout the City. During the summer, grab and go sites are still available to provide free meals to students. The

food service department will maintain school-based free breakfast and lunch service and is agile enough to continue to provide meals to students if circumstances change and the District must move to hybrid or remote learning.

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
<p>a. Universal and correct wearing of masks;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPS will continue to monitor the recommendations from the CDC, PADOH, and PDE and make recommendations as necessary. • PPS currently requires all students and employees to wear a mask while inside a school district building with few exceptions. This is covered under the COVID-19 Face Covering Directive last updated 4-15-2021.
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPS will continue to monitor the recommendations from the CDC, PADOH, and PDE regarding social distancing and make recommendations as necessary. • According to current CDC guidelines, classrooms will be modified to allow for 3 feet social distancing between students and 6 feet between adults where feasible • Auxiliary areas may be used for lunch where it is difficult to maintain social distancing. • Excess furniture will be removed as necessary to maintain proper distancing. • Cohorting will be implemented wherever possible to limit exposure to large groups of students.
<p>c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPS staff and students will continue to be educated on proper handwashing, respiratory etiquette and personal hygiene routines. • All schools and District facilities have posted signage illustrating proper handwashing techniques

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand sanitizing dispensers have been installed in high traffic areas in all of the buildings.
<p>d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPS Plant Operations staff (who receive annual training on proper use of CDC approved disinfectants, and cleaners) will clean, sanitize and disinfect daily. Custodians complete a daily checklist on cleaning high touch points using a peroxide base cleaner during the day and disinfect high touch points, classrooms, and bathrooms in the evenings. • PPS has an ample supply of electrostatic sprayers that are used in the evenings at various locations as needed. • Each classroom is supplied with sanitizer wipes. • All “Cares Rooms” and main offices are equipped with an air purifier. • PPS HVAC Maintenance staff continue to monitor ventilation equipment for proper operation. • Supply and exhaust air systems will be flushed for a minimum of two (2) hours before and after building use wherever possible. • Plant Operations staff will ensure there is an adequate supply of HVAC equipment replacement filters. Filter Merv ratings were upgraded where possible. The filters are dated, logged and monitored. When necessary and appropriate the filters will be changed.
<p>e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPS requires staff to report cases of COVID-19 and/or symptoms related to COVID-19 as well as the District locations they occupied and any close contacts using an online reporting form. • PPS has a crisis team to manage COVID-19 cases reported in the District. The cross functional team meets daily to review cases submitted on the PPS COVID-19 online reporting form. The meeting involves a review of the submitted reports,

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	<p>contact tracing and next steps for schools and/or departments to communicate to staff and families; and clean impacted areas to maintain a safe environment for all. The decisions made by the team are based on the PPS decision tree, which is informed by the CDC and PDE guidelines established for schools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPS has installed “CARES” rooms in all school buildings to enable nurses to isolate a student or staff member who may be exhibiting symptoms. • PPS works collaboratively with the Allegheny County Health Department when needed.
<p>f. Diagnostic and screening testing;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPS is not currently testing students or staff. • Students and staff are asked to use a COVID-19 daily symptom self-screener for symptoms prior to reporting to work or school. • If symptoms are discovered students and staff are directed to stay home and follow-up with their PCP for appropriate testing as necessary.
<p>g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPS partnered with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit to vaccinate nearly 1,500 staff members in March of 2021. • PPS partnered with a local grocery chain (Giant Eagle) to enable another 1,500 staff to receive vaccines in early April 2021. This partnership made the vaccine available to all staff, bus drivers and out of school partners who wanted to obtain the vaccination. • The partnership with Giant Eagle was extended further to allow students in grades 6-12 to receive a vaccine at their home school location in June of 2021. • PPS also partnered with the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) to provide vaccinations to students

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	<p>and their families at summer school locations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPS will continue to host vaccination clinics and community clinics at our school buildings to ensure access to COVID-19 vaccine.
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPS will ensure that any of the policies or parts of the Health and Safety Plan will be sensitive to the needs of students and staff with medical issues. • The District conducts IEP meetings to address specific and unique needs that a student may have related to a safety requirement for COVID-19. • Accommodations of this nature would be documented in the IEP and made in accordance with federal and state laws.
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPS contracts with Physician, Dr. Gregorio to coordinate recommendations and procedures regarding COVID-19. • PPS has regular contact with the Allegheny County Health department and will continue to work with the ADOH, PADOH, CDC and PDE to coordinate with any recommendations or requests.

ARP ESSER Additional Requirements	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
j. Physical Education Classes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elementary (K-5, K-8, 6-8) and smaller gymnasiums-classes will not be combined-No more than one full class should be utilizing the same space at one time • High School Large Gymnasium-No more than two classes (with proper teacher supervision) totaling less than 90 overall students to use the large gymnasium at one time. Anytime possible there should be no more than one full class in the gymnasium at a time and all spaces should be utilized (i.e. weight room, wrestling and yoga rooms, outside spaces, etc.) to reduce the amount of students in one space and improve learning environments. • Any utilized equipment will be sanitized at the end of each class by students or the teacher. • Procedures to ensure students sanitize or wash hands before and after class should be in place. • Anytime possible, outdoor space will be utilized and doors and windows will be opened to aid in air flow, and fans should be utilized when possible. • Lifelong fitness, individualized activities, and skill progression activities are encouraged, but shared equipment and activities can be done with proper safety procedures in place (i.e. masks worn properly)
k. Arts Experiences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will return to attending arts within the arts classrooms. • Enough arts materials will be provided to enable limited sharing. • Appropriate materials will be provided to clean supplies that must be shared. • Library books will continue to be circulated this school year. Upon return, library books will be set aside for at least 2 days to ensure they are not contaminated. • Appropriate scheduling considerations should be made for instrumental, visual and performing arts classes to limit class sizes.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Musical instruments will not be shared and each student will be provided their own instrument. • Schools should seek alternative indoor/outdoor venues for classes to promote physical distancing, when possible. • Large ensemble rooms such as the band room will be divided into 3'x3' squares where students will be assigned to stand in the center of each square in order to maintain a 3' distance from other students on all sides. Students will face in the same direction. • Masks with slits and instrument bell covers shall be used by any individual playing a wind instrument indoors or outdoors regardless of social distancing opportunities. • Spittoon receptacles/bags will be placed on instruments to collect all saliva. • Any individual performing or rehearsing a choral or theatrical performance shall wear a mask at all times indoors regardless of social distancing opportunities. • Rehearsals shall be limited to thirty (30) minutes of sound production (playing or singing) indoors. (For indoors, allow 30 minutes down time following 30 minutes of playing or singing). • Orchestra students will be required to wear masks. • Dance students will be required to wear mass, except in cases where the teacher deems the activity strenuous and social distancing can be maintained. Dance floors will be divided into 6'x6' squares to help students maintain social distancing. • A classroom window will be ajar to allow for consistent air flow, when possible.
<p>I. Supplies, Textbooks and Instruments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where feasible, supplies and materials will not be shared among

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	<p>students, and students will be encouraged to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before and after use.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Once a textbook is circulated it will not be used for a minimum of two (2) days.
m. Related Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Occupational Therapy (OT), Physical Therapy (PT), Speech/Language, and other specialized personnel provided with cleaning protocol to be used in between related service sessions.
n. Protocols to Meet Students with Special Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate developmental instructional strategies used to help students understand PPEs such as social stories and visual cues. Provide clear masks and shields where possible to limit the anxiety and fear of students with significant intellectual disabilities. Individual protocols established for each child with a personal ventilation need. Situation specific protocols for toileting will be established. Proper safety training on removal and disposal of gloves, gowns, facial masks and any other protective equipment.
o. Student Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Buses will return to pre-COVID capacities. All students will be required to wear a mask/shield (IEP, 504 Plan Exceptions) when travelling on District transportation. Daily attendance of students riding District transportation will be taken by the school. Seats should be assigned by the school. Schedules will be adjusted depending on the number of buses a school has. All buses will have signage that encourage staying at home when sick, covering coughs and sneezes, and washing hands often. Buses will be disinfected between routes and at the end of the day.

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p. Career Technical Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided sanitization carts for al CTE Program and Elective Teachers which include supplemental personal protective materials as well as the necessary supplies to clean/disinfect CTE equipment and hand tools to promote student and teacher safety.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Pittsburgh Public Schools** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **July 28, 2021**

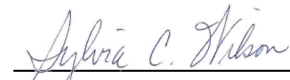
The plan was approved by a vote of: 9-0

Yes

No

Affirmed on: **July 28, 2021**

By:



(Signature* of Board President)

Sylvia Wilson

(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.