



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 26, 2023

Date of Last Revision: July 26, 2023

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. 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 in-person and/or remote instruction. Teachers are required to plan rigorous standards-based lessons for students to engage in both in-person and virtually, when necessary.

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.

PPS provided meals to students during full remote and hybrid learning through grab-and-go sites throughout the City. 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 will use the CDC’s COVID-19 community level and indicators to inform decisions on mask usage. • HIGH COVID-19 Community Levels: PPS will require 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 on 4-15-2021. • MEDIUM COVID-19 Community Levels: PPS will recommend all students and employees wear a mask while inside a school district building. • LOW COVID-19 Community Levels: PPS will make masks optional for all students and employees inside a school district building. • At the medical discretion of the nurse, masks may be required for staff and students entering the Nurses suite. <p><i>The COVID Team, in consultation with the District Physician and the Allegheny County Health Department may recommend more stringent masking measures in response to an outbreak.</i></p>

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<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 CDC, PADOH, and PDE recommendations regarding social distancing and make recommendations as necessary. • Nurses offices will have the ability to maintain 6 feet of distance as needed. • If a nurses office is too small to maintain 6 feet of physical distancing, PPS will continue to maintain a “CARES” room to enable nurses to isolate a student or staff member who may be exhibiting symptoms.
<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. • Hand sanitizing dispensers have been installed in high-traffic areas in all 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 the 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 based cleaner during the day and disinfecting 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. • Nurses offices, “Cares Rooms,” cafeterias, main offices and small occupied rooms as designated by Facilities personnel are equipped with an air purifier.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. The filters will be changed when necessary and appropriate.
<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, symptoms and exposures related to COVID-19 as well as the District locations they occupied and any individuals they came in close contact with using an online reporting form. • PPS has a COVID response team that includes two dedicated Project Managers to manage COVID-19 cases reported in the District. The cross-functional team meets as necessary to review cases submitted on the PPS COVID-19 online reporting form. The meeting involves a review of the submitted reports, 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. 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. • The Decision Tree is attached to the Health and Safety Plan. All revisions to the Decision Tree must be informed by community input and reviewed and approved by the Board. • PPS works collaboratively with the Allegheny County Health Department

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	and their epidemiologists when needed.
f. Diagnostic and screening testing;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students and staff are encouraged to use the COVID Daily Screener for symptoms before reporting to work or school. • The COVID Daily Screener may be updated by the Superintendent or designee if changes in CDC and PDE in consultation with the District Physician warrant it. • If symptoms are discovered, students and staff are directed to stay home and follow-up with their PCP for appropriate testing.
g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities ;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPS continues to partner with the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) to provide access to vaccinations for students and their families..
h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	<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 students and staff with medical issues, which may include additional requirements for staff working with medically fragile students. • The District conducts IEP and section 504 plan meetings to address specific and unique needs that a student may have related to health and safety concerns. Accommodations of this nature would be documented in the IEP and section 504 plan and made in accordance with federal and state laws.
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPS contracts with Physician Dr. Gregorio to coordinate recommendations and procedures regarding health and safety concerns. • PPS has regular contact with the Allegheny County Department of Health and will continue working with the PADOH, CDC and PDE to

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	<p>coordinate any recommendations or requests.</p>
<p>j. Physical Education Classes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 airflow, 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.
<p>k. Interscholastic Athletics</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coaches, Athletes and Athletic Workers will self-screen before every practice and game using the PPS Daily Screener. • Outdoor Sports: Masks are optional for all athletes and coaches whether they are competing or on the sideline. • Indoor Sports: During High COVID-19 Community Levels, masks are optional for athletes competing but are mandatory for athletes/coaches on the sideline. • Athletes will not share water bottles or cups and are encouraged to provide their own water bottle for practice and competition. • The District strongly encourages athletes to get vaccinated, self-screen and participate in State-funded pool testing.
<p>l. Arts Experiences</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will continue to attend arts within the art classrooms. • Enough arts materials will be provided to enable limited sharing. • Appropriate materials will be provided to clean supplies that must be shared. • In following our current mitigation strategies, Library books will continue to be circulated this school year. • 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. <p style="text-align: center;"><u>PERFORMING ARTS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performing Arts students will not be required to wear a mask while performing regardless of the COVID-19 Community Levels. • During High COVID-19 Community Levels, any individual not performing shall wear a mask at all times indoors regardless of social distancing opportunities • During High COVID-19 Community Levels, Orchestra students will be required to wear masks • During High COVID-19 Community Levels, dance students will be required to wear masks, except in cases where the teacher deems the activity strenuous. • A classroom window will be ajar to allow for consistent airflow when possible. • The District strongly encourages performers to get vaccinated and self-screen.
m. Supplies, Textbooks and Instruments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where feasible, supplies and materials will not be shared among students, and students will be encouraged to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before and after use.
n. 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.
o. Protocols to Meet Students with Special Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate developmental instructional strategies are used to help students understand PPEs, such as social stories and visual cues, if necessary. • Provide transparent masks and shields where possible to limit the anxiety and fear of students.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual protocols are 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 will be provided.
p. Student Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During High COVID-19 Community Levels, all students will be required to wear a mask/shield (IEP, 504 Plan Exceptions) when traveling on District transportation. • The school will take daily attendance of students riding District transportation. • Schedules will be adjusted depending on the number of buses a school has. • All buses will have signage that encourages staying at home when sick, covering coughs and sneezes, and washing hands often. • Buses will be disinfected as needed. • The District will provide bus companies masks to distribute to students, as necessary.
q. Career Technical Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided sanitization carts for all 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.
r. Facility Permitting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPS will reopen facility permitting to all community members and partnered providers who wish to utilize our facilities. • Permits are subject to fees and limitations as stated in Board Policy. • All permits are subject to approval by the Chief Operations Officer or Designee.
s. School Closure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A school will close and shift to virtual learning if one of the following is met: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recommendation from the Department of Health, the District's

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	<p>Physician or the District's COVID Response Team.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. The District is unable to provide adequate staff to safely operate the building.

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 26, 2023**

The plan was approved by a vote of:

_____ **Yes**

_____ **No**

Affirmed on: **July 26, 2023**

By:

(Signature of Board President)*

Sala Udin

(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.