



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: **Neshannock Township School District**

Initial Effective Date: August 30, 2021

Date of Last Review: January 14, 2021

Date of Last Revision: January 14, 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?

The District will continue to adhere to guidance set forth by the CDC, PDE, and PDOH regarding health and safety measures, for K-12 schools, through the use of regular collaboration and review of said guidelines and updates as they are published/distributed.

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 offer both full-time in-person instruction and full-time cyber instruction options for all students in grades K-12. Counselors will continue to develop age-appropriate programs and support for staff and students to support mental/emotional/social health in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Counselors will continue to be available to both in-person and cyber students on a daily basis. The District will complete the necessary waivers to take part in the SSO in order for all school-age students to receive free breakfast and lunch. Free meal delivery will continue to be available for students learning from home on a daily basis.

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 ;	As of the current date, masks will be recommended for all District faculty, staff, and students.
b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);	Classroom layouts will be designed to allow maximum physical distance between students. Physical barriers, such as plexi-dividers, will be utilized

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p>where physical space cannot be maintained in shared workspaces. Additional lunch periods have been added to the schedule to permit smaller groupings of students at any given time. Signage will be displayed to promote one-way traffic and physical distancing in as many areas as possible.</p>
<p>c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</p>	<p>In addition to multiple freestanding hand sanitizer stations, handwashing stations are readily available in student pod areas, as well as high traffic areas. Signage and infographics will continue to be on display promoting proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette (i.e. “cover your cough”) throughout the District.</p>
<p>d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</p>	<p>The HVAC system has been entirely overhauled and replaced to promote and enhance the air quality throughout the District. This project was completed during the summer of 2021 with the installation of new univents in each classroom. Electrostatic sprayers using Green Seal Certified disinfectants are utilized in all spaces throughout the District, including all school buses. Green Seal Certified disinfectants and wipes are provided and utilized in all learning spaces.</p>
<p>e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<p>The District will adhere to all guidelines set forth by the CDC and/or PDE/DOH.</p>
<p>f. Diagnostic and screening testing;</p>	<p>Hands-free temperature scanning devices are located at all entrances to the District. Students, faculty, staff, and visitors will have their temperatures scanned upon arrival.</p>
<p>g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;</p>	<p>The District will continue to collaborate with local vaccination facilities/pharmacies to promote the availability of vaccines – through the use of social media, website, and internal postings – for all stakeholders.</p>
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<p>The District will continue to ensure that students with disabilities are receiving appropriate accommodations per the specifications set forth in their IEP and/or</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	504 Plans, as well as standard District modifications and accommodations.
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	The District will continue to collaborate with state and local officials as appropriate.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for Neshannock Township School District reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on August 16, 2021.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

6 Yes

1 No

Affirmed on: August 16, 2021

By:



(Signature of Board President)*

Mr. David C. Antuono

(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.