



# 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: Huntingdon Area School District (HASD)

**Initial Effective Date: July 26, 2021**

**Date of Last Review: May 15, 2023**

**Date of Last Revision: May 15, 2023**

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?

*All HASD activities and decisions will be informed by the PA DOH, PDE, and our partner districts & agencies. Depending upon the public health conditions in any county within the Commonwealth, there could be additional actions, orders, or guidance provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) and/or the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH). The District will practice and support prevention and mitigation efforts in response to the changing conditions. The District is prepared to practice prevention and mitigation strategies along a continuum of most to least restrictive strategies in response to the changing conditions of the Pandemic. In addition to practicing standard preventative measures such as handwashing, cleaning practices, and the option of PPE, the District will continue to encourage the vaccination of students and staff. The District will continue to practice standard mitigation efforts to include reducing close contact when feasible. As long as there are cases of COVID-19 in the community, there are no strategies that can completely eliminate transmission risk within a school population. Students and staff who have not been vaccinated are encouraged to wear face coverings while in school.*

1. 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 HASD will continue to provide school counseling, social work, Student Assistance Program (SAP), tiered academic and behavioral interventions, and after school programming. Staff will review trauma-informed care practices through continued professional learning. Breakfast and lunch will continue to be provided for all district learners free of charge during the 21-22 school year.*

2. 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. <b>Universal and correct wearing of <u>masks</u>;</b></p>   | <p>The district will continue masking as optional for PreK-12 students. Effective February 25, 2022, the CDC does not require wearing of masks on buses or vans operated by public or private school systems, including early care and education/child care programs. Masking on HASD transportation is optional at this time. It will be an individual choice. All implementation strategies will adhere to the student's IEP or 504 Plan. The plan will be adjusted with board approval if there is found to be a need for universal masking to mitigate the virus.</p> |
| <p>b. <b>Modifying facilities to allow for <u>physical distancing</u> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</b></p> | <p>The district will review the current guidelines for physical distancing and attempt to distance to the greatest extent possible if the district experiences a COVID outbreak. When needed, school facilities will be arranged to provide social distancing. All implementation strategies however will adhere to the student's IEP or 504 Plan. Provide standard PPE for all staff and students upon request.</p>  |
| <p>c. <b><u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</u>;</b></p>  | <p>Follow the current guidelines for handwashing and respiratory etiquette. A review of proper handwashing techniques and respiratory etiquette will be demonstrated to kindergarten students and reviewed with other students when staff identifies a need. Hand sanitizer will continue to be available to all students and staff.</p>  |
| <p>d. <b><u>Cleaning</u> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <u>ventilation</u>;</b></p>  | <p>Follow the current guidelines for cleaning and ventilation. Cleaning will regularly be conducted by custodial staff. Opportunities for classes to be outside will be utilized, when possible. A revamp and upgrade of the District's HVAC system was conducted during the 2020-2021 school year.</p>   |

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| <p>e. <b><u>Contact tracing</u></b> in combination with <b><u>isolation</u></b> and <b><u>quarantine</u></b>, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p> | <p>In alignment with requirements in title 28 Pa.Code Chapter 7 (relating to communicable noncommunicable disease), the district will collaborate with State and Local Health Departments. School officials have the authority to restrict people who are at risk of spreading COVID-19 from entering the school building. The length of quarantine will adhere to Department of Health guidelines and requirements in title 28 Pa.Code Chapter 7.</p> |
| <p>f. <b><u>Diagnostic</u></b> and screening testing;</p>   | <p>School nurses will monitor students' health during the day and make appropriate recommendations for parents with regards to follow up.</p>  |
| <p>g. Efforts to provide <b><u>vaccinations to school communities</u></b>;</p>  | <p>In collaboration with local health providers in Huntingdon County, the District will advertise voluntary vaccine clinics for eligible students and staff.</p>   |
| <p>h. <b>Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</b></p>  | <p>All IEP and 504 plans will be implemented and revised when needed based on the needs of the individual student.</p>   |
| <p>i. <b>Coordination with state and local health officials.</b></p>  | <p>Maintain existing partnerships with local and state PA DOH, PDE, and emergency management. Refer to PA DOH as needed for guidance on responding to COVID situations.</p>  |

## Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Huntingdon Area School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on May 15, 2023

The plan was approved by a vote of:

9 Yes

0 No

Affirmed on: May 15, 2023

By:



*(Signature\* of Board President)*

Lucinda K. Dell

*(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.