



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: Phoenixville Area School District

Initial Effective Date: July 14, 2021

Date Review: August 22, 2022

Date Review: February 6, 2023

Date of Last Review: September 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?

The Phoenixville Area School District will continue to coordinate and consult with the Chester County Department of Health (CCDOH). We will continue to monitor the CDC site, consult with other local districts, and the PA Department of Health.

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 PASD Educational Task Force has presented a plan to the PASD Board of Directors that includes, academic remediation and support, social emotional support, and a revised virtual academy option. The PASD Board has approved the Emergency Instructional Time Template per section 520.1.

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 ;	The Phoenixville Area School District will follow guidance from the Chester County Health Department and the Pennsylvania Department of Health on mask wearing. This is in line with Policy 203.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<p>In-person learning will be implemented at the start of the 2022-2023 school year with no social distancing. The District has plans at the ready that were previously implemented and can be implemented again if directed by the CDC, PA Dept. of Health and the Chester County Dept. of Health should social distancing be required. These plans include 3 feet, and 6 feet social distancing.</p>
<p>c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</p>	<p>This will continue to be emphasized and reviewed with all staff and students regularly. Reminder signage will continue to be. Hand sanitizing stations will be maintained throughout the buildings.</p>
<p>d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</p>	<p>The District will continue to clean all facilities. The District owns 30 misters that will be utilized in the case of an outbreak. Ventilation systems will be both monitored and filters inspected regularly. Bottle filling stations have been installed throughout all school buildings. Doorknobs, handrails, and other high touch areas will be cleaned throughout the day. Faculty will be responsible for the doorknobs in their classroom spaces.</p>
<p>e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<p>All CCDOH contact tracing protocols will be followed should contact tracing be necessary. Isolation rooms and PPE will remain available should symptomatic students or staff incidents occur. All CDC, PDE, PADOH and CCDOH quarantine protocols will be followed. (Ref. Board Policy 203)</p>
<p>f. Diagnostic and screening testing;</p>	<p>Antigen testing will be available and used as directed by the building nursing staff.</p>
<p>g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;</p>	<p>The District has held 7 vaccination clinics in partnership with the Phoenixville Hospital, Mayor's Office, Office of</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	Emergency Management and local fire and EMT depts and local Gateway Pharmacy. Additional vaccine clinics are being scheduled for the fall of 2022. (Ref. Board Policy 203)
h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	The District will continue to make appropriate accommodations for all students and staff with disabilities as it has done throughout the pandemic.
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	As mentioned above, the District has partnered with Phoenixville Hospital, Mayor/s office, Emergency Management Office, local Fire and EMT Depts and Gateway Pharmacy to coordinate with our Pandemic Team to coordinate all emergency response.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Phoenixville Area School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **September 26, 2023**.

The plan was REVIEWED and APPROVED with no changes by a full board:

Yes

No

Affirmed on: **September 26, 2023**

By: Phoenixville Area School District School Board



(Signature of Board President)*

Ms. Susan Turner

(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.