



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: Erie Rise Leadership Academy Charter School

Initial Effective Date: October 15, 2020

Date of Last Review: March 1, 2021

Date of Last Revision: February 10, 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? ERLACS will give education to staff and students by reviewing strategies, policies and procedures on correct mask wearing, physical distancing while in the school, proper handwashing, cleaning techniques implemented while ensuring adequate ventilation. Employ Contact Tracing by use of both isolation and quarantine recommendations by the State and Erie County Department of Health (ECDOH).

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? Daily contact with parent(s) by teacher or teacher aide to review child(ren)'s academic progress and needs. Social Service and Psychologist to have frequent virtual sessions with online students to discuss challenges of distance learning, social separation, and its emotional effects. Teachers will communicate high risk students to Social Service, Psychologist and Principal to ensure needs are being addressed.
ERLACS will offer a free breakfast/lunch program to all families.

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 ;	Education to be given on correct and consistent mask wearing including most effective material, fit and expectations. Cloth masks or face coverings for all staff are required (Cloth masks are not surgical masks or respirators. Students are strongly encouraged with emphasis on

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p>avoidance of face touching as way to reduce spread of germs). Visitors will be required to wear a mask while in the building. (Will also be implemented for 21st Century after school program).</p>
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<p>Students should have seating at least 3 feet apart and not facing one another. Students are to remain in the same group throughout day, when feasible. Cohorts should remain 6 feet apart if in common areas. Always maintain 6 feet apart between staff including eating and other activities. Remove non-essential furniture in the building including classrooms to eliminate gatherings and maximize distance. Bus loading is back to front with a maximum of 2 students per assigned seat with keeping family members together.</p>
<p>c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</p>	<p>The Nurse(s) will teach and reinforce hand washing for at least 20 seconds and use of hand sanitizer (at least 60% ethanol or 70% isopropanol) when soap and water is not available. Students and staff will be encouraged not to touch eyes, nose, and mouth along with wearing a cloth mask while on school premises including the bus. Proper technique will be shown on how to cover a cough or sneeze. Tissues should be used once and then discarded immediately followed by hand washing or sanitizer. Students and staff will be encouraged to wash hands or use hand sanitizer upon entry into the building. Pandemic Team will always ensure adequate supplies. (Will also be reinforced for 21st Century after school program).</p>
<p>d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</p>	<p>Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces (doorknobs, sink handles, etc.) within the school and on school buses will be done at least daily and in between use as much as possible. Staff will be encouraged to clean their</p>

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	<p>office space or classrooms as per the CDC guidelines.</p> <p>Limited sharing of equipment or supplies should be encouraged. If equipment such as electronic devices are needed to be shared for educational purposes, the equipment MUST be disinfected by the staff member such as teacher or aide before another student can use.</p> <p>Water fountains use will be prohibited. Bottled water or packaged drinks only. Student's belongings need to be separated from others' and labeled.</p> <p>Buses will be disinfected prior to and after each run.</p> <p>Adequate ventilation should be encouraged, such as opening of windows and doors while keeping safety in mind (young students near windows with risk of falling). Spraying of disinfectants of any kind will be done without the presence of or a distance away from students to avoid respiratory irritation/inhalation.</p> <p>(Will also be implemented for 21st Century after school program).</p>
<p>e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<p>Staff is to do daily self-monitoring for any signs or symptoms of Covid-19 and to report to the Nurse Office immediately for further direction.</p> <p>Parents are advised to contact the Nurse Office prior to sending child to school if any cold symptoms are present.</p> <p>Students will be encouraged to visit the Nurse Office if any cold symptoms present while at school.</p> <p>The Nurse Office will collaborate with Erie County Department of Health (ECDOH) allowable by law to provide information of exposure to or diagnosis of Covid-19. Certified School Nurse will advise staff, students and their parents on proper isolation or quarantine along with obtaining close contact(s).</p>
<p>f. Diagnostic and screening testing;</p>	<p>Staff and students with symptoms of Covid-19 will be referred for diagnostic testing and advised to remain isolated from others until results are received. Positive test results staff or students will</p>

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	<p>be advised to isolate as per CDC and ECDOH guidelines.</p> <p>Staff and students who had direct contact with a positive Covid-19 individual will be referred for immediate testing and quarantine for 14 days. Fully vaccinated individuals with no Covid-19 symptoms do not need to quarantine.</p>
<p>g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;</p>	<p>Education given to staff regarding importance of obtaining Covid-19 vaccine for helping stop the spread of the virus within the school/community.</p> <p>Informational pamphlets created by the Certified School Nurse send home to the student's families regarding the Covid-19 vaccine and FAQs to minimize hesitancy within the community and open dialogue for encouragement to obtain the free vaccination.</p> <p>Nurse Office to assist staff and parents with scheduling the vaccine with a local pharmacy or hospital of their choice.</p>
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<p>High risk students will be identified and discussed in collaboration with the Nurse Office, Direct Supervisor, and the Pandemic Team to offer distance learning, when feasible.</p> <p>If refused, safety protocols using CDC, ECDOH and PDE guidelines will be implemented.</p>
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<p>Continued monitoring of CDC, PDE guidelines for school along with collaboration with ECDOH to ensure continued health and safety of staff and students.</p>