



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 Thorough an Integrated System of Support](#)
- [PA Department of Health - COVID-19 in Pennsylvania](#)

Health and Safety Plan Summary: **Fairfield Area School District**

Initial Effective Date: August 23, 2022

Date of Last Review: February 27, 2023

Date of Last Revision: August 23, 2022

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?

This plan will be monitored to review updates to Federal and State guidance/mandates. Any revisions will be recommended to the Board for approval and changes will be communicated to students, staff, and the Fairfield Area school community.

In the District's ongoing efforts to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, the district will continue to encourage students and staff to stay home when not feeling well. This Health & Safety Plan (2022 and beyond) was developed using our District's local context and references the most recent CDC, PA Department of Health (PADOH), and PA Department of Education (PDE) guidance on the operation of schools. *Specifically, the most recent CDC guidance shifts the focus of mitigation efforts from organizations and entities to the individual and households.* This plan prioritizes our ongoing efforts to safely keep our schools open for in-person instruction.

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?

During the 2022-2023 school year, all Fairfield Area facilities will be open for full, in-person, instruction and use. The Fairfield Area Cyber Education (FACE) program remains an option for families that choose it. If schools would need to be closed for short periods of time, continuity of education will be provided through remote, asynchronous learning. Services typically provided during a regular school day would continue in the remote environment as well, including access to meals and counseling/support services.

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 <u>masks</u>;</p>	<p>Students and staff experiencing symptoms of <i>any illness</i> should stay home and consult their Primary Care Physician (PCP), as needed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Face coverings are optional for all students, staff, and visitors at FASD during events and activities ● Adults and students are strongly encouraged to wear a face covering in all school environments such as buildings and transportation due to individual health concerns and to exercise their own caution ● FASD will monitor and internally evaluate the most recent guidance from the CDC, PADOH, and PDE and consider all recommendations
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for <u>physical distancing</u> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<p>Classroom configurations will support learning and provide distancing where feasible</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Outdoor learning spaces will be utilized as appropriate ● Routine professional meetings will occur in-person unless designated as virtual by the school administration
<p>c. <u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</u>;</p>	<p>Staff will receive regular reminders regarding healthy hygiene practices to instruct students in proper hygiene practices and etiquette</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Posters and signs will be displayed throughout the school to remind students to perform hand hygiene and on how to stop the spread of COVID-19 ● Sanitizers with at least 60 percent alcohol, which is recommended by CDC, are available in classrooms, cafeterias, hallways, and other public spaces ● Ensure adequate supplies (e.g., soap, paper towels, hand

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	sanitizer, tissue) to support healthy hygiene practices
<p>d. <u>Cleaning</u> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <u>ventilation</u>;</p>	<p>Follow CDC guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classrooms and buses will be disinfected weekly; cleaning will become daily (for a 5-day period) if there are multiple cases on a bus or in a classroom • Increase ventilation through intake of outdoor air, use of fans, and the regular servicing and maintenance of district HVAC systems
<p>e. <u>Contact tracing</u> in combination with <u>isolation</u> and <u>quarantine</u>, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<p>Students and staff experiencing symptoms of <i>any illness</i> should stay home and consult their Primary Care Physician (PCP), as needed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the most recent guidance from the CDC regarding Isolation and Precautions for people with COVID-19 • If symptoms emerge during the school day students/staff should report to the school nurse for evaluation • The District will employ strategies similar to those used for other infectious diseases (influenza, mononucleosis, etc.)
<p>f. <u>Diagnostic</u> and screening testing;</p>	<p>The District will continue to follow Board Policy 203: Immunizations and Communicable Diseases</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Superintendent will consider recommendations and current information from the CDC, PADOH, and PDE on decisions impacting the closure of classrooms, schools, or the district
<p>g. Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to school communities</u>;</p>	<p>The District will communicate opportunities offered by local agencies and health care providers to parents/guardians that are express an interest in vaccinations</p>
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<p>Designated school personnel will develop a student-specific plan that facilitates a safe return to school for students at higher risk</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	The Assistant to the Superintendent for Special Education, Curriculum & Student Services will work with the District Nurse to collaborate and coordinate with state and local health officials

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Fairfield Area School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **February 27, 2023**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

9 Yes
0 No

Affirmed on: **February 27, 2023**

By:


(Signature* of Board President)

Jennifer I. Holz
Jennifer I. Holz

(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.