



ARP ESSER Health and Safety Plan Guidance & Template

How does the LEA submit the plan to PDE?

Each LEA will upload in eGrants its Health and Safety Plan along with the webpage URL where the plan is located on the LEA's website.

What should the LEA do if its governing body will not meet before the July 30, 2021 deadline to submit the Health and Safety Plan to PDE?

By July 30, 2021, the LEA should submit in eGrants its preliminary, unapproved Health and Safety Plan, signifying when the board meeting for approval will occur, and the URL where the approved plan will be posted on the LEA's public website. Then, upon approval by the LEA's governing body, the LEA will submit the final approved Health and Safety Plan and URL no later than September 1, 2021.

NOTE: The July 30 deadline applies only to school districts and charter schools that received federal Title I-A funds in FY 2020-2021 and that intend to apply for and receive ARP ESSER funding.

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: Northern Bedford County School District

Initial Effective Date: August 11, 2021

Date of Last Review: February 14, 2023

Date of Last Revision: August 9, 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?

The district will continue to practice and reinforce proper handwashing and hygiene. The district will monitor guidance from the CDC at least every 6 months and adjust the plan accordingly.

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?

We will continue to use the resources available to us when students are identified as needing additional 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
a. Universal and correct wearing of masks ;	The wearing of masks is optional.
b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);	Distancing to the greatest extent possible during class and lunch periods.
c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette ;	Continue to teach/reinforce proper hygiene throughout the school year. Continue teaching/reinforcing proper sneezing and coughing techniques. Continue to reinforce proper handwashing techniques.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation ;	Continue to sanitize classrooms/hallways as appropriate and changing filters on a regular basis.
e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine , in collaboration with the State and local health departments;	The district will coordinate with the DOH on requirements for contact tracing. The district will utilize data gather during the 20-21 SY to determine appropriate contract tracing and quarantining.
f. Diagnostic and screening testing;	We do not have this capability. If the district were to receive test kits, students with symptoms would be tested to verify COVID 19 status.
g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities ;	Vaccinations were available to the community and those that wanted a vaccine were able to receive it. The same will be true for students if it is approved for younger age groups.
h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	Any necessary accommodations will be addressed through the Special Education Director.
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	All coordination with health agencies will be done through the school nurse.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Northern Bedford County School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **February 14, 2023**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

 9 Yes

 0 No

Affirmed on: **February 14, 2023**

By:

(Signature of Board President)*

(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.