



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: Wallenpaupack Area School District

Initial Effective Date: 09/07/2021

Date of Last Review: 02/13/2023

Date of Last Revision: 08/08/2022

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 Wallenpaupack Area School District returned to full-person instruction for the 2020-2021 school year with much success. Our Health and Safety Plans were developed in collaboration with our administrators, employees, and local health officials (Wayne Memorial Hospital and the Department of Health). Our Health and Safety plans proved their worth throughout the year as we did not experience community spread of Covid 19 in any of our school buildings. For the 2022-2023 school year, Wallenpaupack Area School District will continue to implement many of the prevention and mitigation procedures developed for the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years, which utilize CDC and PA DOH guidance.

Per CDC guidance, “Localities should monitor community transmission, vaccination coverage, screening testing, and occurrence of outbreaks to guide decisions on the level of layered prevention strategies.” Therefore, if community transmission or school-wide transmission becomes substantial or high, masking is strongly encouraged. Masking is optional for all individuals, at all community transmission levels. Targeted tiered mitigation measures may be temporarily implemented, by the Superintendent, such as masking or school/classroom closure in the case of an emergency.

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 Wallenpaupack Area School District has developed a continuum of services to provide our students and staff. For our students we have developed intervention blocks to identify and address students’ academic needs. The intervention block has been in the planning stages for months and has required many changes in our “traditional schedule.” Yet, the benefits that we hope to glean from the intervention block will have lasting positive effects. We are also planning a continuation of our summer and after-school programming for the 2022-2023 school year.

Our staff received trauma-informed training on our first in-service day last year (September 1st). This 3 ½ hour training discussed self-awareness, self-care, social emotional learning, as well as addressing their own social, emotional, and mental needs, as well as those of the students. Our staff will begin working with students throughout the year in addressing their mental health and well-being.

The District has also made a financial commitment to the mental health of students and staff by hiring a full-time Diversity/Equity/Inclusion (DEI), Social Emotional Learning (SEL), and Student Assistance Program (SAP) Counselor. This counselor will work to ensure that SEL curriculum is being delivered to students, while supporting teachers in the delivery of the SEL model.

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 <u>masks</u>;	• When community transmission or school-wide transmission becomes substantial or high, masking is strongly encouraged. Masking is optional for all individuals, at all community transmission levels. Targeted tiered mitigation measures may be temporarily implemented, by the Superintendent, such as masking or school/classroom closure. • Per the Pennsylvania State DOH, the mask wearing mandate has expired. • Students and staff are encouraged, but not required to wear masks while inside or outside of the school building. • Transportation-Masking is optional for all students and bus/van drivers. • Per the CDC, individuals age 2 and older should wear masks in public settings and when around people who don't live in their household.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
b. Modifying facilities to allow for <u>physical distancing</u> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);	• As circumstances with the pandemic change, mask mandate procedures may be modified. • Students will be socially distanced as much as possible throughout the school day (transportation, classrooms, cafeteria, etc.). • Face desks in the same direction, where possible. • Cohorts will be encouraged. • Cohorts should be distanced as much as possible. • Teachers will continue utilizing seating charts to assist in the event to contact tracing. • Hallway signage will be utilized to increase physical distancing while students are moving throughout the hallway. • As circumstances with the pandemic change, physical/social distancing procedures may be modified.
c. <u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</u>;	To prevent the spread of germs during the Covid-19 pandemic, you should also wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol to clean hands BEFORE and AFTER: • Touching your eyes, nose, or mouth • Touching your mask • Entering and leaving a public place • Touching an item or surface that may be touched by many people (door handle, table, etc.). Signage will be posted throughout the schools encouraging proper hand sanitation. Hand sanitizer dispensers will be placed throughout the school for student/staff use.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	Staff and Students are expected to adhere to hygiene practices set forth by CDC and DOH. Hand soap and hand sanitizer will be provided with at least 60% alcohol, paper towels, and no-touch trash cans in all bathrooms, classrooms, and frequently trafficked areas
d. <u>Cleaning</u> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <u>ventilation</u>;	Implement/continue daily deep cleaning and sanitation procedures in buildings along with the increased/additional cleaning of high touch points and bathrooms in accordance with facility usage. All cleaning supplies and procedures will be in accordance with local, state, federal, CDC and Department of Health recommendations. Disinfectant wipes, gloves, and/or sanitizer will be available in offices and classrooms where staff and students can clean surfaces throughout the school day. Discontinue/modify use of water fountains. Encourage use of water bottles from home or provide water bottles, when possible. Staff and Students are expected to adhere to hygiene practices set forth by CDC and DOH. Hand soap and hand sanitizer will be provided with at least 60% alcohol, paper towels, and no-touch trash cans in all bathrooms, classrooms, and frequently trafficked areas Operations and Maintenance staff use approved disinfectant and a cleaning process that ensures proper dwell time, cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch surfaces and horizontal surfaces, focusing on common gathering and public areas.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
e. <u>Contact tracing</u> in combination with <u>isolation</u> and <u>quarantine</u>, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;	All building HVAC systems are regularly inspected, air filters are changed frequently and where available, additional fresh air will be increased. Buildings will maintain proper temperatures and air circulation. All HVAC systems have been equipped with new bi-polar ionization equipment, which is highly effective at removing Covid-19 and other airborne viruses from the air. Contact tracing: • COVID-19 cases will continue to be reported to the health department when required. • Contact tracing will cease for all school exposures. • Students who feel ill, should stay home regardless of the illness or ailment. • The Superintendent has the authority to modify the contact tracing procedure should the levels of community transmission change. Isolation: • Each building will continue to have an isolation location identified, to take students/staff who are exhibiting Covid symptoms, or when it is determined that someone in their household has tested positive. • Close off areas of the building used by a sick person. Wait at least 24 hours before cleaning and disinfecting. If 24 hours is not feasible, wait as long as possible. Quarantine: People who have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19—excluding people who have had COVID-

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	19 within the past 3 months or who are fully vaccinated. • People who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 3 months and recovered do not have to quarantine or get tested again as long as they do not develop new symptoms. • People who develop symptoms again within 3 months of their first bout of COVID-19 may need to be tested again if there is no other cause identified for their symptoms. • People who have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 are not required to quarantine if they have been <u>fully vaccinated</u> against the disease and show no symptoms. Stay home and monitor your health. • Stay home for 14 days after your last contact with a person who has COVID-19. • Watch for fever (100.4°F), cough, shortness of breath, or <u>other symptoms</u> of COVID-19 • If possible, stay away from others, especially people who are at <u>higher risk</u> for getting very sick from COVID-19 Quarantine timelines may be adjusted depending on the current Covid positive cases in our school and community. Ongoing collaboration with the DOH and local health officials will help to determine the specific quarantine timelines.
f. <u>Diagnostic</u> and screening testing;	• Symptom screening will be done by all parents/guardians at home each morning before the school day. No children with symptoms will be sent on a bus or brought

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	to school. • If a student presents symptoms in school, the school nurse or administrator may recommend the student contact their healthcare provider for a Covid test. • Surveillance testing/screening will be completed in collaboration with our local health officials and the DOH. • Wallenpaupack Area School District has implemented the Test to Stay Program for all students and staff. Students/staff who are identified as a close contact will be given the option to participate in the Test to Stay Program. Opting into the program will require individuals to be tested twice (between 2-4 days and 5-7 days after exposure).
g. Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to school communities</u> ;	• WASD schools will continue offering our school buildings as a site location for vaccinations (students, staff, and the community). • On-site vaccination efforts will continue to be coordinated with Wayne Memorial Hospital. WASD will help to facilitate these clinics through advertisement, personnel, and administrative resources.
h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	Health and safety policies will be implemented with all students in mind. When special considerations arise regarding students with disabilities, the Health and Safety Plan Committee can re-organize, develop and implement a new strategy specific to the needed accommodation.
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	WASD has been meeting with Wayne Memorial Hospital and the other local school districts to stay abreast of the ever-changing climate of the pandemic.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	We are fortunate to have a community hospital that is dedicated to the students and families that we serve. In addition, WASD continues to have ongoing conversation and collaboration with our Pike and Wayne County Department of Health Officials and the Pike and Wayne County Emergency Management Officials.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Wallenpaupack Area School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **February 13, 2023**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

9 Yes

0 No

Affirmed on: **February 13, 2023**

By:



(Signature* of Board President)

John F. Spall

(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.