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:

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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.

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* 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

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Health and Safety Plan Summary: Port Allegany School District

Initial Effective Date: July 27, 2021

Date of Last Review: February 13, 2023

Date of Last Revision: February 13, 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 district will continually monitor and amend this plan to include federal and state mandates and consider significant new guidance. The plan will be reviewed and revised as necessary. The revisions will be recommended to the Board for approval and changes will be communicated to students, families, staff, and the community.

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 Port Allegany School District will offer full-time, five days per week, in-person instruction during the 2022-2023 school year. Students and families not participating in the in-person program, will be offered the opportunity to participate in the Warren County asynchronous cyber school program.

   Should circumstances with the pandemic or other emergencies necessitate the closure of the district for in-person instruction, Port Allegany will offer real-time, live streamed classes for all students in grades 3-12.

   The district has the capacity to provide 1:1 Chromebooks for these students. Internet access has been made available on the district campus, through the regional ZitoMedia Wifi Hotspot Agreement, and with other agencies to provide families who may not have internet access in their homes.

   Students in grades Prek-2 will be provided with paper copies of teacher prepared lessons. Professional staff will be available to communicate with families via Google Meet, email, phone calls, or other related options.

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.

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ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
a. Universal and correct wearing of masks;	As it pertains to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, the Port Allegany School District will allow students and staff to voluntarily wear masks at any time. The district will collaborate with state department health officials, as needed, to determine any large-scale need for universal wearing of face masks and will enforce any state mandated orders pertaining to face masks. Should masking become mandatory during use of district facilities, transportation, extracurricular activities, or other district operations, those mandates will be followed.
b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);	The district will not deny educational opportunities or best instructional practices for students due to physical distancing.
c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;	The district will continue to promote handwashing and other common sense health measures during the 2022-2023 school year.
d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;	The Port Allegany School District has made capital improvements during the spring and summer of 2021 in both buildings. Ventilation and filtering systems have either been installed or upgraded in the school district. High touch surfaces will be disinfected and cleaned 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 abide, to the maximum extent possible, any contact tracing, isolation, and quarantine requirements issued by the CDC, PA Department of Health, or PA Department of Education.

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ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	Should guidance from any governing agency be inconsistent on contact tracing, isolation, quarantine, mask wearing, or any other health measure; the district board of directors will make a determination what guidance agency should be followed. The Port Allegany School District will exclude from school any student or staff member who have tested positive for COVID-19. For people with mild, symptomatic COVID-19, isolation can end 5 days after symptom onset (day 0 is the day symptoms began), provided any fever that was present has ended at least 24 hours prior (without the use of fever-reducing medication) and symptoms are improving. Upon the sixth day of return the following is recommended; wear a high-quality mask around others for 5 more days. It is recommended for individuals exposed to COVID-19 to wear a high-quality mask for 10 days after the exposure occurred (day 0 is the day the exposure occurred) whenever they are around others inside their home or indoors in public.
f. Diagnostic and screening testing;	The Port Allegany School District will continue to promote diagnostic and symptom screening by parents, students, employees, and visitors.
g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;	The district has hosted two community vaccination clinics in the spring of 2021 and will continue to host regional clinics during the 2022-2023 school year should that become necessary.

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ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	Port Allegany will provide reasonable accommodations, as appropriate, to students with disabilities with respect to health and safety strategies.
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	The district will continue to work with local health officials in the same manner as was accomplished during the 2021-2022 school year.

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Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

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

The plan was approved by a vote of:

   7 **Yes**

   0 **No**

Affirmed on **February 13, 2023**

By:

Erica Petruzzi

_____

(*Signature* of Board President*)

Erica Petruzzi

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(*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.