



# 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.



# 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](#);

## **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: **South Fayette Township School District**

Initial Effective Date: **August 11, 2021**

Date of Last Review: **February 27, 2024**

Date of Last Revision: **February 27, 2024**

June 4, 2021; Revised January 18, 2022; Revised August 8, 2022, Revised February 28, 2023, Revised August 22, 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 South Fayette Township School District will continue to review guidelines as updated from the CDC, Pennsylvania Department of Health, and the Pennsylvania Department of Education. All updated District protocols as they relate to COVID-19 will be posted and updated on the district's website.**

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 South Fayette Township School District will utilize Canvas as the district's learning management system. Instruction may be delivered in asynchronous and synchronous means. Students and families will have access to student support services, and meals will be provided for pickup, when necessary. The District will provide 1:1 technology devices for each student and hotspots for internet access to any family without access.**

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.

## **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](#)



**ARP ESSER Requirement Strategies, Policies, and Procedures**

**a. Universal and correct wearing of masks;**

South Fayette Township School District recognizes the protection offered by properly wearing a mask.

The District will utilize guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Allegheny County Health Department and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) when making decisions regarding masking.

During increased COVID spread in the region, the District will encourage, but not require, universal masking while inside buildings or on buses. Based on guidance from the local health department, the District reserves the right to modify the mask policy at the grade-, building-, or district-level at any time. The District may do this without a vote from the Board of School Directors should circumstances and local health department guidance warrant such actions. Should the need to extend universal masking extend beyond two weeks, a vote by the Board of School Directors would be necessary.

South Fayette Township School District has the authority to take any required action and to amend this Health and Safety Plan in response to additional guidance or Orders received from the Governor's Office, Pennsylvania Departments of Education or Health, and/or the Allegheny County Health Department. The District also has the authority to suspend in person activity or otherwise adjust mitigation strategies (including face coverings and distancing) in one or more buildings, programs, or activities, on a case by case basis, where circumstances warrant, for an amount of time determined to be advisable by the District.



<p>b. <b>Modifying facilities to allow for <u>physical distancing</u> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</b></p>	<p>South Fayette Township School District will maintain distancing to the maximum extent possible in all areas in response to direction or Orders received from the Governor’s Office, Pennsylvania Departments of Education or Health, and/or the Allegheny County Health Department</p> <p>When social distancing is required, the following will be followed to the maximum extent possible: In classrooms, students will keep three feet apart to the greatest extent possible and all non essential furniture will be removed. Seating charts will be maintained.</p> <p>If social distancing is required, students will keep three feet apart to the greatest extent possible during lunches. Seating charts will also be maintained.</p> <p>The District may choose to limit any non essential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations as deemed necessary.</p>
---	--

<p><b><u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</u></b></p>	<p>Wash hands/use hand sanitizer is recommended for all students and staff before lunch, after recess, and upon arrival.</p> <p>Post signs for hygiene in and around restrooms and classrooms.</p> <p>Frequent reminders/instruction on proper handwashing by teachers.</p> <p>Hand sanitizer readily available in common areas and classrooms</p>
---	--

**ARP ESSER Requirement Strategies, Policies, and Procedures**

**a. Universal and correct wearing of masks;**

South Fayette Township School District recognizes the protection offered by properly wearing a mask.

The District will utilize guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Allegheny County Health Department and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) when making decisions regarding masking.

During increased COVID spread in the region, the District will encourage, but not require, universal masking while inside buildings or on buses. Based on guidance from the local health department, the District reserves the right to modify the mask policy at the grade-, building-, or district-level at any time. The District may do this without a vote from the Board of School Directors should circumstances and local health department guidance warrant such actions. Should the need to extend universal masking extend beyond two weeks, a vote by the Board of School Directors would be necessary.

South Fayette Township School District has the authority to take any required action and to amend this Health and Safety Plan in response to additional guidance or Orders received from the Governor's Office, Pennsylvania Departments of Education or Health, and/or the Allegheny County Health Department. The District also has the authority to suspend in person activity or otherwise adjust mitigation strategies (including face coverings and distancing) in one or more buildings, programs, or activities, on a case by case basis, where circumstances warrant, for an amount of time determined to be advisable by the District.

**c. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;**

Daily cleaning checklists have been made detailing the items to be cleaned and disinfected by both daylight and evening custodial staff, including high-touch surfaces.

Daily cleaning of all learning spaces, offices, restrooms, communal/common spaces, buses.

All cleaning will continue in the evenings to ensure that the buildings are ready for the following day.

Water fountains will be designated for water bottles only.

Any quarantine spaces will be cleaned after use, including all touch surfaces.

Soap and water are available in Elementary and Intermediate School classrooms.

Hand sanitizer will be made available in all buildings and in cafeterias.

Buses will be cleaned and sanitized daily.

Elementary: Open OA dampers on HVAC units to a maximum level while maintaining a healthy air quality level in the building.

Intermediate: Open OA dampers on HVAC units to maximum level while maintaining a healthy air quality level in the building.

Middle School: Open OA dampers on HVAC units to maximum level while maintaining a healthy air quality level in the building.

High School: Open OA dampers on HVAC units to maximum level while maintaining a healthy air quality level in the building.

Stadium/ Administration: Open OA dampers on HVAC units to maximum level while



	<p>maintaining a healthy air quality level in the building.</p> <p>Nurse's Office: Use of self-contained HEPA/UV air filtration machines.</p> <p>Open bus windows when appropriate.</p>
<p><b>d. <u>Contact tracing</u> in combination with <u>isolation</u> and <u>quarantine</u>, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</b></p>	<p>Staff, students, or visitors showing symptoms shall be isolated in designated areas, health office areas or other appropriate areas and masked, if not already.</p> <p>District nurses will not contact trace unless deemed necessary by the ACHD.</p> <p>The District will work with the county and state health departments to advise students or staff when it is recommended to mask, isolate or quarantine at home.</p> <p>The District will not require asymptomatic close contacts to quarantine. Quarantine for asymptomatic close contacts from the school setting will remain optional with no impact on attendance.</p>
<p><b>e. <u>Diagnostic</u> and screening testing;</b></p>	<p>At this time, diagnostic testing has not been arranged for the District.</p> <p>Students and employees are encouraged to check for symptoms before coming to school.</p> <p>Employees and students should not come to work/school and are to notify school officials if they become sick with COVID-19 symptoms, are awaiting a COVID-19 test result, or test positive for COVID-19.</p>
<p><b>f. Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to school communities</u>;</b></p>	<p>Any announcements for vaccination clinics will be sent to parent email lists and posted on the district website.</p>

**c. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;**

Daily cleaning checklists have been made detailing the items to be cleaned and disinfected by both daylight and evening custodial staff, including high-touch surfaces.

Daily cleaning of all learning spaces, offices, restrooms, communal/common spaces, buses.

All cleaning will continue in the evenings to ensure that the buildings are ready for the following day.

Water fountains will be designated for water bottles only.

Any quarantine spaces will be cleaned after use, including all touch surfaces.

Soap and water are available in Elementary and Intermediate School classrooms.

Hand sanitizer will be made available in all buildings and in cafeterias.

Buses will be cleaned and sanitized daily.

Elementary: Open OA dampers on HVAC units to a maximum level while maintaining a healthy air quality level in the building.

Intermediate: Open OA dampers on HVAC units to maximum level while maintaining a healthy air quality level in the building.

Middle School: Open OA dampers on HVAC units to maximum level while maintaining a healthy air quality level in the building.

High School: Open OA dampers on HVAC units to maximum level while maintaining a healthy air quality level in the building.

Stadium/ Administration: Open OA dampers on HVAC units to maximum level while



<p><b>g. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</b></p>	<p>IEP teams will reconvene to determine how services will be delivered to best meet the individual needs of each student.</p> <p>The District will utilize the adopted social/emotional universal screener to identify all students who may be experiencing social/emotional distress and deploy support services based on the needs identified.</p> <p>Employees have access to mental health support and resources available through the Employee Assistance Program.</p>
<p><b>h. Coordination with state and local health officials.</b></p>	<p>The Superintendent or designee will attend AIU briefings and communicate with the Allegheny County Health Department as needed.</p>



## Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **South Fayette Township School District** reviewed and approved the revised Health and Safety Plan on **February 27, 2024**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

9 Yes

0 No

Affirmed on: **February 27, 2024 for Revisions**

By:



*(Signature\* of Board President)*

Tom Iagnemma

*(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.

<p><b>g. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</b></p>	<p>IEP teams will reconvene to determine how services will be delivered to best meet the individual needs of each student.</p> <p>The District will utilize the adopted social/emotional universal screener to identify all students who may be experiencing social/emotional distress and deploy support services based on the needs identified.</p> <p>Employees have access to mental health support and resources available through the Employee Assistance Program.</p>
<p><b>h. Coordination with state and local health officials.</b></p>	<p>The Superintendent or designee will attend AIU briefings and communicate with the Allegheny County Health Department as needed.</p>