



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: SOUTH EASTERN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Initial Effective Date: AUGUST 19, 2021

Date of Last Review: February 15, 2023

Date of Last Revision: August 17 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 Eastern School District offered face-to-face instruction for our students and families successfully throughout the Covid 19 Pandemic. We will continue to review guidance from the CDC and PA-DOH and work collaboratively to ensure we can safely operate.

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 Eastern School District offers a full face-to-face learning platform and virtual options for all students. These options focus on meeting the academic, social, emotional, and health related needs of our students and families. All district students are provided with appropriate technology (iPads or Chromebooks) as well as hotspots for internet connectivity as needed.

The South Eastern School District will continue to provide support for staff mental health and well-being through partnership with our EAP provider. SEDS provides support for student mental health and well-being through trauma informed practices, social emotional learning and restorative practices. The district has a well- established multi-tiered system of support which addresses core services to all students as well as additional supports for students identified with a need.

We are again contracting with True North Wellness services to provide Student Assistance Program services as well as school-based counseling services in all buildings K-12. We also provide supports through our team of school psychologists, school counselors, and school social service coordinators. The district has its own food and clothing pantry which we utilize to support families in need. We partner with local churches to provide a weekend backpack food program. Students will again be provided with free breakfast during the 23-24 school year.

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>General Masking Guidelines: On December 10, 2021, The Pennsylvania Supreme Court upheld the Commonwealth Court's November 2021 decision invalidating the <u>August 31, 2021 PA Department of Health Masking Order for K-12 public schools</u>.</p> <p>This decision immediately voided the Department of Health (DOH) issued mask mandate, which required masking in school buildings from September 7, 2021. Decisions regarding masking in schools have been returned to local school boards.</p> <p>The SEDS will not mandate the wearing of masks in the school setting. Students, staff, and visitors may choose to wear or not wear a mask.</p> <p>If at any time additional masking orders or mandates are communicated by the PA Department of Health or other state agency, the South Eastern School district shall meet in either a regular or specially called meeting to discuss the new mandate/recommendation and shall hear public comment before implementing any new directives. The meeting shall be called within 2 days of the mandate unless it can be scheduled during a regularly scheduled meeting that is occurring within 7 days of the mandate.</p> <p>The CDC offers guidance on the correct selection and wearing of masks. Improve How Your Mask Protects You</p>
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for <u>physical distancing</u> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<p>To the greatest extent possible, the SEDS will encourage social distancing using current PADOH and CDC guidelines and taking into consideration the level of community transmission and vaccination status.</p>

<p>c. <u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</u>;</p>	<p>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette are taught and reinforced as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inservice and classroom lessons from the school nurse • Periodic reminders on school announcements • Communications to parents in newsletters and other media • Signage near handwashing stations • Continued availability of hand sanitizer
<p>d. <u>Cleaning</u> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <u>ventilation</u>;</p>	<p>In order to maintain healthy facilities, SEDS will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use cleaning products approved for use against COVID-19 on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-approved list "N" and follow product instructions. • Custodial staff with the responsibility of cleaning and disinfecting school sites will be equipped with proper protective equipment, including gloves, eye protection, respiratory protection and other appropriate protective equipment as required by the product instructions. All products will be kept out of children's reach and stored in a space with restricted access. • Maintain a cleaning and disinfecting schedule that avoids both under- and over-use of cleaning products. • Encourage the use of outdoor learning spaces • Ensure ventilation systems are serviced and meet code requirements • Allow increased fresh air intake as weather permits
<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>The SEDS has developed an internal protocol for contact tracing in the school setting which is managed by the Director of Pupil Services and Director of Human Resources with the assistance of school level administrators and school nurses.</p>

	<p>SESD will continue to adhere to the legal requirements of PA DOH relating to contact tracing, isolation, and quarantine. However, we believe that families and their physicians are in the best position to make medical decisions relating to COVID-19. We will provide isolation guidance to individuals who have reported a positive case of COVID-19 and communicate PA DOH guidelines relating to quarantines.</p>
f. <u>Diagnostic</u> and screening testing;	<p>Information about diagnostic and screening testing is available on our website and via school nurses in our school buildings.</p>
g. Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to school communities</u> ;	<p>Information about vaccinations and vaccination sites is available on our district website and via school nurses in our school buildings.</p>
h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	<p>All accommodations with respect to health and safety for students with disabilities are made in coordination with students' IEP or section 504 teams and done on an individual basis. The Director of Special Education and Director of Pupil Services serve as consultants to IEP teams for health and safety related IEP team decisions.</p>
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	<p>We have developed a solid working relationship with the community health nurses, community health nurse supervisor, and epidemiologist throughout the course of the pandemic. The point of contact to the DOH for staff related Covid matters is the Director of Human Resources. The point of contact for student related Covid matters is the Director of Pupil Services.</p>

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **SOUTH EASTERN SCHOOL DISTRICT** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **February 15, 2024**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

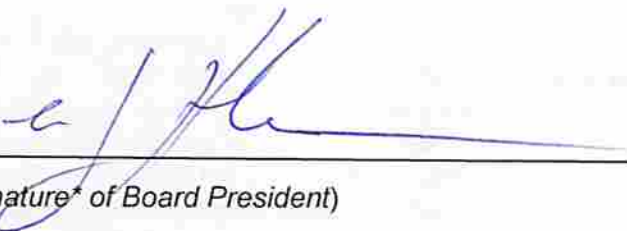
9 Yes

0 No

Affirmed on: JULY 22, 2021

Reaffirmed on: SEPTEMBER 16, 2021; FEBRUARY 17, 2022; MARCH 17, 2022; AUGUST 18, 2022; FEBRUARY 16, 2023, AUGUST 17, 2023, FEBRUARY 15, 2024.

By:



(Signature* of Board President)

Charles Hobbs

(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.