

# ARP ESSER Health and Safety Plan Guidance & Template

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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](#)

**Initial Effective Date: JULY 1, 2021**

**Date of Last Review: JULY 1, 2021, NOVEMBER 18, 2021, FEBRUARY 28, 2022, JUNE 16, 2022, JANUARY 12, 2023, AUGUST 17, 2023**

**Date of Last Revision: FEBRUARY 28, 2022, BOARD APPROVAL MARCH 17, 2022, BOARD APPROVAL JUNE 16, 2022, JANUARY 12, 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 Big Beaver Falls Area School District (BBFASD) will continue to review the guidance from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA DOH) and revise our Health and Safety Plan according to the recommendations of those two entities. Our current protocols align with CDC and PA DOH guidance. The Administration participates in regular county-wide meetings to stay abreast of current guidelines. Throughout the past school year, the Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit hosted weekly Superintendent virtual meetings to provide opportunities to review updated regulations and to collaborate amongst our colleagues. In addition, we partnered with local health care professionals and relied on their expertise to help navigate the pandemic. Our county-wide nurses have been meeting regularly and have provided valuable resources for all of the school districts. Updated guidance will be incorporated into our Health and Safety Plan as released from PA Department of Health and Pennsylvania Department of Education.**

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 BBFASD will continue to educate students regardless of level of transmission. The district will provide 5 day In-person instruction, a digital option, and an online option at the secondary for special medical circumstances. Approximately 1,700 students in grades K-12 are educated by the BBFASD. (This includes students in various placements.) At full capacity, our average class size is between 16 and 28 students per classroom. Through an in-person and digital option, the district is able to create even smaller classes within the building.**

**The District will submit an Emergency Instructional Time Template, based on School Code 520.1, which will enable the district to provide remote learning for periods of mitigation or quarantine when required. In the event the district would need to transition to a complete virtual environment, students would utilize their district provided chromebook. In addition to curricular materials, staff utilize age-appropriate resources like from the Google Suite (Classroom, Chat, Hangouts etc.), Edgenuity, Reading Horizon, EnVisions, Scholastic, and Discovery Education to educate our students in a virtual environment.**

**We surveyed our families to ascertain internet accessibility. Our technology staff has worked with those without the internet to assist them in finding an appropriate provider.**

**To assist students and staff social, emotional, and mental health needs, our guidance counselors and school nurses provide assistance. In addition, the district has a partnership with Glade Run Behavioral Support Services to offer school based mental health services to our students. Our district's health care provider, Blue Cross Blue Shield, also disseminates information to staff on a regular basis in an effort to provide valuable resources for our mental health.**

**Food Services, including breakfast, lunch and dinner, continue regardless of whether or not the students are face-to-face or virtual. Our transportation company assists in the distribution of meals to the students on virtual days.**

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. <b>Universal and correct wearing of <a href="#">masks</a>;</b></p>	<p><b>The Big Beaver Falls School District no longer requires universal masking within school buildings or on school buses.</b></p> <p>Face masks and coverings will be optional.</p> <p>The District will review the current guidelines, orders, etc. from the PA DOH, PDE, Governor’s Office, and CDC and provide information to staff, students, and families on most up-to-date CDC and state guidance regarding wearing and proper use of face coverings.</p> <p>Students/Staff may be recommended to wear a mask if have had a positive test within the last ten days but are eligible to return to school. These requirements will be adjusted based on the current guidance of the CDC and PADOH.</p> <p>The District will comply with any mask mandates as issued by the PADOH, Governor’s Office, or other authoritative bodies at the local, state, or federal level.</p>
<p>b. <b>Modifying facilities to allow for <a href="#">physical distancing</a> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</b></p>	<p>Current CDC guidance no longer requires physical or social distancing.</p>
<p>c. <b><a href="#">Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</a>;</b></p>	<p>All staff will be trained on healthy hygiene practices so they can teach these to students.</p> <p>Ensure handwashing strategies include washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.</p> <p>Additional hand sanitizing stations and hygiene reminders are present throughout all schools at strategic locations to promote cleanliness.</p>

<p>d. <b><u>Cleaning</u></b> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <b><u>ventilation</u></b>;</p>	<p>Develop signage that promotes everyday protective measures and describes how to stop the spread of germs.</p> <p>Continued disinfecting by custodians' protocols include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. restroom handles,</li> <li>b. doors handles,</li> <li>c. cafeteria tables,</li> <li>d. sinks,</li> <li>e. stair railings,</li> <li>f. water bottle refilling handles,</li> <li>g. office counters.</li> </ul> <p>Limit shared classroom materials when possible.</p> <p>Maintenance staff will ensure ventilation is properly maintained in all buildings.</p> <p>When a student is sent home with COVID or any flu/virus symptoms, the nurse will notify the principal and building custodian.</p> <p>All personnel may clean their spaces routinely. Appropriate cleaning supplies (disinfecting spray and paper towels) will be made available.</p> <p>Hand sanitizing stations will be available throughout all buildings and availability will increase as supplies become available.</p>
<p>e. <b><u>Contact tracing</u></b> in combination with <b><u>isolation</u></b> and <b><u>quarantine</u></b>, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<p>Each building has a designated area for holding if a student becomes ill at school. This area is separated from the areas used to service students and staff who are well.</p> <p>Parents are asked to monitor their child and follow CDC guidance. If the child develops symptoms consistent with those of COVID-19, they are to keep their child home and notify the school nurse.</p> <p>Exposures that happen in the home or outside of school are expected to self-report and follow these guidelines. Parents/guardians will be called to pick up a student who is experiencing symptoms.</p>

<p>f. <b><u>Diagnostic</u></b> and screening testing;</p>	<p>Parents/guardians and staff should monitor their temperatures and physical wellness each day before coming to school or work. All must report to the school administration any possible COVID-19 exposure.</p> <p>An infected individual must follow the current quarantining and masking recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).</p>
<p>g. Efforts to provide <b><u>vaccinations to school communities</u></b>;</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Partner with local health care providers to offer Vaccination Clinics as per CDC guidelines. Follow CDC guidance on the need to offer a booster. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Staff Vaccination Clinics were held in March 2021, Student and Community vaccination clinics were held: May 2021, June 2021, September 2021, October 2021, and October 2022. Scheduled clinics were held in: November 2021 (Ages 5 and up, Boosters), December 2021(Ages 5 and up, Boosters).</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Partner with Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit, local pharmacies, and local school districts to offer additional Vaccine Clinics.</li> </ol>
<p>h. <b>Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The district will address all students with disabilities and students identified with a documented need per Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (Section 504) of the Individuals with Disability Education Act (IDEA). Whether through the IEP or a 504 Service Agreement, the student's team will convene to determine, if based upon the information available, the student needs additional or changes to accommodations.</li> <li>2. Life Skills, Emotional Support, Autistic Support, and English learner students will continue to receive face-to-face instruction.</li> <li>3. Parents may choose to transition their child to a virtual environment.</li> </ol>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Support services may be held in-person or virtually.</li> <li>5. Students with complex needs will be addressed individually.</li> </ol>
<b>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</b>	The BBFASD will follow the CDC and PA DOH guidelines and coordinate with state and local health officials as changes in protocols occur.