



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: Mifflinburg Area School District

Initial Effective Date: 7/1/2021

Date of Last Review: 8/10/2021

Date of Last Revision: 8/10/2021

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 School District's Pandemic Coordinator will continue to monitor guidance and orders from the CDC, PA Department of Health, and PA Department of Education, and will collaborate with local Department of Health nurses through the PA Bureau of Epidemiology to recommend and implement prevention and mitigation practices that support federal, state, and local policies. The School District will adhere to all related mandates and requirements as ordered by the PA government regarding mitigation strategies.

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 Mifflinburg Area School District will continue to provide each student with a technology device and Internet access where needed. All teachers will plan their lessons and activities within designated course management systems, and students will be able to access lessons and assignments with their devices throughout the year. The District will plan to continue to offer two models of instruction for all students in grades K-12 during the school year: in-person learning at the school sites, and cyber education through our e-Learning Academy.

The District will continue to screen and identify students in need of tiered intervention supports for those exhibiting academic, social, emotional, mental health, and other needs through school-level teams including MTSS, SAP, and PBIS. The District will continue to partner with other agencies, such as DTAC, Concern, CSIU, and CMSU, to offer additional supports for students. Employees will continue to have access to District school nurses for medical education and basic medical screenings.

The District will continue to offer student meals for families throughout the school year. Students who attend school for in-person learning will be provided meals at the schools at no cost to the student. For students who attend our e-Learning Academy (as well as those who may need to miss school due to quarantine requirements), meals will be available for pick up by families at designated locations. Additionally, the District will continue to work with community groups to provide weekend food packs for families when available.

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 masks;</p>	<p>Effective June 28th, face coverings are no longer required; however, any student, employee, or visitor who prefers to wear a face covering will be permitted to do so. Masks will be made available in main offices and entrances.</p> <p>State orders and/or local data may result in modifications to the District's face covering practices. The School District's Pandemic Coordinator will continue to monitor guidance and orders from the CDC, PA Department of Health, and PA Department of Education, and will collaborate with local Department of Health nurses through the PA Bureau of Epidemiology to recommend and implement required practices.</p>
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<p>Students and employees will be encouraged to maintain physical distance to the maximum extent feasible and appropriate. Classrooms and school spaces will be arranged to provide the maximum available distance between individuals in order to maintain in-person learning.</p> <p>The School District's Pandemic Coordinator will continue to monitor guidance and orders from the CDC, PA Department of Health, and PA Department of Education, and will collaborate with local Department of Health nurses through the PA Bureau of Epidemiology to recommend and implement required practices.</p>
<p>c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</p>	<p>Frequent hand washing with students and employees will be encouraged throughout all schools. Daily routines will continue to include frequent handwashing cycles.</p> <p>The District will continue to post visible signage throughout the buildings that encourages individuals to properly wash</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p>their hands, and cover sneezes/coughs. Additional training in these practices will be available as needed.</p> <p>Hand sanitizer will be readily available in classrooms and throughout buildings.</p>
<p>d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</p>	<p>The District will continue to adhere to schedules for cleaning and sanitizing that were established for the 2020-21 school year. This includes cleaning and sanitizing each classroom, restroom, hallway, and high-touch points per CDC recommendation. Disinfecting wipes will be made available in all classrooms and learning spaces. Thorough nightly cleaning will include sanitizing and disinfecting per CDC recommendations.</p> <p>The District has installed bipolar ionization systems, integrated into the HVAC systems in each building to improve air quality. Our HVAC systems have been designed to bring in fresh outdoor air at recommended intervals.</p> <p>For District transportation, roof hatches and windows will be opened whenever possible to allow for the best ventilation.</p>
<p>e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<p>The District will continue the established case investigation/contact tracing, isolation, and quarantine procedures for COVID-19 positive cases as established by the Pennsylvania Department of Health until otherwise deemed unnecessary by the PA DOH.</p> <p>The School District’s Pandemic Coordinator will continue to monitor guidance and orders from the CDC, PA Department of Health, and PA Department of Education, and will collaborate with local Department of Health nurses through the PA Bureau of Epidemiology to recommend and implement required practices.</p>
<p>f. Diagnostic and screening testing;</p>	<p>The District will continue to provide educational information to students, families, and employees about symptoms of COVID-19, and will continue to</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p>encourage use of our established self-screening checklist.</p> <p>The District will encourage families not to send their child to school if he/she is ill. Families will be encouraged to contact their Primary Care Physician for further guidance.</p> <p>The District will encourage employees not to come to work if they are ill. Employees will be encouraged to contact their Primary Care Physician for further guidance.</p> <p>Employees are required to report a positive diagnosis of COVID-19 to their Supervisor. The Supervisor will then contact the school nurse and the Pandemic Coordinator. Parents are required to report a positive diagnosis of a student case of COVID-19 to the school nurse. The school nurse will then contact the building principal and Pandemic Coordinator.</p>
<p>g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;</p>	<p>The Mifflinburg Area School District has participated in vaccination clinics at CSIU for all interested employees.</p> <p>The District will provide information to the school community about local vaccination sites and/or clinics that become available. The District will collaborate with Department of Health officials to consider use of a building site for a vaccination clinic should it be requested.</p>
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<p>Students with disabilities will have access to the same programs and opportunities as non-disabled peers, as well as accommodations detailed within their IEP or 504 plans based on their individual needs. IEP teams will address needs related to COVID-19 and will determine appropriate accommodations.</p>
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<p>The School District's Pandemic Coordinator, as well as the District school nurses, will maintain regular open communication with the School Epidemiology Team at the Department of</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p>Health through the PA Bureau of Epidemiology. This collaboration will serve to coordinate mitigation efforts and local interpretations of current orders.</p> <p>The School District's Pandemic Coordinator or designee will attend regional meetings, check relevant websites and health resources, and consult with local health officials as needed.</p>

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Mifflinburg Area School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on August 10, 2021.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

_____ **Yes**

_____ **No**

Affirmed on: 8/10/2021

By:

(Signature of Board President)*

Wendy McClintock

(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.