



# 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);
- 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: **RIVERSIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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

Date of Last Review: **JUNE 15, 2021**

Date of Last Revision: **JUNE 15, 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 Riverside School District (RSD) will align to guidance from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA DOH) to the maximum extent possible on all orders of health and safety related to the prevention and mitigation of COVID-19. The Superintendent will always bring the current recommendations to the school board when passing resolution/motion associated with COVID-19, so decision could be made in the utmost of transparency and in a timely manner. As prevention and mitigation policies and procedures change, they will be brought to the attention of the Health and Safety team and/or school board to formally update the health and safety plan.

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 Riverside School District (RSD) is committed to returning to five days per week, in-person instruction for the 2021-2022 school year. Concurrently, the RSD is building in academic supports and intervention to ensure that students are successful upon return.

For the Summer of 2021, the Riverside School District will hold a comprehensive enrichment, intervention and remediation summer program for all grade levels. Additionally, the District will run a needs assessment by building and utilize tutoring and remediation and enrichment supports where needed.

The social and emotional well-being of students and staff will be supported and monitored by our K-12 Crisis Counselor. All staff in our primary building were SEL trained through a Highmark grant and will use the SEL program that has been set in place by our principal. She has been working closely with Highmark as they have completed a SEL audit for our building. We will continue to utilize our mental health plan that we did during the 2020-2021 school year. Administration also works closely with multiple local agencies to support students in need.

In 2021-2022 school year, Our district will continue to support our School and Community Based Behavioral Health Team to support students' mental health needs. We have two master's level workers, two bachelor's level courses and an additional psychologist for district use through the Luzerne County Intermediate Unit (LIU 18). Two of our faculty and staff members have a LPC license. Outpatient services was added this past year and will continue moving forward.

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
a. Universal and correct wearing of <a href="#">masks</a> ;	Adhere to all CDC and PA DOH guidelines and recommendations to the maximum extent possible.
b. Modifying facilities to allow for <a href="#">physical distancing</a> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);	Adhere to all CDC and PA DOH guidelines and recommendations to the maximum extent possible
c. <a href="#">Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</a> ;	Adhere to all CDC and PA DOH guidelines and recommendations to the maximum extent possible.
d. <a href="#">Cleaning</a> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <a href="#">ventilation</a> ;	Daily sanitization will be conducted and the district will utilize any options within our means to accomplish this. Cleaning and sanitization will adhere to all CDC and PA DOH guidelines and recommendations to the maximum extent possible
e. <a href="#">Contact tracing</a> in combination with <a href="#">isolation</a> and <a href="#">quarantine</a> , in collaboration with the State and local health departments;	Contract tracing, solation and quarantine will be completed via the recommendations of the PA DOH. All cases will be reported to the RSD and our district will work with the PA DOH to make collective decisions.
f. <a href="#">Diagnostic</a> and screening testing;	Any person displaying the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 will be referred to their health care provider and documentation of return to work will be provided by a licensed clinician.
g. Efforts to provide <a href="#">vaccinations to school communities</a> ;	The RSD has partnered with multiple local health care providers to run vaccination clinics both on and off premises to assist in vaccinating as much of the application population as possible. This service will continue in the 21-22 school year.
h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	Adhere to all CDC and PA DOH guidelines and recommendations for identified students to the maximum extent possible.
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	The RSD has and will continue to work in conjunction with PDE and PA DOH, supporting their guidance and mandates to the maximum extent possible.

## Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for the **Riverside School District** have reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **June 16, 2021**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

8 Yes

0 No

Affirmed on: **June 16, 2021**

By:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature\* of Board President)

Mrs. Carol Armstrong

\_\_\_\_\_  
(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.