



# 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.

## Health and Safety Plan Summary: **(RIVERSIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT)**

Initial Effective Date: **(July 1, 2021)**

Date of Last Review: **(Monday, August 9, 2021)**

Date of Last Revision: **(Monday, August 9, 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.

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.

The district will also utilize Kathy Wallace and her team to help train some of our faculty.

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
a. Universal and correct wearing of <a href="#">masks</a> ;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is strongly recommended that everyone is masked (K-12). At present, the Pennsylvania Department of Health has not</li> </ul>



ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p>reinstated a universal mask mandate for Pennsylvania.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Masks are required on all school district transportation as per the federal mandate.</li> </ul>
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 cleaning and disinfecting will be conducted and the district will utilize any options within our means to accomplish this. Cleaning and disinfecting will adhere to all CDC and PA DOH guidelines and recommendations to the maximum extent possible. The district through ESSER funding has invested in many HVAC upgrades to help improve air quality.
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, isolation 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;	At this point in time, 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 especially if the vaccination age is reduced to below twelve years of age.
h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	Reasonable accommodations will be made while non-discriminating based on anyone's disability.
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	The RSD has and will continue to work in conjunction with PDE and PA DOH,

Here is a link to our Back to School FAQ's:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1n3ozX4rViKDqtaEMqnSoceNvDHnjvQkJkacpgYjpK0c/edit>

## Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **(The Riverside School District)** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **(August 9, 2021)**.

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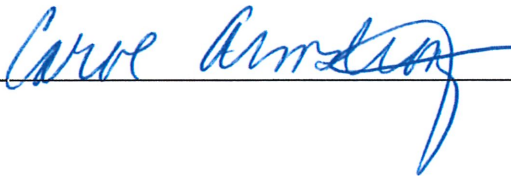
The plan was approved by a vote of:

  9   Yes

  0   No

Affirmed on: **(August 9, 2021)**

By: \_\_\_\_\_



Mrs. Carol Armstrong

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(Print Name of Board President)