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 Thorough an Integrated System of Support
- PA Department of Health - COVID-19 in Pennsylvania

Health and Safety Plan Summary: School District of Haverford Township

Initial Effective Date: 7/8/2021

Date of Last Review: 9/2/2021

Date of Last Revision: 9/2/2021

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 implemented a health and safety plan throughout the 2020-2021 school year using mitigation strategies supported by the CDC, PA Department of Health, CHOP PolicyLab, and the Chester County Health Department. These strategies were successful in supporting the larger public health initiative to slow the spread of COVID-19 and to protect our district community, especially those at increased risk for severe illness. Further, our district supported vaccination clinics for our teachers and staff and led vaccine clinics for students.

Our district will continue to review the latest guidance from the CDC, PA Department of Health, and CHOP PolicyLab. This information will assist the district when reviewing our mitigation strategies for effectiveness. The guidance will also be used to revise our health and safety plan as necessary. The chart below provides strategies, policies, and procedures to be used within the district.

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?

Academically, the district expects a full return to in-person, face-to-face learning for the 2021-22 Academic Year. It, however, will also have interventions in place for any student who is impacted by COVID-19 and must quarantine and/or recuperate from the

virus. These interventions include utilizing district-provided devices to access live, synchronous instruction and asynchronous learning activities.The district provides internet hotspots to the families who need it. These methods were utilized successfully during the 2020-2021 school year.

A focus on social, emotional and mental health interventions will continue in the district across all grade levels. Students will continue to have access to their school counselors as part of their school day at all grade levels. In our elementary schools, guidance lessons will continue to be a part of our students' programming. Should families want information or need additional support outside of the school, the district has a team in place to help connect families with existing resources within the community. The district will continue to monitor students' needs when the school year begins. All staff will be aware of how to support students during the transition back to school.

All students are eligible for free lunch through the federal lunch program until December 2021.

The Emergency Instructional Time Template can be viewed in its entirety on the district website.

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 masks;	The CDC guidance states "Schools should work with local public health officials, consistent with applicable laws and regulations, including those related to privacy, to determine the prevention strategies needed in their area by monitoring levels of community transmission (i.e., low, moderate, substantial, or high) and local vaccine coverage, and use of screening testing to detect cases in K-12 schools." During the 21-22 school year the district will monitor community transmission, vaccination rates, and use of screening testing to determine when masks will be required of students,-staff, and visitors. Unless mandated, during times of low and moderate transmission in Delaware County

	(average daily cases at 0-49 per 100,000 over a 7 day period according to CDC data) masks will be optional for any staff or students. The district will support all individuals who prefer to continue to wear a mask. During times of substantial to high transmission the district will require masking for students, staff, and visitors. If the county is in a time of substantial or high transmission it must return to moderate or low transmission for two consecutive weeks prior to a change in the mask requirement. Per the federal order, masks will be required on school buses regardless of vaccination status.
b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);	Pennsylvania lifted its Order for physical distancing and occupancy limits on May 31, 2021. With the lifting of the Order, all school buildings and offices will not require specific social distancing requirements. In accordance with the CDC guidance, the School District will maintain 3 feet of physical distancing where possible. The district will consider any additional recommendations from the CDC or the PA Department of Health for additional mitigation strategies when these recommendations are available. The district will limit visitors into district buildings.
c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;	Best practice encourages hand washing prior to meals and snacks, after meals and snacks, transition back to class from being outside, after using the bathroom, and after blowing nose, coughing, or sneezing. The district will encourage our students, staff, and contractors to implement these best practices.

	The district will have available hand sanitizer in strategic locations of high traffic areas. The district will post signs in buildings reminding students, staff, and visitors of proper respiratory etiquette.
d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;	The district utilizes EPA Approved Disinfectants for use against COVID 19. There will be routine cleaning of our buildings, classrooms, common areas, and office spaces. If there is a case of COVID-19, a cleaning and disinfecting of the area will take place. The district will ensure the ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air by opening windows and doors when possible. The district will change filters regularly for these systems.
e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;	The district will report all confirmed cases of COVID-19 that are reported to the district to the health department on the prescribed template for such instances. The district will provide the health department, as required, a list of close contact(s) of individuals who were in contact with the COVID-19 positive individual while at school to the best of its ability. The district will support and implement public health guidance on isolation and quarantines. The district has adopted the modified quarantine as outlined by the CDC and PA Department of Health A student, staff member, or contractor who has tested positive for COVID-19 or is a probable case, shall notify their direct supervisor or principal immediately. Guidance

	on isolation will be provided to the individual. A student, staff member, or contractor who was in close contact with a COVID-19 positive case, must notify the program administrator/principal immediately. These individuals will be provided guidance whether to isolate or quarantine as per guidelines of the CDC or health department.
f. Diagnostic and screening testing;	The district will follow its *Immunization and Communicable Diseases* Policy for guidance on communicable diseases as COVID-19 is classified as such. The district will maintain adequate personal protective equipment for use when individuals become ill: gowns, N95 face covering, eye protection, gloves. The district requires staff and contractors to self-screen prior to reporting to work, programs, and schools and stay at home if experiencing any symptoms as outlined in the chart below. Parents and guardians are required to self-screen their child prior to reporting to school or programs and keep their child home if experiencing any symptoms outlined in the chart below. Staff, children, students, and clients who are ill must stay home from work, programs, and schools. Students and staff experiencing one symptom from column A or 2 symptoms from column B should remain home. Regardless of other symptoms, students and staff who have a fever should remain home. Staff, children, students, and clients shall be sent home if they become ill at work, school, program or service. Students, staff and contractors shall report

	immediately to their immediate supervisor/principal if they are COVID-19 positive or were in close contact with a person who has COVID-19. These individuals will be provided guidance whether to isolate or quarantine as per guidelines of the CDC or health department. The district may implement a rapid antigen testing program for individuals who become symptomatic during the program, school or working hours. **Group A** Lack of smell or taste (without congestion) Cough Shortness of breath Difficulty Breathing **Group B** Sore throat Chills Muscle Pain Fever Headache Congestion or runny nose Nausea or vomiting Diarrhea District staff who are unvaccinated will be required to participate in weekly assurance testing.
g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;	The CDC states, "achieving high levels of COVID-19 vaccination among eligible students as well as teachers, staff, and household members is one of the most critical strategies to help schools safely resume full operations." The district will provide information to families on vaccine clinics and/or how to get a COVID-19 vaccine for their child or family member.

	A link to vaccine.gov will be posted on the district website to assist families in finding a location where the vaccine is available.
h.Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	For students with disabilities with medical diagnosis that require a prescribed health and safety plan, the IEP team may reconvene to develop specially designed instruction or strategies to meet the needs of the student.
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	The district will report cases of COVID-19 and its efforts on contract tracing with the health department. The district will consult with the health department on specific cases or issues as needed.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **the School District of Haverford Township** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on 9/2/2021

The plan was approved by a vote of:

Yes 7

No 0

Absent 2

Affirmed on: 9/2/2021

By:



Lawrence A. Feinberg

School 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.