



# 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: Dover School District (DASD)

**Initial Effective Date:** August 18, 2021

**Date of Last Review:** September 8, 2023

**Date of Last Revision:** September 8, 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 Dover Area School District (DASD) will be open for the 2023-2024 school year for in-person instruction. The DASD continues to assess and apply CDC, PA Department of Health (DOH) and PA Department of Education (PDE) guidance when practicable and applicable for the operation of facilities.*

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?

*DASD will continue to provide for academic, social, emotional, mental health, and other needs through school counseling and school social worker, local agency collaboration, and other resources and supports. The DASD nursing team and the food service department will continue to provide service to families in need of care and/or services.*

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.

<b>ARP ESSER Requirement Strategies, Policies, and Procedures</b>	
a. Universal and correct wearing of <u>masks</u> ;	Face coverings are optional for staff and students on DASD property. Masks are not required on district transportation: CDC's 2/25/22 announcement.
b. Modifying facilities to allow for <u>physical distancing</u> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);	The District is not using cohorts/podding in the 2023-2024 school year.
c. <u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</u> ;	<p>Individuals are encouraged to practice good hygiene, including frequent hand washing and/or hand sanitizing.</p> <p>Sanitizing supplies will be made accessible within buildings.</p> <p>Appropriate communication will be provided regarding handwashing and respiratory etiquette.</p>

<p>d. <u>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</u></p>	<p>Regular cleaning and air circulation will be employed on DASD facilities.</p> <p>HVAC systems will be monitored for outdoor air ventilation and replacement of air filters will take place on a recurring schedule.</p> <p>Sanitization of high touch materials/surfaces will occur on a regular basis.</p> <p>School buses will be cleaned regularly. When feasible, windows will be open to increase air circulation.</p>
<p>e. <u>Contact tracing</u> in combination with <u>isolation</u> and <u>quarantine</u>, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<p>As CDC is no longer requiring contact tracing or quarantine for asymptomatic individuals (as of 8/11/22), DASD will not contract trace or quarantine asymptomatic individuals.</p>
<p>f. <u>Diagnostic</u> and screening testing;</p>	<p>DASD will not administer diagnostic or screening testing</p>
<p>g. Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to school communities;</u></p>	<p>DASD will not provide vaccinations.</p>
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<p>DASD will provide appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety procedures. Health and safety procedures will be assessed and developed by the appropriate school and/or district team.</p>
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<p>The DASD will coordinate with state and local health officials as applicable regarding District health and safety.</p>
<p><b><i>In addition, the District will review and consider revisions to the mitigation measures outlined in this plan to include updated DOH directives and CDC guidance in order to respond to changing local conditions and directives related to the COVID-19 pandemic during the 2023-2024 school year.</i></b></p>	

## Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for Dover Area School District reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **09/19/2023**

The plan was approved by a vote of:

**9 - Yes**

**0 - No**

Affirmed on:

**09/19/2023**

By:

***Nathan A. Eifert***

*(Signature\* of Board President)*



*(Print Name of Board President)*

Nathan A. Eifert

\*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.