



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: Hermitage School District

Initial Effective Date: June 21, 2021

Date of Last Review: June 21, 2021

Date of Last Revision June 21, 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 Hermitage School District is committed to providing in-person instruction for the 2021-2022 school year and will comply with the guidelines provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the CDC guidelines to the greatest extent possible to provide a safe learning environment for staff and students.

- 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 Hermitage School District continues to recognize that the health and welfare of staff and students is paramount to their success. School counselors and nurses will continue to support the needs of our staff and students.

Teachers and students will be provided Social and Emotional Learning strategies to help them recognize and manage their emotions; demonstrate caring and concern for others; establish positive relationships; make responsible decisions.

The Hermitage School District will focus on meeting students where they are academically and provide a remediation and interventions to close the achievement gap for students that are below grade level.

- 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 <u>masks</u> ; | <p>Students and Staff will follow the Governor's requirement for face coverings. Teachers will instruct students on the proper way to wear masks.</p> |
| b. Modifying facilities to allow for <u>physical distancing</u> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding); | <p>Schoolwide assemblies may be discontinued temporarily. Grade level assemblies may be permitted in areas that allow for proper social distancing such as our gymnasium and auditorium. Lunchrooms may be expanded into adjoining areas to allow social distancing to the extent possible. Outside group use of school facilities may be discontinued. Classes may not be permitted to join other classes for activities. Outdoor classroom activities will be encouraged but need to be coordinated with the School Resource Officer for safety.</p> |
| c. <u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</u> ; | <p>Hand sanitizer and towel/wipe stations in every classroom, cafeteria, offices and other common areas.</p> <p>Age-appropriate instruction for handwashing and hygiene etiquette will be provided in all buildings.</p> <p>Handwashing/sanitizer before breakfast/lunch will be available to each student and encouraged.</p> <p>Posting signs, in highly visible locations, that promote everyday protective measures, and how to stop the spread of germs</p> |
| d. <u>Cleaning</u> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <u>ventilation</u> ; | <p>The HSD custodial staff has access to products, been trained, and has implemented cleaning regimens that meet OSHA and CDC requirements for disinfecting facilities in response to COVID-19. This disinfection has and will continue to occur daily for all buildings and will occur multiple times daily in high traffic areas.</p> <p>The HSD custodial staff has been trained on proper disinfection procedures for cleaning classrooms, offices, and common areas. The faculty and administration will be provided</p> |

ARP ESSER Requirement

Strategies, Policies, and Procedures

e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;

disinfection supplies to be used in classrooms and offices during the school day and will be trained on proper procedures before the school year commences.

Teachers are encouraged to keep windows open as weather permits.

All classrooms desk/table tops, door knobs/panic hardware, water fountains, light switches, white board trays/markers disinfected daily.

Cafeteria between lunches all tables and pin pads sanitized as used.

Bus cleaning will follow OSHA and CDC guidelines.

The faculty and administration will be provided disinfection supplies to be used in classrooms and offices during the school day and will be trained on proper procedures before the school year commences.

School nurses will isolate or quarantine students, staff, or visitors if they become sick or demonstrate a history of exposure. School administrators, nurses, and staff will work to identify an isolation room or area to separate anyone who exhibits COVID-19 symptoms.

HSD will follow PDE's guidance on the following protocols for contact tracing and quarantining:

Establish procedures for safely transporting sick individuals home.

Close off areas used by a sick person and do not use before cleaning and disinfection.

Notify local health officials, staff, and families of exposure or confirmed case while maintaining confidentiality.

Track potential staff and students that were exposed- bus, classroom, etc. to limit the spread of illness.

ARP ESSER Requirement

Strategies, Policies, and Procedures

f. Diagnostic and screening testing;

Diagnostic testing for SARS-CoV-2 may be recommended when there is a reason to suspect that an individual may be infected, such as having symptoms or suspected recent exposure, or to determine resolution of infection. School nurses may recommend diagnostic testing of symptomatic individuals who present to their healthcare provider, testing individuals through contact tracing efforts, testing individuals who indicate that they were exposed to someone with a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19, and testing individuals present at an event where an attendee was later confirmed to have COVID-19.
Screening testing will be conducted upon the direction of state health officials.

g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;

The Hermitage School District is working collaboratively with UPMC to schedule a Covid-19 vaccination clinic for students ages 12 and older at Hickory High School during the summer of 2021.
Potential future clinics will be provided for students if available.

h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and

The HSD will work individually with each student and parent as well as any staff members with higher risks for severe illness to develop planning for attendance and preventative measures while in attendance at school.

i. Coordination with state and local health officials.

HSD administration and health staff will be responsible for coordination with family physician, school physician, Mercer County Health Services and the State Department of Health. Coordination with these entities will drive the decision-making on the issues of when a staff member or student can safely return to school.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement:

The Board of Directors Hermitage School District reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on June 21, 2021.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

8 Yes

0 No

Affirmed on: **June 21, 2021**

By:



(Signature* of Board President)

Timothy Kizak, Board President

(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.