



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: **Tunkhannock Area School District**

Initial Effective Date: July 22, 2021

Date of Last Review: June 27, 2022

Date of Last Revision: June 27, 2022

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?

TASD officials and nurses will remain current on updated CDC and PA DOH guidance. Masks will be available and may be worn by students and staff. Masking protocol will only be changed by a School Board vote or PA state mandate.

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?

TASD will continue to offer mental health support through school counseling offices, social work teams, and CSBBH teams. District nurses are available for consultation and referral as needed.

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> ;	<i>Masks will be available and may be worn by students and staff. Masking is not mandatory. Masking protocol will only be changed by a School Board vote or PA state mandate.</i>
b. Modifying facilities to allow for <u>physical distancing</u> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);	<i>TASD will make additional space available if the level of community transmission and the elevation of identified cases in specific school buildings calls for such measures.</i>
c. <u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</u> ;	<i>Proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette will be encouraged and modeled by faculty and staff.</i>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
d. <u>Cleaning</u> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <u>ventilation</u> ;	<i>TASD will continue to clean and disinfect each school building daily. HVAC upgrades to large group areas in each school are being considered.</i>
e. <u>Contact tracing</u> in combination with <u>isolation</u> and <u>quarantine</u> , in collaboration with the State and local health departments;	<i>TASD is not contract tracing as it is no longer required. The district will isolate and quarantine individuals who have a confirmed COVID positive case. The quarantine period for COVID positive students or staff will be based upon current CDC and PA DOH guidelines.</i>
f. <u>Diagnostic</u> and screening testing;	<i>TASD school nurses will temperature screen and ask about symptoms when students or staff are not feeling well.</i>
g. Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to school communities</u> ;	<i>TASD will offer in-house vaccine clinics from outside providers for families that may need any type of school age vaccine or students and families that want a COVID vaccine. If taking advantage of this opportunity, parents must attend with their child.</i>
h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	<i>IEP and 504 teams may meet to determine if individual accommodations are necessary for students with disabilities. Accommodations related to COVID-19 due to unique health needs of students will be included in a Health Plan for the child that may become a part of the IEP or 504 plan.</i>
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	<i>TASD will continue to communicate with the PA DOH, CDC, PDE, and local EMA</i>

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for Tunkhannock Area School District reviewed and approved the updated Health and Safety Plan on June 27, 2022.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

8 Yes
1 No

Affirmed on: **June 27, 2022**

By:

Holly Arnold 6/27/22
(Signature* of Board President)

Holly Arnold
(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.