



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: **TUNKHANNOCK AREA SD**

Initial Effective Date: July 22, 2021

Date of Last Review: July 22, 2021

Date of Last Revision: July 22, 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?

TASD will remain current on CDC guidance and PA DOH guidance for safely returning students to in person instruction in the 2021-22SY. Measures will be taken to reduce class size (when possible) to maintain a minimum of three feet of social distancing. Masks utilization will be dependent upon community transmission rates and the number of cases specific to each building. Masks will be available, and may be worn by students and staff who wish to do so.

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 food service to students working remotely. The district will also continue to offer mental health support through school counseling offices, social work teams and social/emotional program teachers. Our nurses will also be available for consultation and referral, as well. TASD is prepared to meet students' academic needs remotely in grades K to 12.

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 ;	CDC and DOH guidelines for employees and students wearing masks will be implemented with flexibility based on levels of community transmission and the number of positive cases identified in each building.
b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);	To the greatest extent possible, the district will limit classroom size to 20 students to allow for three to four feet of physical distancing. TASD is prepared to make additional space available if the level of community transmission and identified cases in specific buildings calls for such measures.
c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette ;	Proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette will be encouraged and modeled by staff. TASD will continue to provide hand sanitizer stations and classroom supplies.
d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation ;	TASD will continue to implement cleaning and disinfection protocols implemented for the 20-21SY including the use of static sprayers, UV light and maximization of ventilation systems.
e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine , in collaboration with the State and local health departments;	TASD will continue to work closely with the DOH to conduct contact tracing when positive cases are identified. When isolation/quarantine of individuals or groups is required, TASD is prepared to offer remote learning at all grade levels.
f. Diagnostic and screening testing;	TASD will continue to follow existing protocols for screening for elevated temperature and questions relating to symptoms and COVID19 exposure.
g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities ;	TASD continues to post information pertaining to local vaccination clinics on the district website (www.tasd.net) and the district Facebook page. The district will avail itself to scheduling clinics onsite with outside providers as requested.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<p>IEP and 504 teams will meet to determine if individual accommodations are necessary for students with disabilities. Accommodations related to COVID19 mitigation efforts or unique health needs of students will be included in a Health Plan that becomes part of the 504 Plan or IEP, if appropriate.</p>
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<p>TASD will continue to communicate and coordinate with the DOH, PDE, CDC and local EMA.</p>

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for Tunkhannock Area School District reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on July 22, 2021.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

_____ **Yes**

_____ **No**

Affirmed on: July 22, 2021

By:

(Signature of Board President)*

Phillip Farr

(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.