



# 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: Troy Area School District

Initial Effective Date: **June 15, 2021**

Date of Last Review: **August 25, 2021**

Date of Last Revision: **August 25, 2021**

Date of Last Revision: **January 11, 2022**

Date of Last Revision: **March 2, 2022**

Date of Last Revision: **September 27, 2022**

Date of Last Revision: **May 16, 2023 (no revision made)**

Date of Last Revision: **November 14, 2023 (no revision made)**

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 Troy Area School District will continue to implement, to the maximum extent possible, prevention and mitigation efforts, and develop policies and procedures that are aligned with the health and safety guidance from the Centers for Disease Control, Pennsylvania Department of Health, and the Pennsylvania Department of Education to ensure a safe reopening of schools for any summer programming and re-entry into school for the 2021-2022 school year. The plan is to continue operating five days per week for in-person instructional learning, unless we are required to pivot to remote instructional learning through the direction of the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

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 Troy Area School District will continue to monitor the allocations of resources to students and families while the students are in school and within the community. The district will use ESSER funds to address the unfinished learning needs of our students both academically and socially/emotionally. The district will continue to provide meal support for our students in the same fashion of the previous school year if we would have to pivot to remote learning due to the pandemic. Additional resources will be added to the budget over the next three years to address the effects that the pandemic has had on students within our district.

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
<p>a. Universal and correct wearing of <u>masks</u>;</p>	<p><i>As it pertains to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, the Troy Area School District will abide by, to the maximum extent possible, the current recommendations for schools as issued by the Center for Disease Control, the Pennsylvania Department of Health, the Pennsylvania Department of Education, and other applicable laws and regulations.</i></p> <p><b>Per the CDC masking guidelines updated on August 18, 2022 individuals who are exposed to COVID-19 are recommended to wear a high-quality mask for 10 days and get tested on day 6 after exposure. If on day 6 the test is negative, no additional time with a mask is necessary.</b></p> <p><b>Those who contracted COVID-19 and are asymptomatic or negative on day 6, no mask is required.</b></p> <p><b>Per the CDC masking guidelines updated on February 25, 2022, the Troy Area School District will no longer require the wearing of masks by staff, students and transportation personnel while on T ASD transportation.</b></p>
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for <u>physical distancing</u> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<p><i>As it pertains to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, the Troy Area School District will abide by, to the maximum extent possible, the current recommendations for schools as issued by the Center for Disease Control, the Pennsylvania Department of Health, the Pennsylvania Department of Education, and other applicable laws and regulations.</i></p> <p><b>T ASD will utilize strategies recommended by the CDC to the greatest amount practical while still providing a full educational program for students.</b></p>
<p>c. <u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</u>;</p>	<p><i>As it pertains to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, the Troy Area School District will abide by, to the maximum extent possible, the current recommendations for schools as issued by the Center for Disease Control, the Pennsylvania Department of Health, the Pennsylvania Department of Education, and other applicable laws and regulations.</i></p> <p><b>Students will continue to use enhanced hand hygiene techniques during the school day including providing a supply of hand sanitizer to classrooms and recommending hand washing breaks to students and teachers.</b></p> <p><b>Signage indicating proper handwashing procedures will continue to be posted in areas throughout the District's schools.</b></p> <p><b>The District will continue to expand and use bottle filling stations for students and staff in all buildings in lieu of water fountains.</b></p>
<p>d. <u>Cleaning</u> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <u>ventilation</u>;</p>	<p><i>As it pertains to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, the Troy Area School District will abide by, to the maximum extent possible, the current recommendations for schools as issued by the Center for Disease Control, the Pennsylvania Department of Health, the Pennsylvania Department of Education, and other applicable laws and regulations.</i></p> <p><b>Cleaning procedures will continue with the utilization of cleaning products that kill COVID-19. Additionally,</b></p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p>enhanced ventilation systems will be reviewed for best air quality in all buildings within the District.</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><i>As it pertains to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, the Troy Area School District will abide by, to the maximum extent possible, the current recommendations for schools as issued by the Center for Disease Control, the Pennsylvania Department of Health, the Pennsylvania Department of Education, and other applicable laws and regulations.</i></p> <p><b>Testing Positive:</b>  <b>Parents are expected to report positive cases in their children as soon as possible.</b>  <b>Students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 must isolate for five (5) days. If after five (5) days, student or staff is asymptomatic or symptoms are resolving, they may return to school/work. If symptoms are not resolving and/or fever persists students and staff will remain home until day ten (10).</b></p> <p><b>Close Contact:</b>  <b>Per CDC quarantine for individuals who are exposed is no longer recommended.</b></p>
<p>f. <u>Diagnostic</u> and screening testing;</p>	<p><i>As it pertains to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, the Troy Area School District will abide by, to the maximum extent possible, the current recommendations for schools as issued by the Center for Disease Control, the Pennsylvania Department of Health, the Pennsylvania Department of Education, and other applicable laws and regulations.</i></p> <p><b>TASD will require students and staff to self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms before arriving at school each day. Currently there are ample available appointments in the region for individuals seeking a COVID-19 vaccination and booster. The District has consistently messaged the value of having both staff members and eligible students vaccinated and will continue to do so.</b></p> <p><b>Students and staff will not be required to be vaccinated against COVID-19 in order to attend or work at school unless this, like other required vaccination, is required by the PA DOH.</b></p>
<p>g. Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to school communities</u>;</p>	<p><i>As it pertains to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, the Troy Area School District will abide by, to the maximum extent possible, the current recommendations for schools as issued by the Center for Disease Control, the Pennsylvania Department of Health, the Pennsylvania Department of Education, and other applicable laws and regulations.</i></p> <p><b>Student's IEP or 504 teams will be convened to determine the specific supports and accommodations needed by the individual students to access a free and appropriate public education.</b></p>
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<p><i>As it pertains to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, the Troy Area School District will abide by, to the maximum extent possible, the current recommendations for schools as issued by the Center for Disease Control, the Pennsylvania Department of Health, the Pennsylvania Department of Education, and other applicable laws and regulations.</i></p> <p><b>Student's IEP or 504 teams will be convened to determine the specific supports and accommodations needed by the individual students to access a free and appropriate public education.</b></p>
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<p><i>As it pertains to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, the Troy Area School District will abide by, to the maximum extent possible, the current recommendations for schools as issued</i></p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<p><i>As it pertains to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, the Troy Area School District will abide by, to the maximum extent possible, the current recommendations for schools as issued by the Center for Disease Control, the Pennsylvania Department of Health, the Pennsylvania Department of Education, and other applicable laws and regulations.</i></p> <p><b>The Troy Area School District will continue to work closely with local and state health officials to ensure a safe and positive educational environment for all students and to provide parents and guardians with regular updates on safety protocols enacted by the District.</b></p>

## Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for Troy Area School District reviewed the Health and Safety Plan on November 14, 2023

By:



(Signature\* of Board President)

Heather Bonner

(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.

