



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: Palmyra Area School District

Initial Effective Date: July 31, 2021

Date of Last Review: July 15, 2021

Date of Last Revision:

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 Palmyra Area School District will support prevention and mitigation policies pertaining to guidance from the CDC as the 2021-2022 school year begins. The district will continue to clean/disinfect facilities on a daily basis with more thorough/frequent cleaning taking place on an as needed basis. The district will continue to maintain seating charts for purposes of contact tracing, should that practice continue in the 2021-2022 school-year. Daily hygiene practices, including washing of hands and proper sneezing technique will be reviewed and encouraged with students and staff. Students and staff will be asked to continue to conduct symptom screening before reporting to school or work and follow any mandates present at the time. Ventilation practices in the school buildings' HVAC systems will adhere to system standards for fresh air circulation. Where applicable, sneeze guards, will be maintained to help reduce the spread of virus.

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?

Academic: The District will provide instructional services within a two-tier model in the 2021-2022 school-year. In-person learning will be provided to all students five days/week. Students in grades K-12 electing an online learning model will be enrolled in the district's Cougar Academy. Elementary mathematics within the Cougar Academy will include live instruction, whereby a student can access the lesson in real time or at a later time through the posting of the lesson. Other instructional delivery within the Cougar Academy will be asynchronous in nature, but students will be assigned an online teacher or learning facilitator who will guide and support their learning. Additional learning loss based instruction will be provided in the summer of 2021 as a means for closing the learning gap that has existed due to the closure and continuity of education that occurred from March to June 2020, as well as any learning gap as a result of the 2020-2021 school-year.

Social/Emotional/Mental Health Needs: The district will continue to operate Student Assistance programs in all six school buildings. The district will expand services provided to students through third-party contract with PA Counseling. The district will

expand school-based counseling services from one to two full-time contracted positions. Additionally, the district will contract with PA Counseling to provide a “Check and Connect” program as a truancy elimination program for transitioning students back into the regular classroom.

Food Service: The district will continue to operate the free federal meal program as long as federal funding is available. Continuation of this program through the summer of 2021 and the 2021-2022 school-year will aide district families in having nutrition based needs met each day.

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>As per the CDC, cloth masks offer “some protection” to the individual wearing the mask. Individual students and/or staff may, on a voluntary basis, wear a face covering to help protect them from breathing in the COVID virus. PASD will maintain the practice that facial coverings or masks may be worn voluntarily. Under federal order issued in January 2021 and the American Rescue Plan (ARP), the federal government and the CDC require face coverings, regardless of vaccination status, when on public transportation, which includes on school buses operated by public and private school systems. Students and staff will adhere to the face covering guidance on this form of public transportation. For the 2021-2022 school year, PASD will continue to monitor the ever-changing and applicable requirements or guidelines from the Commonwealth of PA or the CDC that are effective on or after July 30, 2021. If there are any changes or revisions to those applicable requirements after July 30, 2021, the District will review the requirements, and publicly discuss the Health and Safety Plan, while in the interim authorizing the superintendent to adjust the plan to meet interim requirements/guidelines.</p>
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for <u>physical distancing</u> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<p>Facilities maintain sneeze guards in critical areas where contact with others is prevalent. Additional seating has been</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	added to increase social distancing where practical. Social distancing in classrooms will occur to the extent possible to educate students in-person five days / week. Procedures that aide in social distancing will be used where appropriate.
c. <u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</u> ;	As per guidance from the CDC, students and staff will be encouraged to wash hands frequently including; before and after eating, after using the restroom, blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing. Modeling and teaching students on appropriate hand washing technique will occur as appropriate based on the age of students. Hand sanitizer will be available in school buildings.
d. <u>Cleaning</u> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <u>ventilation</u> ;	PASD will adequately clean/disinfect buildings on a daily basis and more frequently when conditions require additional cleaning. Teachers will have access to appropriate cleaning/disinfectant in order to clean more frequently as needed. Ventilation systems will operate to industry standards as a means for ensuring outdoor air circulation into the school buildings. Holding activities/events outdoors will be considered when circumstances allow. When weather allows, and it is safe to do so, the opening of windows can aide outdoor airflow.
e. <u>Contact tracing</u> in combination with <u>isolation</u> and <u>quarantine</u> , in collaboration with the State and local health departments;	State and federal guidelines will be used to determine when an isolated or quarantined staff member, student, or visitor may return to school.
f. <u>Diagnostic</u> and screening testing;	PASD will continue to ask students and staff to continue at-home screening for COVID-19 symptoms when symptomatic. Diagnostic testing for COVID-19 and subsequent positive test results will require the positive individual to adhere to existing requirements for isolation and quarantine present at the time.
g. Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to school communities</u> ;	PASD has partnered with IU#13 to provide vaccinations to staff members. Additionally, PASD provided staff members multiple other opportunities for vaccinations within the community and

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p>region. PASD has partnered with IU#13 to offer a vaccination site for school-aged students that was on a voluntary basis. PASD has also provided families with information pertaining to two additional sources of vaccine for school-aged children as a voluntary source for families.</p>
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<p>As appropriate, PASD has worked with students with disabilities on alternatives to face masks and developed IEP goals to facilitate facial coverings where appropriate. IEP teams will meet, as necessary, to discuss and make decisions on individual student needs.</p>
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<p>The district will coordinate with local and state agencies throughout the 2021-2022 school year, as necessary.</p>

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement


The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Palmyra Area School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **(July 15, 2021)**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

8 Yes
0 No

Affirmed on: **(July 15, 2021)**

By:



(Signature* of Board President)

Christopher Cornell

(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.