



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: Lewisburg Area School District

Initial Effective Date: August 18, 2021

Date of Last Review: December 16, 2021

Date of Last Revision: August 11, 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?

The Lewisburg Area School District will consider the most recent guidance from the CDC regarding transmission of COVID-19 in the community. Since the District's schools have continued to operate in person for the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school year, the District will continue to implement mitigation strategies that are based in the most recent peer reviewed research studies as well as recommended actions for those who are fully vaccinated and those who are not fully vaccinated.

The Administration will review updates from the Pennsylvania Departments of Education and Health and the Center for Disease Control regarding in-person learning. The Administration will communicate the expectations for all school personnel, students, visitors and parents, and provide updates as necessary. All relevant information will be posted on the District's website at lasd.us.

When necessary and based on the level of community transmission, the District will limit access to the school facilities. Should limiting access to school facilities become necessary, business can be conducted using remote telecommunication, particularly when there are unvaccinated individuals involved. The District may use Zoom to conduct business.

The District will monitor the number of positive cases that are reported to the school.

In alignment with the requirements in Title 28 Pa.Code Chapter 27 (relating to communicable and noncommunicable diseases), the PA DOH and PDE clarified the sole requirement for school districts as of August 15, 2022, is for Districts to report weekly aggregate positive case numbers to the Department of Health through the FRCPP.

In a statement released August 10, 2022 from PDE and DOH, the District is to follow the CDC's operational guidance for safe in-person learning found [here](#). Neither PDE nor DOH plan to issue updated guidances for the 2022-2023 school year.

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 Lewisburg Area School District will continue to provide services to students who are in-person for instruction as well as students who elect to use the LASD eSchool for the 2022-2023 school year. If in the event of a need to move to remote learning for the health and safety of the students, staff, and community, the District will implement the Emergency Instructional Time Template. The District will offer remote instruction via Zoom and its two learning management systems.

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 masks ;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since February 25, 2022 at 5:00 p.m., masks have been recommended and not required indoors for all students, staff, and visitors. • At all levels of transmission (low, medium, high) people can opt to wear a mask by personal preference, informed by personal level of risk. • If a significant percentage of a school's population is positive for COVID-19 over a two- week period, or the CDC rating is High, the Superintendent may recommend or require masking as a measure to reduce the risk of spread. • The District will make masks available to students and

employees when masks are recommended due to county rates of transmission that place us in the high level.

- If the CDC issues new guidance for school districts where masks are no longer recommended, the District may continue to recommend them.
- In alignment with the CDC's recommendations for all communities with high transmission, masking is recommended for all individuals attending meetings, events, and activities that occur after students are dismissed from school.
- Per CDC guidance on February 25, 2022, masks are no longer required by students and staff on school buses and school district vans.
- Should masks be required, the District will not accept notes from physicians or healthcare providers stating that an individual cannot wear a mask, unless such a request complies with the ADA process for an accommodation.
- Consequences for staff who do not comply with the mask requirement will be progressive discipline, which includes verbal warning, letter of reprimand, suspension with pay, formal Lauderhill hearing, and suspension without pay.
- Consequences for students who do not comply with the mask requirement will be progressive discipline, which includes verbal warning, detention, suspension, loss of privileges, loss of eligibility for extracurriculars, and exclusion from school with access to assignments for self-directed learning.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If and when community transmission of COVID-19 is high, social distancing will be applied to the greatest extent practicable during the student day. • Auditorium and gymnasium seating may be every other seat. • Cafeteria seating may be every other seat. • When possible, bus transportation will be two to a seat, with assigned seats. • Classes may be taught outside, weather-permissible. Recesses will be outside, weather-permissible. Lunch and other breaks may be outside, weather-permissible.
<p>c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handwashing and sanitation stations will be available throughout the school facilities, especially in locations for consuming food and drink. • Handwashing will be encouraged through posters, handwashing breaks, and staff reminders. • Students will be taught how to cough and sneeze into their elbows or a tissue, with proper disposal. • Signage will be used to encourage proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.
<p>d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needlepoint bipolar ionization was installed in November 2020. • The District will continue to clean surface areas in classrooms, bathrooms, offices, and other spaces. • CDC's recommended cleaning and disinfecting strategies will be employed. • The District's modern HVAC systems in all schools have been identified as most critical for proper ventilation.

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;

- Employees and students have contact with people in community settings where mitigation strategies are not required. The District assumes that most every person is a contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 by virtue of being in settings outside the home.
- The District will distribute the PA Health Alert Network guidelines from the Department of Health, as they apply to COVID-19, to parents.
- The District will ask parents to monitor their child for symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and take the appropriate steps to determine if their child has COVID-19. If a child is positive, the child should not return to school for 5 days. The student may return after day 6 with improved symptoms and fever-free for 24 hours, wearing a mask until day 10. The parents should notify the school if their child has tested positive for the school's monitoring purposes.
- The District has the authority to exclude positive cases in order to create a safe learning environment for students and staff.
- If the District learns that a student or staff member has tested positive, it will notify the parent of a student who has a documented immunocompromised condition that his/her child may have been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 so the parent can monitor his/her child.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the District learns that a student or staff member has tested positive, it will notify the staff member who has a documented immunocompromised condition that he/she may have been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 so the staff member can monitor his/her symptoms. • Staff members who develop COVID-19 symptoms should confirm their diagnosis and inform their principal/supervisor and the superintendent of their status. • All employees must submit proof of vaccination to the superintendent, if vaccinated. • All students should submit proof of vaccination to the school nurse. • Administrative leave may only be granted by the superintendent. To receive administrative leave the employee must submit the positive test results to the superintendent for one's self or child, if seeking administrative leave for the care of a child.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
f. Diagnostic and screening testing;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District will ask parents to monitor their child's symptoms and to keep the child out of school until symptoms resolve or under the direction of the child's primary care physician. • The District will continue its protocol with school nurses tracking COVID-like symptoms and COVID testing, recording both positive and negative results. • The District will consult with local medical professionals about the need for diagnostic screening testing if and when there is high positivity rates in the community.
g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities ;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District will cooperate with any vaccination efforts for unvaccinated people, including making school buildings available and communicating information with the community. • Students will receive an excused absence for vaccinations.
h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District will implement any health-specific needs for students with disabilities.
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District will cooperate with state and county health officials. • The District will engage in information sessions with local medical and health experts.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Lewisburg Area School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **July 15, 2021** and **December 16, 2021**. The Plan was reviewed and revised on **February 10, 2022** and **February 24, 2022**. The plan was reaffirmed on **August 11, 2022**.

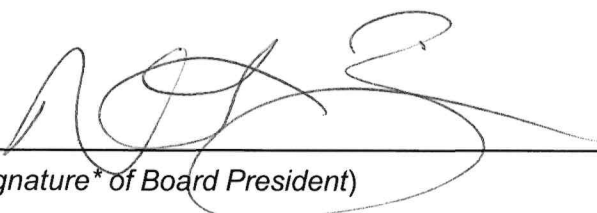
The plan was approved by a vote of:

8 Yes

0 No

Affirmed on: **August 11, 2022**.

By:



(Signature* of Board President)

Virginia Zimmerman

(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.