



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: **Woodland Hills School District**

****Please Note: This is the district’s preliminary, unapproved Health and Safety Plan. The Board will meet to approve the Health and Safety Plan on August 18, 2021 and it will be posted at the following website: www.whsd.net. Thank you.**

Initial Effective Date: August 23, 2021

Date of Last Review: August 18, 2021

Date of Last Revision: August 18, 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?

The Woodland Hills School District (WHSD) will continue to consult with physicians and Allegheny County health professionals before making any decisions regarding safe, in-person operations within our facilities. We will also continue to monitor the recommendations from the CDC, WHO, and the Pennsylvania Department of Education regarding best practices for keeping students safe and healthy.

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?

WHSD will ensure that all scholars have the opportunity to learn in-person beginning in the Fall of 2021. We have added a counselor at our Middle School and have formed several local partnerships with mental health providers to ensure that the mental health needs of scholars, families, and staff are being met. We have also continued to encourage staff to utilize our Employee Assistance Program 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 masks ;	It is our plan to have all students and staff wear masks while indoors unless eating. While eating, students and staff will maintain a safe distance from each other.
b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);	WHSD will continue to find ways to maximize the space used in our buildings to ensure a minimum of 3-feet of social distancing for all students and staff. We

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	will remove excess furniture as possible and limit the movement of scholars where appropriate.
c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette ;	Hand sanitizing dispensers have been installed in regular intervals along the hallways of all buildings. Educators and students will be allowed additional time to confirm that proper handwashing technique is being followed at all times. Scholars will be retaught the appropriate hygiene and hand-washing requirements regularly.
d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation ;	Each high-touch surface will be thoroughly cleaned daily. Additionally, common spaces, such as cafeterias, will be sanitized after each use.
e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine , in collaboration with the State and local health departments;	Strict protocols will be followed regarding students and staff reporting any positive symptoms and/or positive cases of Covid-19. All affected will be notified, and where appropriate based on CDC guidelines, asked to quarantine.
f. Diagnostic and screening testing;	Parents are asked to perform cursory screenings of their children prior to each school day and any student or staff member feeling ill is asked to remain home.
g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities ;	WHSD has facilitated two vaccination drives to date and we hope to host many more in the near future. We are working closely with the Intermediate Unit and local health officials to guarantee that the vaccine is available to all district stakeholders and we are encouraging all stakeholders to receive the vaccine.
h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	The WHSD Special Education team is meeting regularly with building staff to promote sensitivity to any accommodations or needs of individual scholars. IEP meetings and revisions are occurring regularly to account for needs related to Covid mitigation and prevention.
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	WHSD has been in regular contact with Dr. Chris Conti and Mr. Keith Morse regarding county Covid rates and vaccination rates. We will continue to seek the guidance of these professionals, as well as state and Federal agencies as

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	we revisit and revise our school health and safety plans.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Woodland Hills School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **August 18, 2021**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

_____ **Yes**

_____ **No**

Affirmed on: **August 18, 2021**

By:

(Signature of Board President)*

(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.