



ARP ESSER Health and Safety Plan

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: **SOUTHERN COLUMBIA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Initial Effective Date: July 19, 2021

Date of Last Review: July 19, 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?

In the best interest of education, the Southern Columbia Area School District recognizes the need to have students participating in face to face instruction as often as possible. This plan outlines the District's strategy to continue to recover from the pandemic. This is a fluid document based on local, state, and federal mandated guidelines, which will continue to develop over time. This plan is based on the District's capability to follow the state, local and federal guidelines to the best of our ability; however, this plan is developed to reduce the level of risk but does not eliminate risks and exposure. The District will continue to implement, to the maximum extent practicable, prevention and mitigation efforts that are aligned with the Health and Safety guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA DoH), and the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE). The District will collaborate with other regional school districts and Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit - 16 to ensure current knowledge and application of CDC practices, to the maximum extent practicable.

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?

A successful and equitable school reopening strategy requires engaging the entire school community to establish a safe environment for all educators, school staff, and students and promote trust and confidence. Southern Columbia Area School District staff, and students' families will be provided with DOH and CDC COVID-19 virus information for the purpose of self-monitoring. Staff and students will be encouraged to self-monitor for any signs and symptoms of COVID-19 at home prior to attending school. If any signs or symptoms are noted at home, that staff member or student should not attend school and will be encouraged to seek further medical attention. If a staff member or student develops signs and symptoms while attending school, that staff member or student must report to the nurse immediately for assessment and evaluation. Any staff member, student, or other member of the school community who becomes ill and/or was exposed to a confirmed positive COVID-19 case will need to leave the school immediately. The staff member or student will be required to seek further medical attention and follow physician guidance/recommendation. The Southern Columbia Area Nursing professionals and Administrative team will work together, in

conjunction with the PA DoH, to determine quarantine and/or isolation needs of staff and students. Our District will continue to offer mental health, student health, and food service regardless of instructional format to our students.

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.

The Southern Columbia Area School District will implement mandates set forth by the PA DoH and CDC. The District will continue to follow the mandated guidelines set forth by the health departments. CDC and PA DoH recommendations will be implemented to the extent practicable for mitigation policies in line with the most up to date guidance.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<p>a. Universal and correct wearing of masks;</p>	<p>The District will continue to monitor recommendations, guidelines, and mandates set forth by the PA DoH, CDC and/or PDE related to masking in schools. If masking mandates are established by the PA DoH, CDC, and/or PDE, the district will revisit the mandates and take appropriate action.</p> <p>The District will allow students and staff to voluntarily wear masks at any time.</p> <p>The District recommends all unvaccinated individuals wear masks especially while indoors.</p>
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<p>Large group areas and outdoor space will be utilized to the greatest extent practicable to allow for physical distancing.</p> <p>The District will promote social distancing of students and staff to the greatest extent practicable.</p>
<p>c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</p>	<p>The District will promote proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette by continuing to display signs/education materials and making public service announcements in the schools The District will encourage all school staff to promote proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette when practicable and appropriate.</p>

<p>d. <u>Cleaning</u> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <u>ventilation</u>;</p>	<p>The District will follow the CDC’s mandated guidance for cleaning and disinfecting schools, increase physical distancing, and hygiene practices. The district will implement protocols for cleaning high-touch and high-traffic areas including door handles and sink handles. The District will provide cleaning and sanitizing solutions and materials to classrooms and employees for cleaning as needed and provide routine cleaning of facilities/classrooms/buses by employees.</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>As it pertains to the COVID 19 pandemic, the District will abide by, to the maximum extent practicable, any contact tracing, isolation, and quarantine requirements issued by the CDC/PA DoH/PDE.</p>
<p>f. <u>Diagnostic</u> and screening testing;</p>	<p>COVID symptom screening should be done by parent/guardian prior to student arrival at school or bus. Staff should self-screen prior to coming to work.</p> <p>The District will provide symptom screenings when possible, which may include COVID testing.</p>
<p>g. Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to school communities</u>;</p>	<p>The District may share vaccination information to the school community through hardcopy and/or electronic means.</p>
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<p>The District will provide reasonable accommodations, as appropriate, to students with disabilities with respect to health and safety strategies.</p>
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<p>The District will continue to follow the mandated guidelines set forth by the PA DoH, CDC, and PDE. Regular communication will continue by our school district and the above organizations.</p>

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **SOUTHERN COLUMBIA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **JULY 19, 2021**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

_____ **Yes**

_____ **No**

Affirmed on: **July 19, 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.