



# ARP ESSER Health and Safety Plan Guidance & Template

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## **Health and Safety Plan Summary: West Allegheny School District**

**2022-2023 School Year:** Under the ESSER requirements, school districts must still review and/or update their Health and Safety Plan every six months up through September 30, 2024. Updated plans must be posted on the District's website, but are not required to be submitted to PDE

**Initial Effective Date (Board Approval Date):** August 17, 2022

**Date of Last Board of Directors Review:** July 20, 2022

**Date of Last Revision:** February 16, 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?**

As West Allegheny School District did throughout the 2020-21 and 2021-22 school years, we will continue to offer five days of in-person learning for all K-12 students during the 2022-2023 school year, with appropriate health and safety procedures in place. In order to ensure appropriate health and safety procedures are in place, we will continue to monitor recommendations from the CDC, Pennsylvania Department of Education, Pennsylvania Department of Health and Allegheny County Health Department. West Allegheny will continue to participate in local, regional and state engagements and will remain in communication with the Allegheny County Health Department as needed. We will implement the following preventive health and safety procedures/strategies:

- Provide appropriate social distance in all classrooms to optimize student learning and safety
- Provide disinfectant for desks and maintain hand sanitizing stations throughout all schools for students to use as they choose
- Clean, disinfect and sanitize school facilities daily in accordance with CDC guidelines, with a focus on high touch surfaces

- Maintain ventilation and HVAC protocols to increase airflow
  - Conduct case investigations with appropriate quarantining and isolating procedures, as determined by the District's pandemic nurses and local context
  - The District is strongly recommending, not requiring, face coverings/masks, regardless of vaccination status, in schools when community transmission levels are high (as designated by the CDC). The District strongly encourages staff, students and families to follow the health guidance provided by the CDC, PA DOH and/or ACHD.
  - Maintain assigned seats in classrooms, cafeterias and on school buses
  - When instructional materials are shared, provide disinfecting products and strongly encourage effective hand washing/sanitizing
  - Access to school facilities is limited to essential visitors and essential parent volunteers; school/parent volunteers are strongly encouraged to wear a mask in school facilities, regardless of vaccination status, during community transmission levels of high.
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?**

West Allegheny will monitor and assess students at the beginning of the school year using diagnostic assessments to determine instructional level and supports necessary. Interim, diagnostic and summative assessment data will be triangulated from the 2021-2022 school year with the leading data from the 2022-2023 initial assessments to determine tiered level of support for all students. Multiple levels of interventions will be applied including reading clinics and other supplemental supports as appropriate.

West Allegheny's Special Education and Student Services Department will continue to monitor and support students receiving special education services inclusive of 504s, IEPs and GIEPs in compliance with Federal law. Each school's Student Assistance Team will monitor and refer at-risk students for support. West Allegheny will continue to partner with Family Links, providing nine full-time therapists, making counseling available to students during the school-day.

The District's Administrative Team will continue to work collaboratively with the teacher's union and support staff union to address and rectify concerns as they arise in the best interest of 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.**

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<p>a. Universal and correct wearing of <a href="#">masks</a>;</p>	<p>West Allegheny will continue to apply a layered prevention strategy to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. The District is strongly recommending, not requiring, face coverings/masks, regardless of vaccination status, in schools when community transmission levels are high (as designated by the CDC). The District will consider requiring face coverings/masks in the event of a local, state and/or federal mandate.</p> <p>The District strongly encourages staff, students and families to follow the health guidance provided by the CDC, PADOH and/or ACHD.</p> <p>The District reserves the right to modify the Health and Safety Plan in response to additional guidance, or modifications to previously provided guidance, or local, state or national orders, from PDE, PADOH, ACHD and/or CDC.</p>
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for <a href="#">physical distancing</a> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<p>West Allegheny classrooms will be configured to optimize learning and safety for all students.</p> <p>Desk disinfectant will be available for students, if they choose to use it.</p> <p>Students will be encouraged to wash and/or disinfect their hands before and after eating.</p> <p>Students will have access to recess equipment. Students will be encouraged to wash their hands following recess.</p> <p>Large group assemblies and school activities will be held, with consideration to the most current health and safety guidelines from health organizations.</p> <p>Students will have assigned seats throughout their daily academic schedule and on school buses.</p>
<p>c. <a href="#">Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</a>;</p>	<p>Handwashing and effective hygiene will be reviewed at the start of the school year and encouraged. Hand sanitizing stations will continue to be available in all classrooms and high traffic areas. Appropriate respiratory etiquette will be taught to students and signage is posted within the schools.</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<p>d. <a href="#">Cleaning</a> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <a href="#">ventilation</a>;</p>	<p>The District will follow the CDC's guidance for cleaning and disinfecting schools. A departmental checklist will continue to be used to monitor custodial performance for cleanliness and disinfection of frequently touched areas in accordance with CDC guidelines.</p> <p>Custodial staff will have access to backpack disinfectant sprayers to perform full facility disinfection when appropriate.</p> <p>All staff members will be provided with disinfectant spray and sanitizing wipes to maintain disinfecting of surfaces throughout the day as warranted.</p> <p>Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects within the school at least daily, including, but not limited to door handles, sink handles and light switches.</p> <p>Maintain hand sanitizing stations in each classroom and in high traffic areas such as cafeterias, vending machines, playgrounds, etc.</p> <p>Provide disinfecting wipes in classrooms that require shared keyboards or other equipment.</p> <p>All ventilation filters will be changed on a routine seasonal basis.</p> <p>Standard ventilation protocols have been altered to increase the amount of outside air brought into the facilities. In addition, the district will continue to replace air filters twice per year. The Direct Digital Controls of the HVAC system will be reviewed on a weekly basis and the percentage of outside air will be maximized based upon the projected weather forecasts. Teachers will be encouraged to open exterior windows when weather permits.</p> <p>Hand sanitizer will continue to be available on all buses; buses will be disinfected as appropriate. For additional protection, the district will provide a disinfectant for wiping of desks between use that is classified as non-hazardous and requires no precautions for use.</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
e. <a href="#">Contact tracing</a> in combination with <a href="#">isolation</a> and <a href="#">quarantine</a> , in collaboration with the State and local health departments;	<p>West Allegheny School District will continue to conduct case investigations with appropriate isolation and quarantine procedures, with consideration of health organization guidelines and recommendations.</p> <p>The District will continue to provide health updates to families on an as needed basis.</p>
f. <a href="#">Diagnostic</a> and screening testing;	<p>The District will continue to strongly encourage daily health screening prior to arriving at school. Staff and parents are advised to contact the District's pandemic nurses if COVID-like symptoms are suspected.</p> <p>The District will continue to maintain a database with all identified students and staff who have been positive with COVID and/or quarantined because of being determined to be a close contact. The District will also maintain a vaccination database of all staff and students vaccinated.</p> <p>The District will continue to offer COVID screening/testing for staff members as long as testing supplies remain available at no charge.</p>
g. Efforts to provide <a href="#">vaccinations to school communities</a> ;	<p>The District has provided multiple vaccination clinics throughout the past two school years. The District will continue to provide information for vaccination as needed and as appropriate.</p>
h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	<p>The West Allegheny Student Services and Special Education Department will continue to work with individual families to ensure all appropriate accommodations are being offered to students with disabilities.</p>
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	<p>West Allegheny School District will continue to work in partnership and consultation with Allegheny County Health Department. The District will continue to assess and apply recommendations from local, state and national health authorities, as appropriate to our context.</p>



## Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **West Allegheny School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **July 21, 2021; Amended on August 18, 2021; Amended February 16, 2022; Amended August 17, 2022.**

The plan was approved by a vote of:

8 Yes

0 No

Affirmed on: **August 17, 2022**

By:



(Signature\* of Board President)

Robert OSTRANDER

(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.