



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 (Fiscal Year) 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; and
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: West Allegheny School District

Initial Effective Date: July 1, 2021

Date of Last Review: July 21, 2021

Date of Last Revision: July 21, 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?**

As West Allegheny School District did throughout the 2020-2021 school year, we will continue to offer five-days of in-person learning for all K-12 students during the 2021-2022 school year, with comprehensive health and safety procedures in place. In order to ensure optimal health and safety procedures are in place, we will continue to monitor and apply CDC recommendations in consultation with the 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 remain in close communication with the Allegheny County Health Department. We will implement the following preventive health and safety procedures/strategies:

- Provide six feet of social distance to the greatest extent possible in all classrooms
- Conduct temperature screens (and necessary health screens) upon entry into schools
- Reinforce health screens at home prior to arriving at school
- Disinfect desks during change of classes and maintain hand sanitizing stations throughout all schools
- 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 close contact tracing and necessary quarantining and isolating procedures as determined by Allegheny County Health Department
- Require face coverings/masks to be worn on buses for all students and drivers; encourage face coverings for unvaccinated persons in congregate settings where adequate social distancing is not possible
- Face covering/masks are optional unless case counts justify requiring them for unvaccinated persons

- Maintain assigned seats in classrooms, cafeterias and on school buses
 - Elementary students will eat in their classroom; middle school students will be assigned to a smaller lunch pod; high school students will eat in the cafeteria or media center. Six feet will be maintained for all students while eating.
 - Limit student use of shared materials, and when materials are shared provide disinfecting products and strongly encourage effective hand washing/sanitizing
 - Continue non-use of water fountains in all schools and restrict hallway locker use in grades 6-12.
 - Limit access to school facilities to essential visitors only; school volunteers must be vaccinated in order to support student activities.
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 2020-2021 school year with the leading data from the 2021-2022 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, recognizing that students who received their education virtually last school year may be at the highest risk. West Allegheny will continue to partner with Family Links, providing five 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. The district will continue utilizing the Pandemic Safety Team meetings weekly as a collaborative structure to address Pandemic and post-pandemic district operations.

West Allegheny will continue to provide free meals, breakfast and lunch, to all students, through June 30, 2022. Food service procedures will continue to be modified including limiting self-serve food options and ensuring food is served to students and staff by qualified cafeteria staff members. Students in grades K-8 will continue to eat in classrooms and/or smaller cafeteria pods. Breakfast will continue to be served as grab and go.

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 masks;</p>	<p>West Allegheny School District will continue to follow CDC guidance in consultation with the Allegheny County Health Department. At this time, West Allegheny will be applying a layered prevention strategy to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, which will not require face coverings/masks, unless directed to do so by local, State and/or federal authorities.</p> <p>Staff and students may choose to wear a face covering at their discretion. Persons not vaccinated will be encouraged but not required to wear a face covering. The District may require face coverings/masks to be worn by unvaccinated persons if community COVID cases increase substantially and/or if an outbreak occurs.</p> <p>One exception, face coverings will be required when students are singing such as in chorus class, regardless of maintaining physical distance.</p> <p>Face coverings/masks will be required on school buses for all persons, vaccinated or unvaccinated. Unvaccinated persons will be encouraged to wear a face covering in congregate settings when appropriate social distancing cannot be maintained.</p>
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<p>West Allegheny will continue to provide six feet of social distancing to the greatest extent possible in all classroom settings.</p> <p>Maximizing six feet of social distance mitigates unvaccinated persons having to wear a face covering/mask.</p>

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	<p>Exceptions to the six feet will only be made on the basis of students not having access to academic programs such as science labs and the early childhood education program. Modifying/lessening the six feet of social distance will occur when health officials/organizations advise close contact tracing is no longer required and/or vaccination coverage is increased coupled with community cases remaining low.</p> <p>Classrooms will continue to be configured with all desks facing in the same direction to maximize the six feet to the greatest extent possible and appropriate desk disinfecting procedures will be followed during class changes.</p> <p>Elementary students will be assigned a cohort and will remain with this cohort throughout the day. Students in grades 6-12 will not be in cohorts but will have assigned seats during all periods.</p> <p>Elementary students will eat in their classroom; middle school students will be assigned to a smaller lunch pod; high school students will eat in the cafeteria or media center. Six feet will be maintained for all students while eating.</p> <p>Desks will be sprayed with non-hazardous disinfectant prior to students eating, and students will be encouraged to wash and/or disinfect their hands before and after eating. Students will be served meals and will have limited self-serve options (snacks and beverages only). Breakfast will be grab and go.</p> <p>Students will have access to recess equipment and will remain in recess cohorts for minimally the first quarter. Students will be encouraged to wash their hands following recess.</p> <p>Large group assemblies and school activities will be held following the most</p>

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	<p>current health and safety guidelines from health organizations including adherence to social distancing and occupancy limitations. Where social distancing is not possible, face coverings/masks may be required/encouraged for unvaccinated persons.</p> <p>Students will have assigned seats throughout their daily schedule and on school buses.</p>
<p>c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</p>	<p>Handwashing and effective hygiene will be reviewed at the start of the school year and encouraged throughout the school day several times per day. 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>
<p>d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</p>	<p>The District will follow the CDC's guidance for cleaning and disinfecting schools. A departmental checklist has been developed 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 sprayers to perform full facility disinfection when recommended. Additionally, aerosol-based disinfecting sprayers will be used in designated areas and on an as needed basis.</p> <p>All staff members will be provided with disinfectant spray and wipes to maintain disinfecting of surfaces throughout the day as warranted.</p> <p>Middle School and High School will add an additional day time custodian to assist with disinfecting throughout the school day due to student transition from class to class.</p> <p>Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects within the school at least daily, including, but not limited to</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p>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>Water fountains will remain turned off. Water bottles will be recommended to bring for use and available for purchase.</p> <p>All ventilation filters will be changed before the start of school and will continue to be changed on a routine basis as recommended by the CDC. 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>Additional masks will be provided on buses in event the student does not have one; hand sanitizer will continue to be available on all buses along with posted signage on hygiene practices; buses will be disinfected between morning and afternoon runs and after the last run of the day with industry grade disinfectant.</p> <p>Restrooms will have all touch points sanitized twice per day.</p> <p>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
<p>e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<p>West Allegheny School District will continue to conduct contact tracing with appropriate isolation and quarantining procedures in accordance and consultation with Allegheny County Health Department. Fully vaccinated individuals will not be required to quarantine if determined to be a close contact. Families will be reminded to keep their child/ren home in the event of COVID-like symptoms and/or if anyone in the home is testing for COVID and/or in isolation, unless the child/ren are fully vaccinated.</p> <p>The District will continue to provide health updates to families on an as needed basis and will continue to update the COVID tracker daily on the website.</p>
<p>f. Diagnostic and screening testing;</p>	<p>The District will continue to promote and 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 temperature screen all students, staff and visitors upon entry into a school.</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 as a result 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 is interested in pursuing school-based COVID screening/testing if logistics are feasible and it is determined to benefit our students/families. The District is working with Allegheny County Health Department on the feasibility of in-school testing.</p>
<p>g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;</p>	<p>West Allegheny participated in two staff vaccination clinics last year, one hosted by the Montour School District and the</p>

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	<p>other by the AIU3. The District will remain proactive in working with staff that are not vaccinated to provide resources and locations when asked. We currently have 84% of all staff vaccinated.</p> <p>The District hosted two student vaccination clinics in partnership with Giant Eagle pharmacy for students ages 12 and up. The District will continue to provide information and opportunities for vaccination as needed and as appropriate.</p>
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<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>
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<p>West Allegheny School District will continue to work in partnership and in consultation with Allegheny County Health Department. The District will continue to maintain the gold standard of health and safety procedures in accordance with recommendations from local, state and national health authorities. The district superintendent will continue to serve on the County Health Department Advisory Committee.</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**

The plan was approved by a vote of:

 9 Yes

 0 No

Affirmed on: **July 21, 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.