



# ARP ESSER Health and Safety Plan Guidance & Template

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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: **Southmoreland School District**

Initial Effective Date: **August 1, 2021**

Date of Last Review: **August 12, 2021**

Date of Last Revision: **August 17, 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 district will continue to provide, to the greatest extent possible, social distancing and appropriate hand washing for all students and staff. Masks will be available to any and all students and staff members. Masking for students and staff is recommended but not required.**

**The District shall comply with the CDC order regarding the use of masks on school transportation, regardless of whether the student or the employee is vaccinated.**

**The LEA provided vaccination options to all employees in the spring of 2021. Cleaning training and materials have been provided and are in place for the opening of the school year. As needed, the Southmoreland School District will make recommended changes and revisions to this plan.**

**THIS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.**

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 district is offering summer learning loss and skill building opportunities for all students in grades K-5. In grades 6-12, credit recovery options are available. Food service continues to provide pickup for families in need throughout the summer and food bags are prepared daily and for weekends as well. The district provided additional counseling and will continue to do so. The district purchased a self-care book for the entire faculty as well. As needed, the Southmoreland School District will make recommended changes and revisions to this plan.**

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. <b>Universal and correct wearing of <a href="#">masks</a>;</b>	Updated posters and guides will be posted on campuses that reflect new and changing guidance.
b. <b>Modifying facilities to allow for <a href="#">physical distancing</a> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</b>	All common areas are marked for traffic to separate and space students. Large seated spaces are marked for distances up to six feet when practical. Students will continue to follow distancing guidelines as practical.
c. <b><a href="#">Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</a>;</b>	Updated posters and guides will be posted on campuses that reflect new and changing guidance.
d. <b><a href="#">Cleaning</a> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <a href="#">ventilation</a>;</b>	Revised cleaning protocols and new materials will be implemented to ensure better and safer coverage.
e. <b><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;</b>	Nurses and principals work collaboratively with the PDE DOH to contact trace, including busing, and to notify parents of the required quarantine protocols as determined by the DOH for each case.
f. <b><a href="#">Diagnostic</a> and screening testing;</b>	Thermoscanners are available to screen all faculty and staff upon entry into the schools if needed.
g. <b>Efforts to provide <a href="#">vaccinations to school communities</a>;</b>	The district has provided vaccination options to all faculty and staff.
h. <b>Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</b>	The district will consider each student's needs individually and determine best practice as needed.
i. <b>Coordination with state and local health officials.</b>	Nurses and principals work collaboratively with the PDE DOH to contact trace, including busing, and to notify parents of the required quarantine protocols as determined by the DOH for each case.

## Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Southmoreland School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **August 19, 2021**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

\_\_\_\_\_ **Yes**

\_\_\_\_\_ **No**

Affirmed on: **August 19, 2021**

By:

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*(Signature\* of Board President)*

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*(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.