



Amended 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.

The District's governing body, the Reading School District Board of Directors, approved an ARP ESSER Health and Safety Plan in June of 2021. The Plan was posted online and uploaded to eGrants System. What follows is an amended plan.

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: **Reading School District**

Initial Effective Date: August 19, 2020

Date of Last Review: June 14, 2021

Date of Last Revision: June 23, 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 LEA will:

- Follow the 2020-2021 Board-of-Directors-approved Health and Safety Plan through the end of the first quarter and will follow all updated guidance from the CDC for the safe reopening and operation of school facilities to the extent practicable and with revisions noted below.
 - Complete buildings/facilities improvements related specifically to air quality and ventilation, which, to date, have included the following:
 - purchase and deployment of in-room purification systems in every occupied space, such as classrooms, offices, and cafeterias;
 - contract with HVAC specialists to analyze ventilation and air-flow rates in every occupied space and follow through with recommendations to achieve proper ventilation and air flow, which may include the following:
 - repair and/or replacement of in-room unit ventilators;
 - install, repair, and/or replace building HVAC systems.
 - Participate in COVID-19 vaccination efforts.
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?

Beginning on August 24th, all school personnel will return to school locations for in person preparation for the opening of schools and the return of students to in person learning

Beginning on August 30th, the LEA will provide:

- Full in-person instruction for all students. Families opting for on-line instruction may apply to the Reading Virtual Academy. In addition to instruction, all related services, food services, extracurricular activities and transportation services will continue.
- Internet access for students, as needed, in collaboration with Comcast and T-Mobile.
- Ongoing referral to Employee Assistance Programs (staff) and community mental health resources (students).

- Ongoing Trauma-Informed Schools and Restorative Practices and training.
 - Ongoing Crisis Response as needed.
 - School Nursing coverage to provide continuous case management and contact tracing of students who require isolation and quarantine due to positive COVID 19 tests or exposures.
 - Contact tracing and isolation/quarantine tracking for staff by the Risk Management and Benefits
 - Meal Distribution at designated pick-up sites for students enrolled in the Reading Virtual Academy.
 - Free bottled water will be made available to students and/or the deployment of touchless hydration stations
 - Implementation of Flexible Instructional Days, pending PDE approval.
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>Reading School District will continue to follow the 2020-2021 Health and Safety Plan through November 4, 2021, with the following revisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Universal masking of all staff and students within all district buildings, in absence of an approved medical or instructional need. ● Universal masking of staff and students when traveling with one or more persons on school-related transportation, such as school buses and activity vans. ● Staff and students may remove their masks when outdoors. <p>Revisions to the plan will be based upon guidance from the Centers for Disease Control, American Academy of Pediatrics and the Pennsylvania Department of Health.</p>
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<p>Reading School District will continue to follow the 2020-2021 Health and Safety Plan through November 4, 2021, with the following revisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Social distancing between students of 3 feet when possible. If distancing cannot be maintained

	<p>at 3 feet, clear barriers will be used when feasible and when not impeding upon instruction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dividers will be available for cafeterias in order to resume lunches in the cafeteria. ● Schedules and locations of students and staff related to lunch, instruction of Special Education and English Language Learners, specials, extracurricular activities, clubs, TPC and transportation will return to pre-pandemic norms. ● Directionality in hallways and stairs will be eliminated ● Use of standing playground equipment may resume. ● Use of individual playground and physical education equipment is permitted on the condition students and staff follow hand sanitizing procedures before and after equipment use. ● Use of student lockers will be permitted. ● Individually-labeled bins/containers for classroom and art supplies will not be required. ● Sharing of supplies will continue to be minimized per the 2020-2021 Health and Safety Plan. <p>Revisions to the plan will be based upon guidance from the Centers for Disease Control, American Academy of Pediatrics and the Pennsylvania Department of Health.</p>
<p>c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</p>	<p>Reading School District will continue to follow the 2020-2021 Health and Safety Plan through November 4, 2021.</p> <p>Revisions to the plan will be based upon guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and the Pennsylvania Department of Health.</p>
<p>d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving</p>	<p>Reading School District will continue to follow the 2020-2021 Health and Safety</p>

<p>ventilation;</p>	<p>Plan through November 4, 2021 with the following revisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classrooms and desks will be cleaned as needed, and not between class changes. • Regular use of the electrostatic sprayer when rooms, including health rooms and classrooms, have been occupied by a person with COVID symptoms who is excluded or goes home. <p>Revisions to the plan will be based upon guidance from the Centers for Disease Control, American Academy of Pediatrics and the Pennsylvania Department of Health.</p> <p>Facilities will continue with ongoing building projects to improve air quality and ventilation in each building.</p>
<p>e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<p>Reading School District will continue to follow the 2020-2021 Health and Safety Plan through November 4, 2021 with the following revisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students are not considered close contacts if they are further than 3 feet apart and are both wearing masks and other mitigating measures are in place. This revision does not apply to student-staff and staff-staff contact tracing. • Fully vaccinated close contacts should be referred for COVID-19 testing. If asymptomatic, fully vaccinated close contacts do not need to quarantine at home following an exposure. • Close contacts who are not fully vaccinated should be referred for COVID-19 testing. Quarantine can be shortened to 7 days or when results obtained if they have a negative test result and are asymptomatic.. <p>Revisions to the plan will be based upon guidance from the Centers for Disease</p>

	Control and the Pennsylvania Department of Health.
<p>f. Diagnostic and screening testing;</p>	<p>Reading School District will continue to follow the 2020-2021 Health and Safety Plan through November 4, 2021 with the following revisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Kinsa Fluency Program will not be utilized. Parents/guardians will be encouraged to contact the school nurse by phone at the start of the day with concerns about their child’s health. ● Permitted visitors will no longer be required to complete a Google form to screen for illness. <p>Revisions to the plan will be based upon guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and the Pennsylvania Department of Health.</p> <p>At this time, Reading School District does not plan to provide or administer COVID-19 tests at school sites for students or staff.</p>
<p>g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;</p>	<p>Reading School District has had a Vaccines For Children Program at a District site since 2011. The District clinic held two clinics in April and May, and partnered with a pharmacy for a third clinic in May.</p> <p>The District clinic will be utilized for vaccines for students and the community beginning based on community vaccination rates and response to identified needs.</p> <p>The District has communicated with the DOH as a possible site for walk-in clinics during meal distributions.</p> <p>The District has also promoted other community-based efforts to vaccinate, including through Tower Health, the Hispanic Center, and other entities.</p>

<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<p>Reading School District will continue to follow the 2020-2021 Health and Safety Plan through November 4, 2021.</p> <p>Revisions to the plan will be based upon guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and the Pennsylvania Department of Health.</p>
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<p>Reading School District will continue to follow the 2020-2021 Health and Safety Plan through November 4, 2021 with the following revision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● School and classroom closures will be determined on a case by case basis with consideration of level of community transmission and vaccination and number and cohorts of COVID positive staff and students. <p>Revisions to the plan will be based upon guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and the Pennsylvania Department of Health.</p>

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Reading School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **August 25, 2021**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

_____ **Yes**

_____ **No**

Affirmed on: **August 25, 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.