



# Amended (5) 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.

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.

Then, in August of 2021, the Reading School District Board of Directors, approved an Amended ARP ESSER Health and Safety Plan, which was posted online and uploaded to eGrants Systems. This was approved along with a resolution declaring an emergency pursuant to Section 520.1 of the PA School Code.

**In October and December of 2021 and January of 2022, the Reading School District Board of Directors, approved a 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Amended ARP ESSER Health and Safety Plan, which were posted online and uploaded to eGrants Systems.**

**What follows is the 5th Amended Plan to address masking, social distancing, barriers, assemblies, field trips outside of Berks County for all grade levels, quarantining and contact tracing. There are no other changes or modifications to the Plan. The corresponding resolution is not affected and incorporated herewith as if set forth fully herein.**

## **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: August 18, 2021

Date of Last Revision: August 25, 2021

Date of Last Revision: October 20, 2021

Date of Last Revision: December 20, 2021

**Date of Last Revision: January 19, 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?

The LEA will:

- **Revise the 2020-2021 Board-of-Directors-approved Health and Safety Plan as amended herein through this ARP-ESSER Health and Safety Plan, effective March 24, 2022 through June 30, 2022, and resolve any conflicts in favor of the most recent ARP-ESSER Health and Safety Plan;** and 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.

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><b>a. Universal and correct wearing of <a href="#">masks</a>;</b></p>	<p>Reading School District commence with the following revisions <b>effective March 24, 2022:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Masking will be optional for all Reading School District staff and students.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>b. Modifying facilities to allow for <a href="#">physical distancing</a> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</b></p>	<p>Reading School District will continue to follow past revisions to the 2020-2021 Health and Safety Plan and incorporate the following new revisions <b>effective March 24, 2022:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Social distancing will be optional.</b></li> <li>● <b>Assemblies may be resumed. Seating charts should be</b></li> </ul>

**created and utilized when possible.**

- **Dividers and other barriers will be optional.**

- 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.
- School Nurses will determine the most effective manner to assess students based on building size, and rates of illness and injuries.
- Building Administrators and staff are permitted to request field trips within **and outside of** Berks County. Field trips must be related to the approved curriculum. An accurate seating chart will be created, enforced and shared with the building nurses after the students have returned to the school.
- Masking on buses will be optional.
- Building administrators may plan indoor parent engagement events

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Full capacity at sporting events with masking required for indoor events.</li> </ul>
<p>c. <a href="#">Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</a>;</p>	<p>Reading School District will commence with the following revisions to the 2020-2021 Health and Safety Plan <b>effective March 24, 2022</b></p> <p><b>Hand sanitizing supplies will be maintained and available in all areas occupied by students and staff.</b></p> <p><b>Handwashing supplies will be maintained and available in all student and staff lavatories and rooms containing sinks for handwashing purposes.</b></p>
<p>d. <a href="#">Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation</a>;</p>	<p>Reading School District will continue with past revisions to the 2020-2021 Health and Safety Plan effective March 24, 2022:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Classrooms and desks will be cleaned as needed, and not between class changes.</li> <li>● Elementary Schools: 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.</li> <li>● Secondary Schools: Head Custodians will design a schedule for weekly spraying; daily use of electrostatic sprayer in rooms that have been occupied by a person who is identified as COVID positive.</li> </ul> <p>Facilities will continue with ongoing building projects to improve air quality and ventilation in each building.</p>

<p>e. <b>Contact tracing</b> in combination with <b>isolation</b> and <b>quarantine</b>, 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 as modified by guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and the Pennsylvania Department of Health.</p> <p><b>Quarantining will end April 28, 2022.</b></p> <p><b>Quarantining will be a parent or staff choice based on the child’s or staff person’s level of health and risk for COVID-19 infection.</b></p> <p><b>Contact tracing will end May 13, 2022.</b></p>
<p>f. <b>Diagnostic</b> and screening testing;</p>	<p>Reading School District will continue to follow the 2020-2021 Health and Safety Plan effective March 24, 2022 with the following revisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 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.</li> <li>● Permitted visitors will no longer be required to complete a Google form to screen for illness.</li> <li>● Visitors representing community agencies and organizations may access the school according to pre-pandemic procedures and schedules. Additional MOUs are no longer required. All Health and Safety Plan measures will apply.</li> </ul> <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. <b>Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to school communities</u></b>;</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</p>



	<p>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><b>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</b></p>	<p>Reading School District will continue to follow the 2020-2021 Health and Safety Plan with the following revision <b>effective March 24, 2022.</b></p>
<p><b>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</b></p>	<p>Reading School District will continue to follow the prior revisions 2020-2021 Health and Safety Plan <b>effective March 24, 2022:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 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.</li> </ul>

**Moving forward, with respect to the COVID-19 mitigation efforts including, but not limited to, universal masking, social distancing, quarantining/isolation protocols, and contact tracing, the Board of Directors hereby authorizes the Central Administration to modify this Plan based upon community transition rates and guidance from the Centers for Disease Control, American Academy of Pediatrics and the Pennsylvania Department of Health without further action from this Board. However, any material changes must be presented to this Board for a vote at its next meeting.**

## Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors for **Reading School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **March 23 , 2022**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

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

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

Affirmed on: **March 23 , 2022**.

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.