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ARP ESSER Health and Safety Plan Guidance & Template

Initial Effective Date: 6/10/2021
Last Revision Date: August 15, 2022
Review Dates: 04/11/24, 10/12/23, 04/13/23, 04/14/22, 03/10/22

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: Canton Area School District

Initial Effective Date: 6/10/2021

Date of Last Review: 10/12/2023

Date of Last Revision: 8/15/2022

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 Canton Area School District will continue to implement, to the maximum extent possible, prevention and mitigation efforts, and develop policies and procedures that are aligned with the health and safety guidance from the Centers for Disease Control, Pennsylvania Department of Health, and the Pennsylvania Department of Education in order to ensure a safe reopening of schools for any summer programming and re-entry into school for the 2023-2024 school year.

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 Canton Area School District will continue to monitor the allocation of resources to students and families while the students are in school and within the community. The district will use ESSER funds to address the unfinished learning needs of our students both academically and socially/emotionally. The district has partnered with the local Ministerium to continue with a food program for our students throughout the summer months until the start of school next fall. Additional resources will be added to the budget over the next three years to address the effects that the pandemic has had on students within our district.

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. Universal and correct wearing of <u>masks</u> ;	As it pertains to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, the Canton Area School District will allow students, staff, and visitors to voluntarily wear masks-unless they are completing a quarantine as a close contact and still attending school. The district will collaborate with state department of health officials, as needed,

ARP ESSER Requirement

Strategies, Policies, and Procedures

b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);

to determine any large-scale need for universal wearing of face masks and will enforce any state mandated orders pertaining to face masks.

As it pertains to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, the Canton Area School District will promote physical distancing to the maximum extent possible.

c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;

As it pertains to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, the Canton Area School District will promote proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette by continuing to display signs/education materials. The district will also make public service announcements in the schools, encourage the school nurses to promote proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette, and encourage all other employee groups to promote proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette when practicable and appropriate.

d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;

As it pertains to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, the Canton Area School District will continue to assess and replace HVAC filters when necessary.

e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;

The district installed air ionizers which will eradicate any living viruses, spores, or molds that could be present in the air. Consistent with Title 28 Pa. Code Chapter 27, the CASD will exclude from school any student or staff who are showing symptoms of COVID-19 or who have tested positive. Students and staff who exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 but do not test positive will be excluded from school until they are fever free, without medication, for at least 24 hours.

Students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 will be excluded from school for a minimum of 5 days. Positive COVID-19 students and staff cannot return until they are fever free, without medication, for at least 24 hours on or after day 5. If parents / guardians, upon notice of exposure, decide to exclude their student, absences for the dates of quarantine will be legal / excused.

f. Diagnostic and screening testing;

As it pertains to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, the Canton Area School District will promote diagnostic and symptom screening by parents/students/employees who are symptomatic or have suspicion of COVID-19 exposure prior to arriving at the school campus and school buildings.

g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;

This district does not provide vaccinations to students and staff and will not consider being a host to a vaccination clinic.

h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and

As it pertains to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, the Canton Area School District will provide reasonable accommodations, as appropriate, to students with disabilities with respect to health and safety strategies.

i. Coordination with state and local health officials.

As it pertains to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, the Canton Area School District will participate in collaborative efforts with local and state health officials who desire coordination related to responses to the pandemic, when contacted directly.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Canton Area School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **April 11, 2024**

The plan was approved by a vote of:

8 Yes
0 No

Affirmed By:

Judith G. Sourbeer
(Signature* of Board President)

Judith Sourbeer
(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.