



Health and Safety Plan 2021-2022



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 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: **Athens Area School District**

Initial Effective Date: **7/20/2021**

Date of Last Review: **1/11/2021**

Date of Last Revision: **1/25/2022**

1. **How will the LEA, to the 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 Athens Area School District will continue to implement, where feasible and possible, prevention and mitigation efforts 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 2021-2022 school year. The District will collaborate with other regional school districts and department of health personal that are made available to the district as a resource to ensure current knowledge and application of CDC practices, where possible.

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 Athens 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 and have developed summer academic enrichment programs and summer mental health services which are made available to students in need. The district will continue with a food program for children throughout the summer months, based on community interest until the next school year and will reassess the need for possible continuation into the next school year. Resources will be allocated 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
<p>a. Universal and correct wearing of masks;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AASD will continue to review guidance from CDC, PA DOH, and PDE when decisions and recommendations regarding face coverings. • Face Coverings are recommended and encourage but are the personal choice and preferences • Masking will still be required on district transportation, until that requirement is changed by CDC. • Recommended changes will be discussed and approved by the school board at scheduled school board meetings, when necessary.
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Athens Area School District will promote physical distancing where possible.
<p>c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The district will continue to promote and educate students on healthy hygiene practices and illness prevention. • Handwashing, hand sanitizer, and other hygiene measure will be encouraged often • Signs for healthy measures will be posted in key locations in all school buildings.
<p>d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District will continue to assess and replace HVAC filters when necessary. • The District will provide cleaning and sanitizing solutions and materials to classrooms and employees for cleaning as needed. • Provide routine cleaning of facilities/ classrooms/buses by employees. • The District is also will be installing Bi-Polar Ionization units to all HVAC units to improve indoor air quality and reduce the

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p>risk of numerous air-borne illnesses, include SARS-CoV-2</p>
<p>e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The district will exclude from school any student or staff member who have tested positive for COVID-19 or are showing symptoms of COVID-19 in accordance with Title 28 PA. Code Chapter 27. • The district will complete contact tracing, notification of close contacts and report positive COVID-19 cases to PDE as required. • A COVID dashboard will be regularly updated with current active COVID 19 positive cases and a weekly summary of COVID-19 cases and quarantines by building. This will be located on the district website. • COVID-19 Positive students/staff will be excluded for a minimum of 5 days, and will be required to wear a mask for days 6-10. COVID-19 positive students/staff cannot return until they are fever free, without medication, for at least 24 hours on or after day 5. • Parents/Guardians will be notified if their child is identified as a close contact. • Asymptomatic students/staff who were determined to be a close contact will not be excluded from school, but will be required to wear a mask for 10 days and be asked to monitor for symptoms. • Symptomatic students/staff who are determined to be a close contact will be excluded from school for 5 days. They may return to school after day 5 but will be required to wear a mask for days 6-10. • Household close contacts – students/staff who are living in a

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p>household with a COVID-19 positive individual and cannot isolate from that individual will be required to quarantine for 5 days. On day 6 the students may return with a mask for days 6-10.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents may decide upon notification of close contact to exclude their students for the full ten days. The absences for those dates of quarantine will be legal/excused absences. • Students who are unable/unwilling to wear a mask will complete the full 10 day quarantine at home. Absences for the dates of the quarantine will be considered legal/excused absences. • All students in quarantine will be provided access to all learning materials and support from the learning loss teacher.
<p>f. Diagnostic and screening testing;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 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.
<p>g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The district may share vaccination/COVID testing information from local health organizations on the district website and social media • The district may offer vaccination clinics for staff, if needed or requested.
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The district will provide reasonable accommodations, as appropriate, to students with disabilities with respect to health and safety strategies. Medical exemptions

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p>within an IEP or 504 plan will be honored at all times</p>
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The district will participate in collaborative efforts with local and state health officials who desire coordination related to responses to the pandemic, when contacted directly. • The district will continue to follow the mandated guidelines set forth by the PA DOH, CDC, and PDE.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

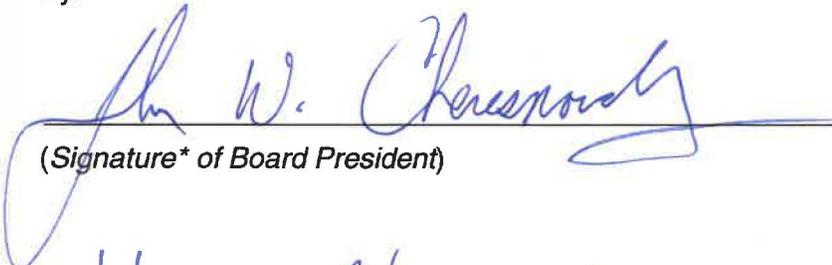
The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Athens Area School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **January 25, 2022**

The plan was approved by a vote of:

7 Yes
1 No

Affirmed on: **January 25, 2022**

By:



(Signature* of Board President)

John W. Cheresnowsky

(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.