



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.

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: **Avon Grove School District**

Initial Effective Date: August 17, 2021

Date of Last Review: December 15, 2022

Date of Last Revision: December 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?
 - a. The Avon Grove School District will continue to follow the updates and information provided by the CCHD, the PA Department of Health and the CDC to respond to all requirements and orders as published.
 - b. Cleaning and sanitizing efforts will occur on a daily basis, and as needed during the day, upon return of students and staff to instructional and work locations within each building.
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?
 - a. The Avon Grove School District will incorporate the use of ARP ESSER funds to provide additional instructional specialists, mental and behavioral health supports, as well as an increase in nursing staff positions.
 - b. The Avon Grove School District will utilize the accelerating learning through an integrated system of support as the basis for its instructional program for the 21-22 school year, primarily through the deepening of our MTSS framework and the establishment of a data culture for supporting students in all buildings.
 - c. If temporary closures become necessary, Avon Grove will utilize the technology and supports developed throughout 20-21 to allow all students to pivot to remote learning. These include the one-to-one distribution of technology, hot spots for students without internet access, and district-wide structures for our LMS and learning expectations. Comprehensive services will continue to meet the academic, mental and physical needs of our students. Communication will occur in multiple formats and in the predominant languages (English and Spanish) in our district. Our plan will also be consistent with the state-approved FIDS plan currently on file for the 21-22 school year and the submission of the Emergency Instructional Time Template 520.1 – 2021-2022 School Year template.
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 masks ;	The wearing of masks indoors will be required for students, staff and visitors in grades K-12 when the county transmission rates are in the substantial band or above. The mandatory wearing of masks will remain until the referenced transmission rates are lower than the ranges above. The wearing of masks will not be required during rigorous physical activity or when outside. Requirements for mask usage on district-provided conveyances will continue to follow CDC orders until modified. When approved by the administration, teachers may remove masks for educational purposes when social distancing of three feet can be maintained and when a plexiglass barrier is present between teacher and students.
b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);	A full return is planned for the 2021-2022 school year, consistent with the lifting of physical distancing and occupancy limits in Pennsylvania as of May 31, 2021. Should conditions change, consideration will be given to available strategies as practicable.
c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette ;	Students and staff will be encouraged to practice effective hygiene techniques, including hand-washing at the times and duration recommended by the CDC. Hand sanitizer will continue to be available in multiple locations throughout each building, including high traffic areas as well as entrances used by visitors and contractors. Proper respiratory etiquette will be encouraged for all students, staff and visitors.
d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation ;	Ongoing daily cleaning and periodic sanitizing will continue during and after the regular student day, as well as after any specialized events (assemblies, athletic practices or events, concerts, etc.). If there is a confirmed COVID-19 case, additional cleaning and sanitizing will occur in any necessary areas. Ventilation will be monitored and addressed as needed to ensure proper operation.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine , in collaboration with the State and local health departments;	All confirmed cases of COVID-19 will be reported to the health department using the appropriate template. Contact tracing, isolation and quarantining will be supported to the best of the district's ability as consistent with these guidelines under local, state or national agencies. Student or staff who are positive or probable positive will be expected to notify their principal or supervisor immediately. If additional requirements are reinstituted, the additional nursing staff and appropriate departmental administrators will utilize protocols developed during 2020-2021.
f. Diagnostic and screening testing;	Self-screening will be expected for all staff and students for symptom recognition and appropriate next steps, including staying home. Students or staff who are positive or probable positive will be expected to notify their principal or supervisor immediately. District policy #203 "Immunizations and Communicable Diseases" will also be utilized by Avon Grove to guide decision-making. Adequate supplies of personal protective equipment (PPE) will be maintained and distributed as needed. Community-based locations will be shared with stakeholders to support ongoing screening.
g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities ;	County resources and plans will be shared with stakeholders. As facilities are requested and available, these efforts may occur within AGSD. Vaccinations for staff and students will not be required for attendance or employment.
h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	The building and special education district teams will continue to work with students to identify and implement appropriate health and safety protocols and practices. This may also include reconvening the IEP team to redesign instruction or strategies to best meet the needs of the student.
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	Designated district personnel will communicate with the Chester County Department of Health to respond to Covid-aligned issues as they arise.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Avon Grove School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **December 15, 2022**

The plan was approved by a vote of:

8 Yes

0 No

Affirmed on: December 15, 2022

By:

Bonnie J. Wolff

(Signature* of Board President)

Bonnie J. Wolff

(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.