



# 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.

## **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: **Selinsgrove Area School District**

**Initial Effective Date: July 1, 2021**

**Date of Last Review: August 12, 2024 (Formal Review and Approval Date)**

**Date of Last Revision: August 12, 2024 (Formal Review and Approval Date)**

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 Selinsgrove Area SD utilized guidance from the CDC, PA DOH, and PDE throughout the 2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023, 2023-2024, and 2024-2025 school years to consistently offer full in-person learning opportunities for its students and staff. The Selinsgrove Area SD plans to consistently review updated guidance from the CDC, PA DOH, and PDE in its efforts to continue to provide in-person instruction to the greatest extent possible during the 2024-2025 school year. In regard to specific approaches to varying mitigation efforts, please refer to the table below.

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 Selinsgrove Area SD will provide in-person instruction to the greatest extent possible. In an effort to fully prepare students and staff for unforeseen mitigation needs while enhancing the learning experience, the SASD will continue to provide all students K-12 with a personal electronic device. This learning resource enables the district to be prepared in the event a need to move to distance learning would arise. During the summer of 2024, the Selinsgrove Area SD continued to offer programs aligned with achieving the goal of positively addressing learning gaps derived from pandemic-related inconsistencies. The SASD, in working toward addressing students' learning and emotional needs, is planning to utilize a component of the ESSER funds to enhance intervention capability and the addressing of personal needs. (Specialized Staffing Additions)

The Selinsgrove Area SD will continue to emphasize the importance of the social and emotional needs of its students, staff, and community. The SASD is focused on emphasizing the universal agreed upon aspects of building a healthy school district culture. (hard work, team work, respect, support, goal-setting...etc.) The SASD will work with its families, students, and staff to ensure its resources are aligned with the school district community's needs. (i.e. food service, transportation, etc.) Building-level Student Assistance Programs will work with applicable students and staff to effectively intervene and provide support.

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.

See table below...

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
a. Universal and correct wearing of <a href="#">masks</a> ;	A PA Commonwealth Court (November 2021) and the PA Supreme Court (December 2021) voided the previously enacted Face-Covering Order by the Acting Secretary of the PA Department of Health. The SASD will continue to review guidance from the CDC, PA DOH, and PDE as decisions regarding face-coverings are established and adjusted. The SASD currently has a face-covering optional expectation across district operations.
b. Modifying facilities to allow for <a href="#">physical distancing</a> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);	The SASD will review and incorporate applicable guidance from the CDC, PA DOH, and PDE when establishing physical distancing expectations to the greatest extent feasible.
c. <a href="#">Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</a> ;	The SASD will promote handwashing and respiratory etiquette in all programs K-12. Age appropriate lessons, signage, and structured schedules will enhance district safety.
d. <a href="#">Cleaning</a> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <a href="#">ventilation</a> ;	The SASD will review and incorporate applicable guidance from the CDC, PA DOH, and PDE regarding the cleaning and ventilation of facilities. The SASD will regularly check filters throughout the district while consistently applying cleaning to the most up-to-date district health data.
e. <a href="#">Contact tracing</a> in combination with <a href="#">isolation</a> and <a href="#">quarantine</a> , in collaboration with the State and local health departments;	The SASD will inform students and staff about the symptoms of COVID-19 and will assist in the facilitation of the contact tracing and associated quarantining process for students and staff. Designated personnel from the PA DOH will work in conjunction with designated district personnel to enhance response time and overall safety of the school

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p>district community. The SASD will maintain regular communications with its students, staff, and families to ensure consistent awareness of health and safety expectations, in conjunction with CDC, PA DOH, and PDE guidance. After guidance interpretation and comparative analysis with district-specific data, SASD specific expectations will be communicated to the school district community accordingly. SASD data will be consistently evaluated to ensure that maximum in-person operations may occur for students and staff. Unique situations may be evaluated on an individual case basis and result in necessary quarantining. The wellness of the individual will determine whether there is a need to quarantine. (Positive COVID test = quarantine for five days after initial symptoms.)</p>
<p>f. <a href="#">Diagnostic</a> and screening testing;</p>	<p>SASD students and staff members will use their health care providers for diagnostic and screening testing when possible. The SASD will now enable home tests to be utilized to help mitigate the spread of COVID, which should help families and SASD accordingly.</p>
<p>g. Efforts to provide <a href="#">vaccinations to school communities</a>;</p>	<p>The SASD assisted a designated vaccination site (CSIU) for educators in the spring of 2021. The SASD assisted in enhancing community awareness for available vaccination opportunities through the Snyder County Emergency Management coordinated efforts. The SASD will continue to assist in community health awareness.</p>
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<p>The SASD will follow all students' IEPs in accordance with the district's health and safety plan, which is built upon best practices established by the CDC, PA DOH, and the PDE. The unique needs of students with disabilities will be consistently reviewed by the IEP team.</p>
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<p>The SASD will strive to continue to form positive relationships with local health care providers, the PA DOH and PDE in an effort to maintain an effective plan for</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	operations while dually serving as a model for others.

## Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Selinsgrove Area School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **August 12, 2024**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

9 Yes

0 No

Affirmed on: **(August 12, 2024)**

By:



(Signature\* of Board President)

DAVID W. HESS

(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.