



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*.

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: Berlin Brothersvalley School District

Initial Effective Date: June 4, 2021

Date of Last Review: August 5, 2021

Date of Last Revision: August 5, 2021(Pending Board Approval on August 12, 2021)

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 District will continuously monitor guidance, recommendations, and requirements at Federal and State levels. This includes the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH), and Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE). With the guidance provided by each of these organizations, the District will define appropriate protocols and support prevention and mitigation strategies through a Health and Safety Task Force comprised of school staff working in areas of administration, health, safety, and human resources. This task force will support the prevention strategies and communication throughout the District.*

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 District will establish alternative delivery models consistent with the requirements of the PDE to ensure a continuity of academic services to students impacted by health conditions. District support services including, but not limited to, counseling, special education, ESL, and gifted support, will establish plans for providing services in any alternative delivery model. Non-Instructional support services including transportation, technology, and food services, will also create plans for delivering service to students and families impacted by health conditions.*

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> ;	<i>The utilization of face masks will be optional for students, staff, and visitors to the Berlin Brothersvalley School District campus for the start of the 2021-2022 school year. The use of face masks is encouraged for those who have not been vaccinated but will not be required. Face masks will be available for those that choose to wear a mask and do not have one available.</i>
b. Modifying facilities to allow for <u>physical distancing</u> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);	<i>The extent to which physical distancing strategies will be utilized will include cohorts and podding as feasible K-12. Modifications will be based on requirements and guidance from the CDC, DOH, PDE, and local health officials.</i>
c. <u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</u> ;	<i>Continue use of handwashing routines and handwashing breaks</i>
d. <u>Cleaning</u> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <u>ventilation</u> ;	<i>Standard cleaning efforts implemented with additional attention to sanitizing frequently touched surfaces (i.e. door handles, water fountains, etc.) Regular monitoring of health and safety guidelines to determine cleaning frequency. Update cleaning schedules and provide additional training for custodial staff, as needed.</i>
e. <u>Contact tracing</u> in combination with <u>isolation</u> and <u>quarantine</u> , in collaboration with the State and local health departments;	<i>Notification to the building principal and superintendent (or designee) Tracking of individuals considered exposed and requiring quarantine based on current Federal, State, and Local guidance Notification to families of individuals considered exposed and requiring quarantine based on current Federal, State, and Local guidance</i>
f. <u>Diagnostic</u> and screening testing;	<i>Parent communication on criteria for sending students to school and monitoring of illness. Self-screening guidance provided to families and staff to limit the spread of COVID-19. Monitoring of student behavior to determine if symptoms become apparent during the school day.</i>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p><i>Continued training and collaboration of certified school nurses to follow diagnostic and screening practices</i> <i>Other considerations as provided by the Centers for Disease Control, Pennsylvania Department of Health, and Pennsylvania Department of Education.</i></p>
<p>g. Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to school communities</u>;</p>	<p><i>Provide updates regarding vaccination eligibility and availability</i></p>
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<p><i>Special arrangements will be made for students and staff deemed to be high-risk. Accommodations will be made on a case-by-case basis and will be based on the underlying or pre-existing conditions.</i></p>
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<p><i>Consult with state and local health officials on practices, protocols, and changes in the level of virus transmission.</i></p>

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Berlin Brothersvalley School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on Thursday, August 12, 2021.

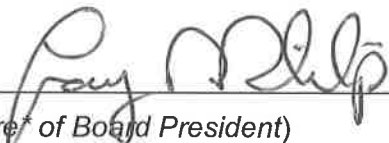
The plan was approved by a vote of:

9 Yes

0 No

Affirmed on: **Thursday, August 12, 2021**

By:



(Signature* of Board President)

Larry Philip

(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.