

Pennsylvania DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
ARP ESSER Health and Safety Plan Guidance & Template

Per IU3 Executive Director Communication 6/27/22- Under the ESSER requirements, LEAs must still review or update their Health and Safety Plan every six months up through September 30, 2024.

Section 2001(1)(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. The wearing of masks is optional for students, staff, and visitors effective March 25, 2022. This will remain in effect unless the transmission rate of COVID-19 in Allegheny

County is designated as substantial or high by the CDC. If that occurs, mitigation measures, including mandatory masking, may be reinstated.

- 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.

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: Sto-Rox School District

Initial Effective Date: August 18, 2022

Date of Last Review: January 18, 2024

Date of Last Revision: January 25, 2024

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?

Buildings & Grounds Staff will utilize CDC guidelines to clean, sanitize, disinfect, and ventilate learning spaces, surfaces, and other areas. All products used meet OSHA & CDC requirements. Cleaning supplies will be provided for teachers to regularly clean desks throughout the day as needed. Commonly touched surfaces will be cleaned throughout the school day. Restrooms will be cleaned throughout the day. All facilities which include but are not limited to classrooms, rooms, band rooms, training rooms, weight rooms, gyms, auditoriums, etc., must be disinfected/cleaned as per COG and/or state health guidelines. All high touch surfaces will be disinfected regularly. Follow CDC guidelines for cleaning, disinfecting and responding if/when there is a COVID-19 infection. Ensure custodians are trained in appropriate cleaning techniques. Assess and document whether appropriate techniques are being followed. All filters in mechanical systems will be changed before the start of the school year. Filters will be replaced as needed. Increase the circulation of outdoor air as much as possible when doing so does not pose a health and safety risk.

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?

District students in K-12 have access to devices during the school day. Students will utilize the devices to access Google Classroom and YouTube.

Weekly Sample Schedules

Scenario #1: Traditional Schooling - Instruction will be delivered in-person Monday through Friday following the daily schedules for each school building and District School Calendar.

Scenario #2: Remote Learning - Instruction will be delivered through online means when students must quarantine due to exposure or testing positive for COVID-19. This may take place for a single student, small groups of students, or an entire school building. If families request periods of remote instruction for their children as a result of the pandemic, this method of learning will also be used. In addition, this method of learning may be used on an as needed basis in collaboration with the student, the student's parents/guardians, building principal, other school personnel, and Central Administration.

Scenario #3: Remote Learning Due to Large Cases - In the event of large cases of COVID-19 throughout the community/state whereby an order from the State or County indicates to limit capacity in school buildings, districts will revert to the schedules and systems used during the 21-22 School Year within each of the buildings (Primary, Upper Elementary, and Junior/Senior High School). Schools will be closed, and remote instruction following the normal school schedule will occur.

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.

Strategies, Policies, and Procedures

ARP ESSER

Requirement

a. Universal and correct wearing of masks

The District will follow guidelines, orders, etc. from the CDC, Pennsylvania Governor's Office, Pennsylvania Department of Health, Pennsylvania Department of Education, and the Allegheny County Health Department regarding the use of face coverings for students, staff, and visitors.

The school nurses and/or administration will provide information on the universal, and in the event face coverings are not required as per the agencies listed above, students are permitted to wear a face covering if they wish.

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

The District will follow CDC, Pennsylvania Department of Health, Pennsylvania Department of Education, and Allegheny County Health Department guidelines regarding student movement throughout the buildings.

Follow recommendations from the CDC, the PA Department of Health, and the PA Department of Education regarding physical distancing. When feasible, assign an alternate space to larger classrooms.

Class sizes will be balanced to the maximum extent possible to ensure safety for all. Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures such as:

- Provide hand sanitizer for students and staff
- Require hand washing for elementary students before and after meal service
- Encourage hand washing for secondary students before and after meal service
- Serve grab-and-go meals where feasible and in multiple locations.
- Mark spaced lines to enter the cafeteria and serving lines; designate entrances and exits

Meals will be served following the guidelines of the CDC, USDA, PA Department of Health, PA Department of Education, and the Allegheny County Health Department.

The District may continue to hold meetings virtually or via phone to the maximum extent possible when cases of COVID-19 have been identified in the school buildings. Group activities will be planned in accordance with CDC, Pennsylvania Department of Health, Pennsylvania Department of Education, and Allegheny County Health Department guidelines. This includes activities during the school day, in evening, and athletic events.

District will follow CDC, Pennsylvania Department of Health, Pennsylvania Department of Education, and Allegheny County Health Department guidelines regarding student movement throughout the buildings.

District will follow CDC, Pennsylvania Department of Health, Pennsylvania Department of Education, and Allegheny County Health Department guidelines regarding transportation of students.

c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette; Teach and reinforce good hygiene

measures, such as handwashing, coverings, coughs, and face coverings.

This will also be reinforced through the videos created by health care professionals

Cleaning and maintaining healthy behaviors.

Group activities will be planned in accordance with CDC, Pennsylvania Department of Health, Pennsylvania Department of Education, and Allegheny County Health Department guidelines. This includes activities during the school day, in evening, and athletic events.

District will follow CDC, Pennsylvania Department of Health, Pennsylvania Department of Education, and Allegheny County Health Department guidelines regarding student movement throughout the buildings.

District will follow CDC, Pennsylvania Department of Health, Pennsylvania Department of Education, and Allegheny County Health Department guidelines regarding transportation of students.

Provide hand soap and hand sanitizer, paper towels, trash cans in bathrooms, classrooms, and frequently trafficked areas.

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

Buildings & Grounds Staff will utilize CDC guidelines to clean, sanitize, disinfect, and ventilate learning spaces, surfaces, and other areas. All products used meet OSHA & CDC requirements. Cleaning supplies will be provided for teachers to regularly clean desks throughout the day as needed. Commonly touched surfaces will be cleaned throughout the school day. Restrooms will be cleaned throughout the day. All facilities which include but are not limited to classrooms, rooms, band rooms, training rooms, weight rooms, gyms, auditoriums, etc., must be disinfected/cleaned as per COG and/or state health guidelines. All high touch surfaces will be disinfected regularly. Follow CDC guidelines for cleaning, disinfecting and responding if/when there is a COVID-19 infection. Ensure custodians are trained in appropriate cleaning techniques. Assess and document whether appropriate techniques are being followed. All filters in mechanical systems will be changed before the start of the school year. Filters will be replaced as needed. Increase the circulation of outdoor air as much as possible when doing so does not pose a health and safety risk.

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

District will follow CDC, Pennsylvania Department of Health, Pennsylvania Department of Education, and Allegheny County Health Department guidelines regarding transportation of students. The District will work, as required, with the county and state health departments to determine when to notify staff and families of possible cases, while maintaining confidentiality consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other applicable federal and state privacy laws.

The District will work, as required, with the county and state health departments to determine when isolated or quarantined individuals should return to school/work.

f. Diagnostic and screening testing:

Encourage students/families and staff members to conduct daily self-check home for symptoms of COVID-19, in accordance with the PA Department of Health Symptom Monitoring Tool.

Individuals who are symptomatic in a school building will receive a health check which includes a check for history of exposure. Anyone who is exhibiting symptoms must wear a mask in the building until they can return safely home.

Address privacy concerns of monitoring practices and the potential stigma associated with monitoring and confirmed exposure or cases.

Staff and students must stay home if they are sick.

School nurses and other healthcare providers will use Standard and Transmission-Based Precautions when caring for sick people.

Arrange for the transport of anyone who is sick to go home

The District will collaborate with the school doctor.

g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities:

Vaccine clinic information will be shared with families/guardians.

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

PPE will be provided to vulnerable students as appropriate.

The teachers will collaborate with families of students with disabilities and will make appropriate accommodations on an as needed basis.

i. Coordination with state and local health officials.

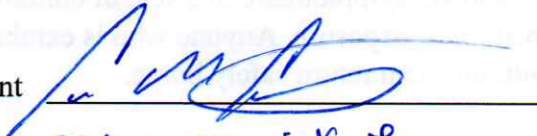
The District will follow the guidelines of the CDC, Pennsylvania Department of Health, Pennsylvania Department of Education, and the Allegheny County Health Department.
Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for the Sto-Rox School District reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on January 25, 2024.

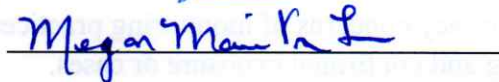
The plan was approved by a vote
of Yes No

Affirmed on: January 25, 2024

By: Cameron Culliver, School Board President



By: Megan Marie Van Fossan, Superintendent



*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.