



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;

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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

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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: **Avonworth School District**

School Board Initial Approval Date: **July 19, 2021**

Initial Effective Date: **August 24, 2021**

Revised Effective Date: **January 18, 2022**

Date of Last Review: **January 18, 2022**

Date of Last Revision: **January 18, 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 to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning?
 - a. **The safety of our employees and students is our top priority. Avonworth School District will continue to meet with our Intermediate Unit and the Allegheny County Health Department for up-to-date information on the pandemic and recommendations. Avonworth School District will also review information as it is updated and provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DoH), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The District will also closely and regularly monitor COVID conditions locally and in our schools. As needed, our COVID Working Group will meet to review recommendations/guidance provided by the CDC, Allegheny County Health Department, DoH, and PDE and review current conditions related to the pandemic. Future recommendations made by the District administration or the COVID Working Group regarding mitigation efforts may differ from this current Health & Safety Plan as conditions with the pandemic may change moving forward.**

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 Avonworth School District acknowledges the complex situation the COVID Pandemic has presented to our educators, our students, and their families. During the summer of 2021, Avonworth School District is providing K-12 summer school opportunities to support students academically. Additionally, credit recovery and summer tutoring are provided as needed. For the 2020-2021 school year, a reading specialist**

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position was increased from part-time to full-time to increase intervention support. To support students' mental health needs, the Avonworth School District added the support of a social worker during the 2020-2021 school year, and this position has been renewed for the 2021-2022 school year. Additionally, a licensed professional counselor has been added for the 2021-2022 school year to provide additional mental health support for students. Additional programming will be put in place for the 2021-2022 school year to screen students for mental health needs and provide instruction in mental health. The Avonworth School District's Food Service Department will continue to provide multiple opportunities for families to obtain breakfast and lunches during the pandemic.

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">• The District will require masks K-12 for staff, students, and visitors to begin the 2021-2022 school year except when eating during designated lunch periods, during outdoor recess, or when playing brass or woodwind instruments during music or band classes.• Masks will be mandated on buses for all students K-12 per the January 2021 Federal Order. This current CDC mask requirement is set to expire on September 13, 2021.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ When the January 2021 Federal Order requiring masks on buses expires September 13, 2021, students K-12 will continue to be required to wear a mask on buses as long as the District mandate for masks is in place.• The District will follow any future mandate, order, or request by First Student, the District's transportation provider, regarding masks on buses.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The District will also closely and regularly monitor cases of COVID amongst our students and staff. The District will also closely and regularly monitor the transmission rates and cases of COVID/100,000 individuals in Allegheny County.• The District will continue to meet and consult with health professionals from the Allegheny County Health Department.• The District will attend scheduled updates and meetings with officials at the Allegheny Intermediate Unit.• The District may change its masking policy in response to a change in local conditions or a change in the availability of a COVID vaccine for children ages 5-11.• The District will follow any state or local mandates requiring face coverings on district property.
<p>b. <u>Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing</u> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The District will distance students (3ft) in the classroom to the greatest extent possible.• The District will distance (6 ft) students when eating lunch or playing instruments with masks off to the greatest extent possible.• The District will follow any state or local mandates requiring physical distancing.
<p>c. <u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hygiene and respiratory etiquette practices for students and staff, including the manner and frequency of hand-washing and other best practices, will be followed.

<p>d. <u>Cleaning</u> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <u>ventilation</u>;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The District will continue the cleaning protocols established during the 2020-2021 school year.• The District will continue to follow best practices of cleaning and disinfecting and continue to make necessary changes when advised.• Increasing ventilation will remain a priority and be accomplished by opening windows and using the HVAC system to increase airflow in buildings.• Outdoor spaces will continue to be utilized when feasible.
<p>e. <u>Contact tracing</u> in combination with <u>isolation</u> and <u>quarantine</u>, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The District will continue to meet and consult with the Allegheny County Health Department for information and recommendations related to the COVID pandemic.• The District will continue to contact trace for possible exposure to a person that has tested positive for COVID-19.• The District will continue to report positive COVID cases and individuals exposed to a positive COVID case to the Allegheny County Health Department.• The District will consult with the Allegheny County Health Department when a positive COVID case is identified in the District.• The District will follow the most up-to-date recommendations provided by the Allegheny County Health Department and CDC concerning the isolation or quarantine of individuals (staff and students).• Per CDC guidance, the District will not require close contacts who are fully vaccinated to quarantine as long as they remain asymptomatic. Additionally,

	<p>close contacts that have been diagnosed with COVID within the prior three months will not be required to quarantine.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Per CDC guidance (July 16, 2021), the District will not require close contacts to quarantine if all students identified as close contacts are wearing masks correctly and not less than 3 ft for 15 minutes or longer.● Update 1/10/22: Per the updated CDC guidance (12/27/21 and 1/4/22) isolation and quarantine are shortened to 5 days.
<p>f. <u>Diagnostic</u> and screening testing;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● The District will continue to request that parents and caregivers conduct daily wellness checks of their children and keep a child home if they are experiencing a temperature of 100 degrees or higher, are demonstrating symptoms of COVID-19, or are experiencing vomiting or diarrhea.● The District will continue to request that all school staff conduct daily wellness checks and stay home if they are experiencing a temperature of 100 degrees or higher, demonstrating symptoms of COVID-19, or experiencing vomiting or diarrhea.● The District will continue to request that all athletes conduct daily wellness checks and not attend practice or competition if they are experiencing a temperature of 100 degrees or higher, demonstrating symptoms of COVID-19, or experiencing vomiting or diarrhea.● School staff will visually screen students throughout the day for symptoms of COVID-19 and refer students to the nursing staff when symptoms are suspected.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Temperature screenings will be conducted by school nurses for students exhibiting symptoms throughout the day.● Students or staff who experience a temperature or symptoms will be sent home.● The District will follow the most up-to-date recommendations provided by the Allegheny County Health Department concerning the isolation or quarantine of individuals (staff and students).● <i>Update September 13, 2021:</i> The District will submit the Statement of Assurances to participate in the PA Department of Health's COVID Testing Program. The District's participation will be limited to our nurses providing Rapid Antigen Tests. The testing program is free and voluntary. No student will receive a Rapid Antigen Test unless the District has parental consent for the student to receive a test.● <i>Updated January 19, 2022:</i> The District will submit the Statement of Assurances to participate in the Test-to-Stay program. Participation in this program is voluntary on the part of students and staff. No student will receive a Rapid Antigen Test unless the District has parental consent for the student to receive a test.
<p>g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● During the 2020-2021 school year, all Avonworth School District staff were given multiple opportunities to receive a vaccination.● The Avonworth School District has provided (during the 2020-2021 school year) Vaccination Clinics for students

	<p>(age 12 and up), parents, staff, and community members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● The vaccination of a student is not required by the District and is the choice of the child’s parent/caregiver.● The vaccination of a staff member is not required by the District and is the choice of the individual staff member.● The District will distribute information to staff and families regarding future local vaccination clinics and any clinic hosted by the District.
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Students with unique safety protocols and complex needs will have their needs addressed within their Individual Health Plan, Individual Education Plan, and/or 504 Plan.
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● The Avonworth School District will continue to meet regularly with our Intermediate Unit and the Allegheny County Health Department for up-to-date information and recommendations regarding the COVID pandemic.● The District will review information as it is updated and provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Allegheny County Health Department.● As needed, the District’s COVID Working Group will meet to review the guidance provided by the CDC, Allegheny County Health Department, and PDE and local conditions to formulate recommendations to make to the Avonworth Board of School Directors.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Avonworth School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on July 19, 2021.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

5 Yes

4 No

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Avonworth School District** reviewed and approved revisions to the Health and Safety Plan on August 9, 2021.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

8 Yes

1 No

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Avonworth School District** reviewed and approved revisions to the Health and Safety Plan on September 13, 2021.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

8 Yes

1 No

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Avonworth School District** reviewed and approved revisions to the Health and Safety Plan on January 10, 2022.

9 Yes

0 No

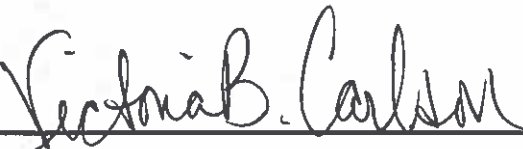
The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Avonworth School District** reviewed and approved revisions to the Health and Safety Plan on January 18, 2022.

8 Yes

1 No

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Affirmed on: January 18, 2022

By: 

(Signature of Board President)

Victoria B. Carlson

(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.