



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,

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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.

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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: **August 9, 2022**

Date of Last Review: **August 9, 2022**

Date of Last Revision: **August 9, 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. When available, the 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 closely and regularly monitor COVID conditions locally and in our schools. As needed, the District's COVID Working Group will convene 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 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.**
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 over the last couple of years. During the summer of 2021 and the summer of 2022, Avonworth School District has provided 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 position was increased from part-time to full-time to increase intervention support. To support students' mental**

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health needs, the Avonworth School District added the support of a social worker during the 2020-2021 school year, and this position was renewed for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years. Additionally, a licensed professional counselor has been added for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years to provide additional mental health support for students. Additional programming has been implemented to screen students for mental health needs. The Avonworth School District's Food Service Department will continue to provide multiple opportunities for families to obtain breakfast and lunches when obstacles are identified.

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.

The Avonworth Board of School Directors grants the superintendent the authority to immediately change the Health & Safety Plan based on changing conditions or future CDC or Allegheny County Health Department updates (updated March 7, 2022).

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<p>a. Universal and correct wearing of masks;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Masks are optional for K-12 staff, students, and visitors during the school day and all evening activities. ● Masks are optional on buses for all students K-12. ● The District will follow state or local mandates, if enacted, requiring face coverings on district property.
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● An option for distancing 6 feet at lunch will be provided for any parent/guardian or student that requests this accommodation. A parent/guardian must contact the child's building principal to make this request and discuss this accommodation..
<p>c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</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. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The District will continue to follow cleaning and disinfecting recommended best practices. ● Increasing ventilation will remain a priority and be accomplished by opening windows when feasible and using the HVAC system to increase airflow inside our school buildings.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outdoor spaces will be utilized when feasible.
<p>e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The District will not actively contract trace. The District will follow any future mandate regarding contact tracing. Students and staff are expected to follow the most up-to-date CDC guidelines regarding isolation and quarantine if diagnosed with COVID or are a close contact to a person with COVID. The District requests that parents/guardians contact the school nurse to inform the school when their child has been diagnosed with COVID.
<p>f. Diagnostic and screening testing;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The District provides voluntary COVID-19 testing (with parent/guardian permission) based upon availability and guidance from the Pennsylvania Department of Health. The District will encourage students and staff to self-screen for symptoms of illness and stay home when they are sick. Students or staff who experience a temperature over 100 degrees and/or multiple symptoms of illness at school will be sent home.
<p>g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The District will continue to partner with local resources providers to communicate vaccination opportunities, including, but not limited to, vaccination clinics held in District buildings, clinics held at other local agencies, and clinics held in the greater Pittsburgh area. 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.
<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"> When meetings are offered, the Avonworth School District will meet with our Intermediate Unit and the Allegheny County Health

	<p>Department for updated information and recommendations regarding the COVID pandemic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The District will review relevant information updated 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 changes in local COVID conditions and any updated guidance or recommendations provided by the CDC, Allegheny County Health Department, or Pennsylvania Department of Education.
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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:

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 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.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

 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.

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 February 7, 2022.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

 7 Yes

 1 No

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Avonworth School District** reviewed and approved revisions to the Health and Safety Plan on March 7, 2022.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

 9 Yes

 0 No

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Avonworth School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on August 8, 2022.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

 9 Yes

 0 No

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Affirmed on: August 8, 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 is needed.