



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, 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: **South Fayette Township School District**

Initial Effective Date: **August 11, 2021**

Date of Last Review: **February 22, 2022**

Date of Last Revision: **February 22, 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 in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning?

The South Fayette Township School District, to the greatest extent practicable, will continue to follow guidelines as updated from the CDC, Pennsylvania Department of Health and/or the Allegheny County Health Department, and the Pennsylvania Department of Education. All guidelines will be posted and updated on the district's website.

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 South Fayette Township School District will utilize Canvas as the district's learning management system. Instruction may be delivered in asynchronous and synchronous means. Students and families will have access to student support services, and meals will be provided for pickup when necessary. The District will provide 1:1 technology devices for each student and hotspots for internet access to any family without access.

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 <u>masks</u>;</p>	<p>South Fayette Township School District recognizes the protection offered by properly wearing a mask and that any student or staff member may wear a mask, at any time without retribution. In moving from universal masking requirement, masking continues to be strongly recommended, but not required</p> <p>The District will not require universal masking for students, staff and visitors: 1) when announced by the District (which shall be no later than the date following the issuance of guidance from Allegheny County Health Department, CDC or other appropriate entity recommending that school districts not require universal masking); or 2) on February 28, 2022, whichever occurs first.</p> <p>Based on guidance from local health departments, the District reserves the right to modify the mask policy at the classroom-, grade-, building-, or district-level at any time. The District may do this without a vote from the Board of School Directors should circumstances and local health department guidance warrant such actions. Should the need to extend universal masking extend beyond two weeks, a vote by the Board of School Directors would be necessary.</p> <p>South Fayette Township School District has the authority to take any required action and to amend this Health and Safety Plan in response to additional guidance or Orders received from the Governor's Office, Pennsylvania Departments of Education or Health, and/or the Allegheny County Health Department. The District also has the authority to suspend in-person activity or otherwise adjust mitigation strategies (including face coverings and distancing) in one or more</p>

	<p>buildings, programs, or activities, on a case by case basis, where circumstances warrant, for an amount of time determined to be advisable by the District.</p> <p>In accordance with federal regulation, vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals will be required to wear a mask on public transportation which includes school buses unless and until federal guidance removes this requirement.</p> <p>Masking is recommended, but not required, for participants and spectators during athletic and extracurricular activities and/or events.</p> <p>Per ACHD guidance, students or staff who are returning to school or work after testing positive for COVID-19 after 5 days, will adhere to wearing a mask on Days 6-10, per the current shortened isolation protocol and will eat lunch in an alternative seating space to maximize social distancing, regardless of vaccination status. If the ACHD revises guidance, the District will follow the ACHD guidance protocol for students/staff returning to school after being identified COVID-19 positive.</p> <p>Student athletes who are returning to athletic programming after testing positive for COVID-19 after 5 days will wear a mask on Days 6-10, regardless of vaccination status. The District will defer to ACHD guidance for any exemptions to masking during active play during this time period.</p>
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<p>South Fayette Township School District will maintain distancing to the maximum extent possible, unless otherwise needed for instruction or other activities.</p> <p>In classrooms, students will keep three feet apart to the greatest extent possible and all non-essential furniture will be removed. Seating charts will be maintained.</p>

	<p>During lunches, students will keep three feet apart to the greatest extent possible. Seating charts will also be maintained.</p> <p>The District will allow non-essential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations on District property, using mitigation efforts, as appropriate.</p>
<p><u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</u></p>	<p>Wash hands/use hand sanitizer before lunch, after recess, and upon arrival.</p> <p>Post signs for hygiene in and around restrooms and classrooms.</p> <p>Frequent reminders/instruction on proper handwashing by teachers.</p> <p>Hand sanitizer readily available in common areas and classrooms</p>
<p>c. <u>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</u></p>	<p>Daily cleaning checklists have been made detailing the items to be cleaned and disinfected by both daylight and evening custodial staff, including high-touch surfaces.</p> <p>Daily cleaning of all learning spaces, offices, restrooms, communal/common spaces, buses.</p> <p>All cleaning will continue in the evenings to ensure that the buildings are ready for the following day.</p> <p>Water fountains will be designated for water bottles only.</p> <p>Any quarantine spaces will be cleaned after use, including all touch surfaces.</p> <p>Soap and water are available in Elementary and Intermediate School classrooms.</p> <p>Hand sanitizer will be supplied in each classroom of all buildings and in cafeterias.</p>

	<p>Buses will be cleaned and sanitized between runs and daily.</p> <p>Elementary: Open OA dampers on HVAC units to a maximum level while maintaining a healthy air quality level in the building.</p> <p>Intermediate: Open OA dampers on HVAC units to maximum level while maintaining a healthy air quality level in the building.</p> <p>Middle School: Open OA dampers on HVAC units to maximum level while maintaining a healthy air quality level in the building.</p> <p>High School: Open OA dampers on HVAC units to maximum level while maintaining a healthy air quality level in the building.</p> <p>Stadium/ Administration: Open OA dampers on HVAC units to maximum level while maintaining a healthy air quality level in the building.</p> <p>Nurse's Office: Use of self-contained HEPA/UV air filtration machines.</p> <p>Open classroom and bus windows when possible to increase fresh air ventilation.</p> <p>Should there be multiple known COVID-19 cases in a classroom or building, the District may increase cleaning efforts utilizing additional cleaning products and/or additional staffing.</p>
<p>d. <u>Contact tracing</u> in combination with <u>isolation</u> and <u>quarantine</u>, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<p>Staff, students, or visitors showing symptoms or with a history of exposure shall be isolated in designated areas, health office areas or other appropriate areas and masked, if not already. Anyone who is sick will either go home or to a healthcare facility.</p> <p>District nurses will use a symptoms/history algorithm developed in collaboration with local pediatricians/school physicians to use in</p>

determining the isolation and quarantining criteria for ill or exposed students and staff, if required by the ACHD. The District will adhere to ACHD reporting requirements.

When the District moves to recommended masking, the District will cease to contact trace individual cases, unless required to do so by the ACHD.

If the District needs to notify staff and families of potential COVID cases, the District will work with the county and state health departments, while maintaining confidentiality consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other applicable federal and state privacy laws.

Individuals who have a positive viral test for COVID-19, regardless of whether they have symptoms and individuals with symptoms of COVID-19 must isolate in accordance with CDC guidance.

Student athletes who are returning to athletic programming after testing positive for COVID-19 after 5 days will wear a mask on Days 6-10. The District will defer to ACHD guidance for any exemptions to masking during active play during this time period.

As of February 16, 2022, the District will not require asymptomatic staff or students who are close contacts to quarantine, regardless of vaccination status. Students and staff who are close contacts may elect to stay home and quarantine for up to 10 days and at which point they will return to school unless they show symptoms or test positive for COVID-19. If they show symptoms or test positive for COVID-19, they will comply with the current isolation guidance. Students who are close contacts and elect to quarantine and students who must isolate shall not be marked absent if they fully participate in their assigned remote instruction. Absences for staff who elect to quarantine or staff who must isolate will be dictated by existing labor/employment agreements.

	<p>In accordance with PDE guidance and with consultation with the ACHD, a maximum 14-day suspension of in-person learning may occur if 5% of students and staff in any particular building have confirmed COVID-19 cases in a 14 day window. The District may do this without a vote from the Board of School Directors should circumstances and local health department guidance warrant such actions.</p> <p>The District will revisit the Health and Safety Plan should local or Allegheny County rates substantially increase.</p>
e. <u>Diagnostic</u> and screening testing;	<p>At this time, diagnostic testing has not been arranged for the District, but will continue to be explored and considered.</p> <p>Students and employees are encouraged to utilize the daily screening tool to check for symptoms before coming to school.</p> <p>Employees and students should not come to work/school and are to notify school officials if they become sick with COVID-19 symptoms, are awaiting a COVID-19 test result, test positive for COVID-19, or are exposed to someone with COVID-19 symptoms or to someone with a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19.</p>
f. Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to school communities</u> ;	<p>Announcements for vaccination clinics will continue to be shared with families via parent email lists and posted on the district website.</p>
g. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	<p>IEP teams will reconvene to determine how services will be delivered to best meet the individual needs of each student.</p> <p>Utilize the adopted social/emotional universal screener to identify all students who may be experiencing social/emotional distress and deploy support services based on the needs identified.</p>

	Employees have access to mental health support and resources available through the Employee Assistance Program.
h. Coordination with state and local health officials.	Attend AIU briefings and communicate with the Allegheny County Health Department as needed.

South Fayette Township School District has the authority to take any required action and to amend this Health and Safety Plan in response to additional guidance or Orders received from the Governor's Office, Pennsylvania Departments of Education or Health, and/or the Allegheny County Health Department. The District also has the authority to suspend in-person activity or otherwise adjust mitigation strategies (including face coverings and distancing) in one or more buildings, programs, or activities, on a case by case basis, where circumstances warrant, for an amount of time determined to be advisable by the District.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **South Fayette Township School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **July 27, 2021 and revised the plan on January 18, 2022 and February 22, 2022.**

The plan was approved by a vote of:

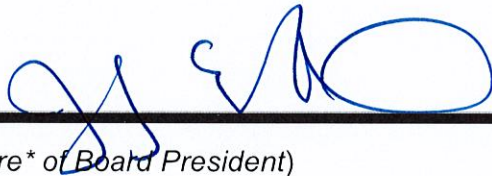
 7 Yes

 No

2 Absent

Affirmed on: **February 22, 2022 for Revisions**

By:



(Signature* of Board President)

Jennifer Iriti

(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.