



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: Oil City Area School District

Initial Effective Date: July 19, 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?

After reviewing the most up-to-date guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for the operation of school facilities, the Oil City Area School District (OCASD) will, to the greatest extent practicable, evaluate those recommendations given the existing capacity of our instructional areas and within the context of our individual school buildings. The OCASD plans to continuously and safely operate our schools for in-person learning for all students.

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 OCASD will ensure continuity of services to address students' academic needs as outlined in the Emergency Instructional Time Template, filed as outlined in Section 520.1 of the School Code. The OCASD will maintain our current level of staffing in our school counseling, special program services, health, and food service departments, to help ensure the continuity of services to address students' and staff members' social, emotional, mental health, health, and nutritional needs.

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>If required by the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA DOH)/ CDC, appropriate face coverings, such as masks or face shields, will be mandated for all individuals while on school property. Per the federal requirement, face coverings must be worn on public transportation – this includes school buses.</p>

	<p>In addition, the Superintendent shall have the authority to determine mask regulations on the basis of then-current circumstances.</p>
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for <u>physical distancing</u> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<p>If required by the PA DOH/CDC, students will be physically distanced and spaced to the maximum extent possible in the OCASD instructional spaces based upon classroom capacity.</p>
<p>c. <u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</u>;</p>	<p>The OCASD will ensure that handwashing strategies include washing with soap and water for at least twenty seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not available and hands are not visibly dirty, individuals will use alcohol-based hand sanitizer.</p> <p>CDC handwashing resources that include health promotion materials, information on proper handwashing technique, and tips to help children develop good hand washing habits will be shared with OCASD families.</p> <p>The OCASD will ensure that adequate supplies of soap, paper towels, hand sanitizer, and tissues will be available in all school buildings to support healthy hygiene practices.</p> <p>PA DOH and CDC posters will be posted in all OCASD cafeterias, restrooms, and other high traffic areas.</p>
<p>d. <u>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation</u>;</p>	<p>Frequently touched surfaces and objects within the schools and on buses/vans will be cleaned and disinfected on a daily basis (at the minimum). This includes, but is not limited to, door handles, sink handles, and drinking fountains.</p> <p>The OCASD will ensure that HVAC systems (i.e., heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems) are operating properly.</p>

	<p>Classrooms and common areas will be ventilated with additional circulation of outdoor air when possible, utilizing open windows, doors, and/or fans.</p>
<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>	<p>Records of any persons, not including students and staff, that enter the building, their reason for being here, the location within the building they visit, and the names of close contacts whom they visit in the building will be maintained.</p> <p>The OCASD may provide information on the district's website and via letters and messaging (phone calls, text messages, and email messages) via the SchoolMessenger system, as needed.</p> <p>The OCASD will prepare students and families for alternative instructional models (i.e., a move to remote learning) if a class, grade level, or school must make a temporary instructional model change.</p> <p>OCASD will inform staff, students, and families of CDC recommendations concerning students and staff diagnosed with COVID-19 pertaining to isolation requirements.</p> <p>OCASD will inform staff, students, and families of CDC recommendations for students and staff who have been in close contact with an individual infected with COVID-19 and who are not fully vaccinated.</p>
<p>f. <u>Diagnostic</u> and screening testing;</p>	<p>All students and parents/guardians are encouraged to constantly monitor for COVID-19 symptoms – especially prior to arriving at school or at the bus stop each day.</p> <p>No student with COVID-19 symptoms should be sent on a bus or brought to school.</p> <p>Students and staff will consistently be made aware of the signs and symptoms of COVID-19.</p>

	<p>All district staff are encouraged to perform a symptom screening on themselves prior to leaving for work each day and should remain at home if ill.</p> <p>Students and staff should go to the nurse immediately if feeling symptomatic.</p> <p>The OCASD will share resources with the school community to help families understand when to keep children at home.</p>
<p>g. Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to school communities</u>;</p>	<p>The OCASD will communicate with local health agencies to review opportunities to receive vaccinations.</p> <p>The OCASD will help to publicize vaccination opportunities within the community.</p>
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<p>The OCASD will consult and update individual healthcare plans for students with complex needs. Students with medical concerns, students unable to maintain proper social distance, students requiring hand-over-hand instruction and support, students requiring assistance with feeding/toileting will have extra strategies implemented to meet their specific needs.</p> <p>These strategies include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Staff to thoroughly wash hands/use hand sanitizer immediately before and after working with each student. ● Limit the use of communal objects for student reinforcement. If such objects are used with multiple students, each object should be disinfected immediately before and after student use. ● Personal student electronic devices should be disinfected each time a student enters or exits the classroom. ● Bathrooms and changing areas should be disinfected before and after student use. Limit students' use to one at a time.

	Students should be assisted with hand washing.
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	The OCASD will coordinate with local and state health officials on all aspects of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic as appropriate.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for the Oil City Area School District reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **June 24, 2024**.

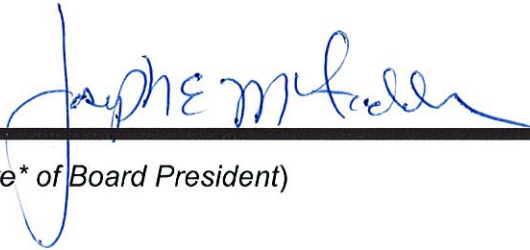
The plan was approved by a vote of:

9 Yes

0 No

Affirmed on: **June 24, 2024**

By:



(Signature* of Board President)

JOSEPH E. MCFADDEN

(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.

Revisions to originally approved (on July 19, 2021) OCASD Health and Safety Plan.