



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;
The Brockway Area School District will continue to follow many of the health and safety protocols that were implemented during the 2020-2021 school year. These protocols enabled the school district to remain open with face-to-face instruction during the pandemic. The district's administrative team will continue to collaborate with the Department of Health and the Jefferson County Emergency Services in monitoring local case counts and updating the district's Health and

Safety Plan as needed. All state mandates will be followed to the fullest extent possible.

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;

With the exception of a few days of deep cleaning at the Jr./Sr. High School, our two school buildings remained open for 180 days of face-to-face instruction for the 2020-2021 school year. All students received a quality education while meeting their medical and emotional needs. The school district contracted a social worker from the I.U. to address mental health concerns experienced by our students. The school district will continue to monitor and evaluate the learning loss experienced by our students and implement programs to meet their needs.

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: **Brockway Area School District**

Initial Effective Date: **August 23, 2021**

Date of Last Review: **July 13, 2021**

Date of Last Revision: **(INSERT DATE WHEN LAST REVISED AND APPROVED BY THE GOVERNING BOARD)**

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?
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?
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
a. Universal and correct wearing of <u>masks</u>;	*Students and staff who are not fully vaccinated will be recommended to wear protective face covering throughout the school day. *According to the Federal order issued in January 2021, the TSA is requiring face covering regardless of vaccination status, when on public transportation. Public transportation includes all school buses of public and private school systems. However, a bus driver does not need to wear a face covering if they are the only individual on the bus. *Protective face covering will be provided to students or staff upon request from the school district.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Signs will be posted throughout the school demonstrating the proper way of wearing face protection. *If government orders require the wearing of face coverings, those orders will be implemented by the school district.
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for <u>physical distancing</u> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Limit the use of restrooms, main office, and nurse's visits to one student at a time. *Teachers will notify the main office and nurse's suite prior to sending any students. *A staggered class period changes can be implemented as needed. *Desks and learning spaces will be separated in classrooms, computer labs, libraries, gymnasiums, cafeterias, and art rooms when feasible. *Staggered locker visits and hallway transitions will be used as needed. *Hallways will be marked for the flow of traffic to promote social distancing. *Students will be encouraged to practice social distancing to the greatest extent feasible within large common areas. *Playground times will be assigned according to grade level to limit student interactions.
<p>c. <u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</u>;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Educate and reinforce with students and staff the proper method of handwashing and covering of coughs and sneezes. *Handwashing will be encouraged prior to and after lunch and recess. *The school district will display various signs throughout hallways and classrooms of each building educating and reminding students and staff the importance of handwashing and covering of coughs and sneezes. *PPE items will be ordered as needed to support healthy hygiene.
<p>d. <u>Cleaning</u> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects routinely throughout the school day in both school buildings.

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<p><u>ventilation</u>;</p>	<p>(door handles, light switches, desks, handrails, etc.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Custodians will be supplied with walkie-talkies to ensure immediate response to any urgent need for rapid cleaning and disinfecting. *The school district installed 145 PH balanced antimicrobial foam soap stations for students and staff. *The school district purchased eight electrostatic sprayers to assist with the disinfecting process. *Drinking fountains with touchless water dispensers will be available for use in both buildings. Students will be encouraged to use water bottles. *Clean and disinfect touched surfaces on buses daily. Contractors will have the opportunity to use the electrostatic sprayers after each bus run. *Open windows and doors as much as possible to increase air circulation. *Ventilation systems will be routinely checked. *Dehumidification of classrooms using individual units will be utilized. *Wall mounted hand sanitizing stations are found in every classroom for students and staff. *Each outside doorway entrance and other high traffic areas will have a hand sanitizing station available.
<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 school district will close off areas used by an ill staff member or student and clean and disinfect before reuse. *Safely transport ill students or staff members home per established procedures. *Notify Jefferson County Department of Health, families, and staff of exposure or confirmed cases while maintaining confidentiality. *Maintain open communication while the isolated person is quarantined.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<p>Revisions to Health and Safety Plan on 3/8/2022.</p>	<p>*Refer to the CDC and Department of Health guidelines for returning a person to school, whether exposed, confirmed positive, or unknown.</p> <p>*Require written or verbal permission from a health care provider for an ill person to return to school.</p> <p>*Parents/Guardians are required to report any confirmed cases of COVID-19 to the school nurse.</p> <p>*The school's administrative team along with the Jefferson County Department of Health will conduct contact tracing and the quarantining of students/staff to minimize the spread of COVID-19.</p> <p>*Close contacts may remain in school as long as the individual is asymptomatic (showing no symptoms) and willing to wear a mask for 10 days after their last date of exposure. (3-8-2022)</p> <p>*Families will still have the option to have their child quarantine for the first 5 days and return to school on days 6-10 wearing a mask.</p>
<p>f. <u>Diagnostic</u> and screening testing;</p>	<p>*Recommend all students and staff to conduct daily health screening prior to leaving for school. (temperature and symptom screening)</p> <p>*Encourage students and staff to remain at home if ill.</p> <p>*Continue to educate parents about the time period a student must be "fever free" before returning to school, without the use of fever reducing medication aides.</p> <p>*Continue to use the process for confidentiality concerns and the possible stigma with monitoring and confirmed exposure or positive case(s).</p> <p>*Visitors staying beyond 15 minutes will complete a health screening and temperature check upon entering the building.</p>
<p>g. Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to school communities</u>;</p>	<p>*The school district will continue working with Penn Highlands of DuBois to host</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<p>additional vaccination clinics for students, staff, and community members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Implement flexible attendance policies for students who are ill or quarantined due to exposure. *Address truancy risks involving vulnerable students. (homeless and at-risk groups) *Determine supplementary considerations and support needed for students with disabilities with complex medical needs to ensure their safety. *Academic options will be provided to all students. *The school district in collaboration with the parents/guardians will explore all request for accommodations for students with disabilities. *Accommodations will be granted to the greatest extent feasible.
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Continue to communicate on a regular basis with local and state authorities to determine mitigation levels in our community. *During the 2020-2021 school year the school district attended bi-weekly meetings with Tracy Zents, Director of the Jefferson County Department of Emergency Services for COVID-19 updates. The district will continue attending these scheduled meeting to make the best decisions for our students and staff. *The school district will follow the most updated guidance and procedures from the Department of Health on quarantining and the safe return to work/school. *The school district will evaluate CDC guidelines within our local context.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **BROCKWAY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **(JULY 13, 2021)**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

 7 Yes

 0 No

Affirmed on: **(JULY 13, 2021)**

By:

(Signature of Board President)*

(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.

