



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: Hazleton Area School District, Hazleton Area Career Center, Hazleton Area Early Intervention Program, and Hazleton Area Pre-K Program

Initial Effective Date: July 1, 2021

Date of Last Review: June 24, 2021

Date of Last Revision: June 24, 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?

The Hazleton Area School District, Hazleton Area Career Center, Hazleton Area Early Intervention Program, and Hazleton Area Pre-K Program will follow all guidelines and guidance provided by the Department of Health, Pennsylvania Department of Education, and the Centers for Disease Control.

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 Hazleton Area School District, Hazleton Area Career Center, Hazleton Area Pre-K Program, and Hazleton Area Early Intervention Program have deployed a 1-to-1 initiative with students. Each of the students in the Hazleton Area School District, Hazleton Area Career Center, Hazleton Area Pre-K Program, and Hazleton Area Early Intervention Program have computers that they are able to take home each day through the course of the school year. The Hazleton Area School District, Hazleton Area Career Center, Hazleton Area Pre-K Program, and Hazleton Area Early Intervention Program have WiFi access points in many of the parking lots for students to access their remote learning opportunities. Additionally, economically disadvantaged students will have the opportunity to apply for MiFi devices to assist them with connectivity issues. All students will continue to have access to our Microsoft Teams platform. Teachers will coordinate lessons through this platform with students. Hazleton Area School District, Hazleton Area Career Center, Hazleton Area Pre-K Program, and Hazleton Area Early Intervention Program will provide synchronous learning opportunities to students during the regularly scheduled school day/hours. Should a student become ill and not able to participate in the synchronous session, the lessons will be recorded and posted to the Microsoft Team appropriate for that student for asynchronous learning. Attendance will be taken daily through Microsoft Teams and Skyward, as it has been completed in the past. Each of our schools has, at least, 6 hours of daily instruction. Our students' and staffs' mental health and wellbeing are very important. The District implemented a Mental Health Committee to address the needs of the students and staff members. The

Committee was implemented in October of 2020. Additionally, the District will partner with a Support Program that will provide counseling services to our staff members on many different levels (i.e., mental health, financial, etc.). The District will provide meals for students as we have in the past. We will set up different locations across the HASD where families may come to pick up their meals. Also, we purchased vehicles to aid in the transportation of meals to families who may not be able to get to one of our locations. The HASD is committed to providing services to our families.

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 masks ;	The Hazleton Area School District, Hazleton Area Career Center, Hazleton Area Early Intervention Program, and Hazleton Area Pre-K Program will follow all guidelines and guidance provided by the Department of Health, Pennsylvania Department of Education, and the Centers for Disease Control.
b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);	The Hazleton Area School District, Hazleton Area Career Center, Hazleton Area Early Intervention Program, and Hazleton Area Pre-K Program will follow all guidelines and guidance provided by the Department of Health, Pennsylvania Department of Education, and the Centers for Disease Control.
c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette ;	The Hazleton Area School District, Hazleton Area Career Center, Hazleton Area Early Intervention Program, and Hazleton Area Pre-K Program will follow all guidelines and guidance provided by the Department of Health, Pennsylvania Department of Education, and the Centers for Disease Control.
d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation ;	The Hazleton Area School District, Hazleton Area Career Center, Hazleton Area Early Intervention Program, and Hazleton Area Pre-K Program will follow all guidelines and guidance provided by the Department of Health, Pennsylvania Department of Education, and the

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<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>Centers for Disease Control. Our maintenance/custodial staff have been trained and will continue to be trained on the latest sanitizing recommendations. The District has invested dollars to improve ventilation within the schools.</p> <p>The Hazleton Area School District, Hazleton Area Career Center, Hazleton Area Early Intervention Program, and Hazleton Area Pre-K Program will follow all guidelines and guidance provided by the Department of Health, Pennsylvania Department of Education, and the Centers for Disease Control. We were highly successful in communicating our contact tracing issues to the DOH. We will continue those efforts as in the past.</p>
<p>f. <u>Diagnostic</u> and screening testing;</p>	<p>The Hazleton Area School District, Hazleton Area Career Center, Hazleton Area Early Intervention Program, and Hazleton Area Pre-K Program will follow all guidelines and guidance provided by the Department of Health, Pennsylvania Department of Education, and the Centers for Disease Control.</p>
<p>g. Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to school communities</u>;</p>	<p>The Hazleton Area School District, Hazleton Area Career Center, Hazleton Area Early Intervention Program, and Hazleton Area Pre-K Program will follow all guidelines and guidance provided by the Department of Health, Pennsylvania Department of Education, and the Centers for Disease Control. We will also work closely with our local hospital partner, LVHN, and The Wright Center, as we have in the past to provide vaccinations to our community members and staff.</p>
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<p>The Hazleton Area School District, Hazleton Area Career Center, Hazleton Area Early Intervention Program, and Hazleton Area Pre-K Program will follow all guidelines and guidance provided by the Department of Health, Pennsylvania</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	Department of Education, and the Centers for Disease Control.
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	The Hazleton Area School District, Hazleton Area Career Center, Hazleton Area Early Intervention Program, and Hazleton Area Pre-K Program will follow all guidelines and guidance provided by the Department of Health, Pennsylvania Department of Education, and the Centers for Disease Control.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for Hazleton Area School District, Hazleton Area Career Center, Hazleton Area Early Intervention Program, and Hazleton Area Pre-K Program reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **June 24, 2021**.


The plan was approved by a vote of:

9 Yes

0 No

Affirmed on: **June 24, 2021**

By:


(Signature* of Board President)

Mrs. Linda DeCosmo

(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.