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

Health and Safety Plan Summary: Washington School District

Initial Effective Date: July 1, 2021

Date of Last Review: ~~July 22, 2021 / August 23, 2021~~ August 30,2021

Date of Last Revision: ~~July 22, 2021 / August 23, 2021~~ August 30,2021

~~February 21, 2022~~

~~August 15, 2022~~

May 8, 2023

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? Washington School District will monitor the latest recommendations from the CDC and update their Health and Safety Plan as needed. Board policies will be reviewed and adjusted as needed to assure compliance with the health and safety plan. The plan will be presented to the governing Board for approval when changes are necessary. Facilities and practices will be adapted to the greatest extent possible to ensure that appropriate prevention and mitigation processes are followed. In addition to practicing standard preventative measures such as handwashing, cleaning practices, and the use of PPE when required, Washington School District.

1. 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? Educational models will be adapted to the needs of the students as appropriate, including virtual if needed. Social, emotional, mental health and other needs will be monitored and provided by school health providers, social workers and other mental behavior specialists when needed. Food service will be provided using various models as appropriate to the situation, including the availability of free meals if needed for students throughout the entire year.

2. 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
• Universal and correct wearing of masks;	• Washington School District will develop mitigation plans and procedures, when applicable, that are in line with the most recent CDC guidance. These plans will be updated every six months as needed. • Mask wearing will be optional. If students choose to wear a mask, that option will be supported by staff.
• Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts.	• Physical distancing is no longer recommended by the CDC.
• Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;	• Good hygiene is always in keeping with healthy habits. Handwashing before eating and after restroom visits are always encouraged.
• Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;	• Washington School District custodians take great pride to keep the school clean. Their efforts are appreciated and ongoing. • The ventilation system has been evaluated and is undergoing improvements. A study was completed to evaluate the effectiveness of the ventilation system and an action plan was developed to continue improving school district facilities accordingly. • Individual air purifiers for all classrooms, cafeterias, and large group instruction areas are installed in these areas.
• Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;	• *CDC Guidance released on August 11, 2022 indicates that contact tracing is not longer required nor is close contact quarantine. Isolation when a person is COVID positive will be at least five days accompanied by symptom improvement and free from fever without the aid of medication for twenty-four hours. The person may return to school but must wear a mask for days six through ten if the above conditions are met.*
• Diagnostic and screening testing;	• Encourage staff to stay home if they are sick and encourage parents to keep sick children home particularly if they have a fever.
• Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;	• Work with community health centers and hospitals to provide brochures and other

	information as to when and where staff and students can receive vaccinations at their sites
• Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	• Ensure that policies regarding parts of the health and safety plans should be sensitive to the needs of students and staff with medical issues. • Provide appropriate accommodations in compliance with federal and state laws for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies and procedures
• Coordination with state and local health officials.	• The Pennsylvania Department of Education communicates to schools that guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) will provide guidance for managing COVID going forward and decisions will under the control of the local school district based upon conditions within the school district.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Washington School District** reviewed and approved the **REVISED Health and Safety Plan on May 8, 2023.**

The plan was approved by a vote of:

9 **Yes**

0 **No**

By:

(*Signature* of Board President*)

Tara L Sparks-Gatling

(*Print Name of Board President*)

Mrs. Tara Sparks-Gatling

*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.