



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 consider 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 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: North Allegheny School District

Initial Effective Date: July 1, 2021

Date of Last Review: June 23, 2021

Date of Last Revision: June 23, 2021

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 to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning?

- a. For the 2021-2022 school year, the North Allegheny School District will plan to offer full-time, in-person learning for all students K-12. We understand that many of our students need a face-to-face learning environment to thrive.
 - b. Before students come to school, parents/guardians are responsible for monitoring students' symptoms. If students have a fever of 100 degrees or higher, a cough, shortness of breath, or loss of taste or smell, they must stay home.
 - c. The following guidelines apply to Transportation:
 - i. Transportation routes have been shortened and bus stops consolidated where feasible to limit the amount of time students spend on buses.
 - ii. Students should socially distance at bus stops.
 - iii. **New for the 2021-2022 school year:** when students receive their transportation letter in August, the letter will include an assigned seat on the bus.
 - iv. All students are required to follow all commonwealth face covering guidelines while on the bus and at the bus stop.
 - v. Where possible, the front seats of the bus will remain unoccupied.
 - d. Each school will have a comprehensive plan for how they are implementing the District Health & Safety Plan. These plans will be reviewed and approved by the Pandemic Crisis Response Team to ensure proper implementation. These plans will be communicated to families in each building's Back to School Newsletter in August.
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?
- a. English as a Second Language staff works with families to assist in making choices for their selection of options and to assist with any transition if the District moves between options of instruction in the building, hybrid, or remotely throughout the year.
 - b. Student Services students receiving full-time In-Person Instruction have access to the NA Student Services Team. The Student Services team is a coordinated group of professionals providing specialized services such as psychological, school counseling, health/wellness, student assistance, and social work to students within the North Allegheny School District.

- c. The NA School Counseling Department ensures student support through Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 while students are receiving In-Person Instruction. If the District transitions to hybrid or full remote learning, the School Counseling Department will reach out to families to address individual student needs based on the changes to the instructional delivery.
- d. During In-Person Instruction, service providers follow the District's Health and Safety Protocols in the Special Education environment while implementing each student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP). If the District is required to transition to hybrid or full remote learning, case managers will schedule a parent/teacher conference to discuss the contents of the IEP and create an individualized continuity of learning plan for students in a hybrid or remote environment. When working with students through alternative delivery models, the District will make a good faith effort within available capabilities to determine how a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) will be provided by considering the following:
 - i. Appropriate resources
 - ii. Equal access to learning and required materials
 - iii. Ability to provide the services and supports in the IEP
 - iv. Parents/guardians, students, and staff training
 - v. Communication processes
 - vi. Related Services
 - vii. Instructional Assistants
 - viii. Assistive Technology Plan subject to change (updated 10/12/2020)
- e. The NA Gifted program provides enrichment and a broad spectrum of educational opportunities while encouraging individual learners to develop personal responsibility, task commitment, self-discipline, independent learning skills, respectful conduct, and social/emotional balance. Online and project-based enrichment and educational opportunities are made available to students through the GOAL program during all phases of In-Person Instruction, including hybrid and full remote learning.

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 ;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students and staff are required to wear face coverings in accordance with the current order of the Pennsylvania Department of Health requirements. • As of June 28, 2021 or when 70 percent of adults get their second dose, whichever comes first, Commonwealth's mask order can be lifted. At this time, the District

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	<p>will not require face coverings, unless directed to do so by local, Commonwealth, and/or national guidelines.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students and staff may choose to wear a face covering, even if we are not required by local, Commonwealth, and/or national guidelines.
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students and staff are encouraged and reminded to follow good hygiene practices, including frequent hand washing and/or hand sanitizing. • Students and staff are encouraged to socially distance as much as possible in hallways and stairways. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Students will be provided with locations at each school to store their athletic and instrumental materials. ○ Staff should avoid congregating in communal spaces such as copy rooms and teachers lounges during breaks or planning time. • Desks are turned to face in the same direction, to the maximum extent feasible. If desks or workstations cannot be moved, students will be spaced as far apart as practical. • NASD Food Service will follow the commonwealth guidelines for face coverings and social distancing when students are eating. As of the publication of this document, these are the guidelines in place. If necessary, based on guidance, additional spaces such as auditoriums, gymnasiums, multi-purpose rooms, and possibly classrooms will be utilized where feasible to reduce student density during lunch periods. Students will be

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	<p>encouraged to wash their hands before and after lunch periods. Meal menus may be revised and limited to support “grab-and-go” style meals and limit a-la-carte and individual serving selections.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indoor and outdoor recess will include access to permanent playground equipment and other recess resources such as sports equipment and board games. NASD will follow the commonwealth guidelines for face coverings. • Related to large assemblies and school activities, NASD will follow all commonwealth guidelines on face coverings, social distancing, and occupancy limits for events/gatherings. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Gatherings, concerts, events, assemblies, and extracurricular activities will resume. • Field trips will be assessed based on current commonwealth guidelines. • Clubs and activities will resume and follow the Return to Sports/Activities plan. • Volunteers/Visitors are required to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Follow the commonwealth guidelines for face coverings at all times. In the event someone arrives without a face covering, each school has face masks available to ensure compliance with this requirement. If a visitor is unable to wear a mask, the school will make other arrangements for the visit.
<p>c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students and staff are encouraged and reminded to follow good hygiene practices, including

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	<p>frequent hand washing and/or hand sanitizing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources related to handwashing.
<p>d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Custodial staff conduct frequent cleaning of high traffic areas throughout the school day. • HVAC systems will be set to increase air turnover and enhanced air filters will be used where practical. • Portable HEPA air filters will be utilized in areas such as nurse's offices that may have limited outside air circulation. Units are also used in some large group spaces, such as cafeterias. • Disinfecting wipes will be made available for staff. • Many traditional water fountains have been replaced by touchless bottle filling stations across all buildings. Where traditional water fountains remain, they have been disabled or subject to additional cleaning throughout the day. Students can carry water bottles in all schools. • School buses will be cleaned regularly. When feasible, windows will be opened to increase air circulation.
<p>e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upon exposure to someone who tests positive for COVID-19, the student/employee should stay at home and contact their School Nurse before returning to school. Further information on self-assessment can be found through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, PA Department of Health, or Allegheny County Health Department. Upon contacting the School Nurse, the parent/guardian will be asked:

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If a student or staff member has been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the last 90 days. ○ If a student or staff member has completed a COVID-19 vaccine two weeks prior to last exposure. ○ If one of these applies, the student/staff member will be excused from quarantine. • If a student or staff member is diagnosed with COVID-19, with or without a positive test and/or symptoms, the District will follow applicable health department protocol and guidance on contact tracing, quarantine, and/or isolation while respecting the confidentiality of those involved. • If a student or someone in the student's household is being tested for COVID-19, immediately notify the building nurse. • If a student or staff member develops COVID-like symptoms, they will be asked to follow-up with their PCP. • North Allegheny School District recognizes that information and safety recommendations are rapidly changing. The District continues to develop ongoing communications to provide staff and parents/guardians with timely information on the District's preparation for, the incidence of, and response transmission of COVID-19. We will continue to work with the North Allegheny Health Services Department and the Allegheny County Health Department on specific communication and review on a case-by-case basis. • It is the District's commitment to provide the community with

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	<p>factual, transparent, and critical information in a timely manner while respecting the privacy of students and staff. If a colleague, friend, family member, client, student, or anyone else informs you of a COVID-19 diagnosis, please keep it confidential.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide transparency to the community, the District updates the COVID-19 page on the North Allegheny School District website daily with new confirmed cases. The cases are listed by building in a table format. • The District notifies parents/guardians via email when their student has been in a classroom, bus, sports team, or activity with a student or staff member who has tested positive for COVID-19. • When a student or staff member is present in a classroom, bus, sports team, or activity where an individual tests positive for COVID-19: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Staff and parents/guardians receive written communication via email sharing that they may have been in direct contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19. ○ The letter contains action steps to be taken and any recommendations provided by the Allegheny County Health Department. ○ If there are multiple cases in one day, the District will send one email per day to staff, parents/guardians, etc. with cases grouped together. • The District will use the Recommendations for Pre-K to 12 Schools Following Identification of

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	<p>a Case(s) of COVID-19 as the response to transmission of COVID-19, as it applies to the North Allegheny School District buildings. This chart aligns each NASD school building to the state student enrollment designations of small, medium, or large. This information will be used to determine when a school must go to full remote based on this new order.</p>
<p>f. Diagnostic and screening testing;</p>	<p>The District continues to share communication with staff and families about screening from home. If the self-screener from home indicates possible symptoms staff and students are asked to stay at home and contact their local physician for guidance in next steps.</p>
<p>g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District worked with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit to advertise their COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic last spring to assist staff in participating in the vaccination clinic. • The District continues to communicate with all staff on a weekly basis related to other vaccination options for those staff who are interested in receiving the vaccine. • The District has hosted 3 Vaccination Clinics on site for staff, students (12 and older), and community members.
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English as a Second Language staff works with families to assist in making choices for their selection of options and to assist with any transition if the District moves between options of instruction in the building, hybrid, or remotely throughout the year. • Student Services students receiving full-time In-Person Instruction have access to the NA Student Services Team. The

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	<p>Student Services team is a coordinated group of professionals providing specialized services such as psychological, school counseling, health/wellness, student assistance, and social work to students within the North Allegheny School District.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NA School Counseling Department ensures student support through Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 while students are receiving In-Person Instruction. If the District transitions to hybrid or full remote learning, the School Counseling Department will reach out to families to address individual student needs based on the changes to the instructional delivery. • During In-Person Instruction, service providers follow the District's Health and Safety Protocols in the Special Education environment while implementing each student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP). If the District is required to transition to hybrid or full remote learning, case managers will schedule a parent/teacher conference to discuss the contents of the IEP and create an individualized continuity of learning plan for students in a hybrid or remote environment. When working with students through alternative delivery models, the District will make a good faith effort within available capabilities to determine how a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) will be

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	<p>provided by considering the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Appropriate resources ○ Equal access to learning and required materials ○ Ability to provide the services and supports in the IEP ○ Parents/guardians, students, and staff training ○ Communication processes ○ Related Services ○ Instructional Assistants ○ Assistive Technology Plan subject to change (updated 10/12/2020) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The NA Gifted program provides enrichment and a broad spectrum of educational opportunities while encouraging individual learners to develop personal responsibility, task commitment, self-discipline, independent learning skills, respectful conduct, and social/emotional balance. Online and project-based enrichment and educational opportunities are made available to students through the GOAL program during all phases of In-Person Instruction, including hybrid and full remote learning.
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In February 2021, the District formed a Back-to-School Planning Committee for the 2021-2022 School Year. Members of this committee include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NASD Executive Council ○ School Administration ○ North Allegheny Federation of Teachers

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Committee Groups: Education Advisory Council (EAC), Secondary Advisory Council (SAC), Superintendent's Parents' Liaison Committee (SPLC) ○ Student Services Advisory (SSA) ○ Health Services and Medical Community

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **North Allegheny School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **June 23, 2021**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

_____ **Yes**

_____ **No**

Affirmed on: **June 23, 2021**

By:

(Signature of Board President)*

Andrew Chomos

(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.