



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: September 26, 2024

Date of Last Revision: March 10, 2022

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?

Hazleton Area School District, Hazleton Area Career Center, Hazleton Area Early Intervention Program, and Hazleton Area Pre-K Program, effective February 28, 2022, have moved to parent choice concerning masking. All entities mentioned will continue to contact trace and quarantine staff and students as necessary. Should any questions arise, DOH, PDE, and/or CDC will be consulted immediately.

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?

Hazleton Area School District, Hazleton Area Career Center, Hazleton Area Early Intervention Program, and Hazleton Area Pre-K Program have deployed a 1-to-1 initiative with students. Each of the students have received computers that they are able to take home each day throughout the course of the school year. All mentioned entities have WiFi access points available to students in many of the parking lots. MiFi access points are available to those who apply for them. All students will continue to have access to our Microsoft Teams platform. Teachers coordinate lessons with students utilizing this platform. Synchronous learning will be available to students during the school day. Asynchronous opportunities will also be available, if needed for ill students. Attendance will be taken daily through Microsoft Teams and Skyward. Lessons will be recorded for asynchronous learning. All entities have, at least, 6 hours of instruction, daily. Student and staff wellbeing is very important. The District implemented a Mental Health Committee to address student and staff needs. The Committee will address the needs of staff and students through programming, software, etc. The District will provide meals as needed. HASD is completely 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 <u>masks</u> ;	Hazleton Area School District, Hazleton Area Career Center, Hazleton Area Early Intervention Program, and Hazleton Area Pre-K Program, effective February 28, 2022, have moved to parent choice concerning masking. All entities mentioned will continue to contact trace and quarantine staff and students as necessary. Should any questions arise, DOH, PDE, and/or CDC will be consulted immediately.
b. Modifying facilities to allow for <u>physical distancing</u> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);	Hazleton Area School District, Hazleton Area Career Center, Hazleton Area Early Intervention Program, and Hazleton Area Pre-K Program, effective February 28, 2022, have moved to parent choice concerning masking. All entities mentioned will continue to contact trace and quarantine staff and students as necessary. Should any questions arise, DOH, PDE, and/or CDC will be consulted immediately.
c. <u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</u> ;	Hazleton Area School District, Hazleton Area Career Center, Hazleton Area Early Intervention Program, and Hazleton Area Pre-K Program, effective February 28, 2022, have moved to parent choice concerning masking. All entities mentioned will continue to contact trace and quarantine staff and students as necessary. Should any questions arise, DOH, PDE, and/or CDC will be consulted immediately.
d. <u>Cleaning</u> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <u>ventilation</u> ;	Hazleton Area School District, Hazleton Area Career Center, Hazleton Area Early Intervention Program, and Hazleton Area Pre-K Program, effective February 28, 2022, have moved to parent choice concerning masking. All entities mentioned will continue to contact trace and quarantine staff and students as necessary. Should any questions arise, DOH, PDE, and/or CDC will be consulted immediately.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine , in collaboration with the State and local health departments;	Hazleton Area School District, Hazleton Area Career Center, Hazleton Area Early Intervention Program, and Hazleton Area Pre-K Program, effective February 28, 2022, have moved to parent choice concerning masking. All entities mentioned will continue to contact trace and quarantine staff and students as necessary. Should any questions arise, DOH, PDE, and/or CDC will be consulted immediately.
f. Diagnostic and screening testing;	Hazleton Area School District, Hazleton Area Career Center, Hazleton Area Early Intervention Program, and Hazleton Area Pre-K Program, effective February 28, 2022, have moved to parent choice concerning masking. All entities mentioned will continue to contact trace and quarantine staff and students as necessary. Should any questions arise, DOH, PDE, and/or CDC will be consulted immediately.
g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities ;	Hazleton Area School District, Hazleton Area Career Center, Hazleton Area Early Intervention Program, and Hazleton Area Pre-K Program, effective February 28, 2022, have moved to parent choice concerning masking. All entities mentioned will continue to contact trace and quarantine staff and students as necessary. Should any questions arise, DOH, PDE, and/or CDC will be consulted immediately.
h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	Hazleton Area School District, Hazleton Area Career Center, Hazleton Area Early Intervention Program, and Hazleton Area Pre-K Program, effective February 28, 2022, have moved to parent choice concerning masking. All entities mentioned will continue to contact trace and quarantine staff and students as necessary. Should any questions arise, DOH, PDE, and/or CDC will be consulted immediately.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	Hazleton Area School District, Hazleton Area Career Center, Hazleton Area Early Intervention Program, and Hazleton Area Pre-K Program, effective February 28, 2022, have moved to parent choice concerning masking. All entities mentioned will continue to contact trace and quarantine staff and students as necessary. Should any questions arise, DOH, PDE, and/or CDC will be consulted immediately.

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 **September 26, 2024**

The plan was approved by a vote of:

9 Yes

 No

Affirmed on: **September 26, 2024**

By:



(Signature of Board President)*

Mr. Anthony Bonomo

(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.