



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: New Brighton Area School District

Initial Effective Date: July 1, 2021

Date of Last Review: June 28, 2021

Date of Last Revision: June 28, 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 New Brighton Area School District (NBASD) will continue to review the guidance from the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA DOH) and Center for Disease Control (CDC) and revise our Health and Safety Plan according to the recommendations of those two entities. Our current protocols align with the PA DOH and CDC guidance. The Administration participates in regular county-wide meetings to stay abreast of current guidelines. Throughout the past school year, the Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit hosted weekly Superintendent virtual meetings to provide opportunities to review updated regulations and to collaborate amongst our colleagues. In addition, we have partnered with local health care professionals and rely on their expertise to help navigate the pandemic. Our county-wide nurses have been meeting regularly and have provided valuable resources for all of the school district. The District Administration meets regularly and utilizes the expertise of our Certified School Nurses (CSNs) in our decision making processes. Updated guidance will be incorporated into our Health and Safety Plan on a regular basis.

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 New Brighton Area School District (NBASD) will continue to educate students regardless of level of transmission. The District will consider PDE and PA DOH's recommendations for instructional models when levels of transmission increases with the desire to educate students in person, if safe to do so. The District will work with families to meet the educational programming needs pertinent to their child(ren) with options for in-person learning, online learning, and hybrid learning to be inclusive of both in-person and online learning.

In the event the district would need to transition to a complete virtual environment, students would utilize their district provided technology device. In addition to curricular materials, staff utilize age-appropriate resources from the Google Suite for Education, Schoology, Edgenuity, Kami, and many others to educate our students in a virtual environment. Our students and staff managed the virtual environment well in 2020-2021 and we expect with additional work between teacher-student, we can continue our growth with virtual platforms to enhance learning while in-school and be the platform for learning if we needed to transition to a complete virtual environment. Additionally, we would expect to maintain live connections with our students via video in a virtual

environment, office hours or help sessions for students experiencing academic needs during a virtual environment, and we would ensure that any services provided to students while in school would be provided if we found ourselves in a virtual environment within whatever the then current guidelines were from PA DOH and the CDC regarding appropriateness and ability to provide services in a safe manner.

We have, and will continue, to work with families when connectivity is an issue. We have provided hot spots to families for temporary or more permanent internet service and we will continue this program to support our families. Additionally, we have helped families contact local internet providers if they were unaware of who serviced their area or they were unsure how to sign up for special discount programs, i.e. Comcast Internet Essentials. Finally, we will continue to ensure that the Wi-Fi signal from our buildings continues to travel outside and is accessible from our parking lots and other areas around our buildings.

To assist students and staff with social, emotional, and mental health needs, our guidance counselors and school nurses provide assistance. In addition, the district has a partnership with Western Psychiatric Services, and their Positive Steps program, to offer on-site mental health services to our students. Positive Steps utilizes space within the building and services students on a regular basis. Positive Steps has also provided training and support sessions to our staff and continues to meet with staff one-on-one or in small groups, when needed, and provide training for both personal needs and to share best practices for working with students. Our district's health care provider, Blue Cross Blue Shield also disseminates information to staff on a regular basis in an effort to provide valuable resources for our mental health.

Food Services, including breakfast, lunch, and dinner will continue regardless of our instructional model. And, our transportation provider is prepared to provide any transportation necessary, regardless of our instructional model and they work with us daily to ensure they understand the needs of NBASD and any out-of-district placements to which they are transporting students.

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> ;	The District will follow the then current guidelines, orders, etc. from the PA DOH, PDE, Governor's Office, and CDC. We will share this information with our community and staff. 1. The District will comply with mask mandates. 2. Mask orders will be posted at entrances.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	3. Staff will receive training on appropriate wearing of masks at the beginning of year. 4. Teachers and Nurses will train students regarding appropriate use of masks. 5. Signage throughout the building will remind students and staff of the mandate and appropriate wearing of masks. 6. As a school community, we will all remind each other to wear masks as mandated.
b. Modifying facilities to allow for <u>physical distancing</u> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);	The District will follow the then current guidelines, orders, etc. from the PA DOH, PDE, Governor's Office, and CDC. We will share this information with our community and staff. 1. Social distancing will be implemented based on PA DOH, PDE, and CDC recommendations to the greatest extent possible. 2. Miscellaneous furniture may be removed to establish maximum social distancing. 3. Larger classes may be moved to a larger space. 4. Classes may be held outdoors when possible. 5. Teacher and Student desks will all face the same direction, if applicable. 6. Social distancing patterns will be maintained within classrooms and throughout the common areas, i.e. hallways, stairwells, etc. 7. Signage is established to show traffic flow, repurpose stair wells to be up/ down stairs. 8. Staff and students will practice social distancing by staying at least 6 feet from other people in both indoor and outdoor spaces, to the greatest extent possible. 9. Elementary students will have recess, and if applicable will be separated in cohorts so they can continue to have recess.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
c. <u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</u>	The District will follow the then current guidelines, orders, etc. from the PA DOH, PDE, Governor's Office, and CDC. We will share this information with our community and staff. 1. All staff will be trained on healthy hygiene practices so they can teach the students. 2. Ensure handwashing strategies include washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not available and hands are not visibly dirty, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. 3. The custodial and facilities staff will check throughout the day to ensure that soap dispensers and hand sanitizer stations throughout the buildings are functional and have adequate supplies. 4. The Nurses will review PA DOH and CDC resources available online to share information and educational aspects of handwashing and respirator etiquette. We will share these items via social media, building television systems, and similar platforms to educate and encourage proper hygiene among students, staff, and the community.
d. <u>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</u>	The District will follow the then current guidelines, orders, etc. from the PA DOH, PDE, Governor's Office, and CDC. We will share this information with our community and staff. 1. Schedules have been created so that all Facilities Personnel are instructed on their areas of cleaning and their areas of responsibility has been reviewed. 2. Custodians and Facilities Staff will follow daily disinfecting protocols to include:

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	a. restroom handles, b. doors handles, c. sinks, d. stair railings, e. water bottle refilling handles, f. office counters. 3. When a student is sent home with any COVID symptoms, the Nurse will notify the Superintendent and Facilities Staff and applicable areas will be cleaned and disinfected. 4. Appropriate cleaning supplies (disinfecting spray and paper towels) will be made available in work spaces for use by staff. 5. Hand sanitizing stations will be available throughout all buildings. 6. There will be a designated “well” and “sick” area within each Nurse’s office. Upon a student leaving a “sick” area, the Nurse will allow for ventilation and appropriate time between students before the area will be cleaned. 7. Limit sharing of high touch objects that are difficult to regularly clean (such as, electronic devices, pens, pencils, books, games, art supplies, lab equipment). 8. Increase the introduction of outdoor air by opening outdoor air dampers, windows and doors when appropriate, and ensuring blower fans are functional.
e. <u>Contact tracing</u> in combination with <u>isolation</u> and <u>quarantine</u>, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;	The District will follow the then current guidelines, orders, etc. from the PA DOH, PDE, Governor’s Office, and CDC. We will share this information with our community and staff. 1. If a student, staff, or visitor exhibits signs or symptoms of COVID-19 they will:

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	a. Notify the School Nurse prior to sending/coming to the health office b. Be masked immediately c. Placed in isolated area d. Assessed after PPE applied by School Nurse e. Parent/guardian will be called f. Student will be escorted to the car when parent arrives g. Siblings will be dismissed as well h. Parents will be advised to follow up with their PCP. A virtual visit may be set up while at the school or at home if the parent/guardian chooses. Parents will receive instructions on how this is conducted. 2. Close off the area used by a person testing positive for COVID-19 and do not use it before cleaning and disinfecting. 3. Refer to and follow the most recent PA DOH guidance on home isolation or quarantine and returning to work/school. 4. The Nurse will follow the screening tool which identifies the conditions related to a student's return to school. 5. Nurse will conduct contact tracing and quarantine students/staff as appropriate. 6. The Nurse and/or Superintendent contact Rapid Response, PA DOH or CDC, as guided by current protocols. Collaborate with state health departments when investigating cases and exposures to COVID-19. 7. Coordinate with PA Department of Education to ensure compliance with applicable laws related to privacy and the collection/sharing

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	of this information as they undertake these activities.
f. <u>Diagnostic</u> and screening testing;	1. Symptom screening will be done by all parents/guardians at home each morning before the school day. 2. No children with symptoms will be sent on a bus or brought to school. 3. All district staff will perform a symptom screen on themselves prior to leaving for work, and will stay home if ill. If unsure, they will contact the Nurse or Superintendent. 4. Students and staff will consistently be made aware of the signs and symptoms of COVID-19. 5. Students and staff will go to the Nurse immediately if feeling symptomatic and will be placed in an isolation area. The District will share resources with the school community to help families understand when to keep children home.
g. Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to school communities</u> ;	1. Partner with a local pharmacist or health care provider to offer a Vaccination Clinic as per CDC guidelines. Follow CDC guidance on the need to offer a booster. a. Staff Vaccination Clinic held in March 2021. b. Student and Community Vaccination Clinic held in May/June 2021. 2. Partner with Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit and local school districts to offer Vaccine Clinics.
h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	1. Life Skills, Emotional Support, Autistic Support and English Learner students will continue to receive face-to-face instruction, unless a situation warrants a school closure for all students. 2. Parents may choose to transition their child to a virtual environment.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	3. Support services may be held in-person or virtually. 4. Students with complex needs will be addressed individually.
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	The New Brighton Area School District will follow the PA DOH and CDC guidelines and coordinate with state and local health officials as changes in protocols occur.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **New Brighton Area School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **June 28, 2021**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

6 Yes

0 No

Affirmed on: **June 28, 2021**

By:



(Signature* of Board President)

John Ludwig

(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.