

PSD-ARP ESSER Health & Safety Plan

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 Thorough an Integrated System of Support](#)
- [PA Department of Health - COVID-19 in Pennsylvania](#)

Health and Safety Plan Summary: **Pottstown School District**

Initial Effective Date: August 20, 2021

Date of Last Review: July 29, 2021

Date of Last Revision: June 17, 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?

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?

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 ;	<p>The District shall consider the recommendations of the CDC, the PADOH, and the MCOPH. Masks/Facial Coverings - The District shall maintain the following expectations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Indoor Activities: Masks/facial coverings are optional for fully vaccinated individuals. Masks/facial coverings are strongly recommended for students and staff who are not fully vaccinated.○ Outdoor Activities: Masks/facial coverings are optional for all students and staff <p>COVID-19 is suppressed in our region, as evidenced by extremely low positivity and incidence rates.</p> <p>The District will monitor COVID-19 positivity and incidence rates regularly. Should the District need to revise its masking/facial covering expectations, etc due to changing recommendations from the CDC, the PADOH, or the MCOPH, or the specific community data and its impact on schools, the Board of School Directors empowers the Superintendent of Schools to require or make optional, the wearing of masks, along with any and all stipulations needed for school safety and smooth operations. The Superintendent of schools and designees will communicate that information to the school community. THIS APPLIES TO ALL SECTIONS A-I IN THIS PLAN</p>

<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<p>The District shall consider the recommendations of the CDC, the PADOH, and the MCOPH. Classrooms - The District shall continue to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Maintain class size guidelines to the maximum extent possible. ○ Remove extra furniture from classrooms to create as much space for students and staff as possible. <p>· Cafeterias - Follow the recommendations of the CDC, the PADOH, and the MCOPH for spacing while eating.</p> <p>· Large Group Spaces for Instruction - Schedule the cafeteria and other large spaces such that groups will not overlap in said locations and note/control/change traffic patterns in hallways.</p> <p>· Transportation - Limit seating to two (2) students per seat to the maximum extent feasible.</p>
<p>c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</p>	<p>Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette - The District shall provide direct, explicit instruction on proper hygiene, including but not necessarily limited to: handwashing, coughing/sneezing, etc., for students and staff. We will also provide access to soap/water and/or hand sanitizer throughout the day.</p> <p>Visual Reminders - Post signs in visible places throughout each building including, but not necessarily limited to: classrooms, restrooms, hallways, gymnasiums, cafeterias, offices, etc.</p>
<p>d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</p>	<p>Cleaning - The District shall continue to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Procure products appropriate for effective cleaning and sanitizing buildings. ○ Provide training for all custodial and maintenance staff on proper cleaning and sanitation procedures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. ○ Clean and disinfect all high-touch surfaces (desks, tables, water fountains, door handles, light switches, etc.) following posted EPA/CDC/ manufacturer guidelines. ○ Require all staff to sanitize or wash hands on a frequent basis. (Hand sanitizer will be available in common areas, hallways, and in classrooms where sinks for handwashing are not available.) ○ Clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces on buses after each run, morning and afternoon. <p>Ventilation - The District shall continue to ensure each building has appropriate air circulation and ventilation, at or above suggested guideline minimums from federal and state agencies.</p>

<p>e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<p>Contact Tracing - The District shall continue to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Require seating charts to be maintained for all classrooms and instructional spaces. o Identify close contacts of individuals with COVID-19 through the contact tracing process. o Adhere to quarantine and return-to-school guidance as directed by the MCOPH. <p>Isolation and Quarantine - The District shall continue to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Maintain a quarantine area in each building. The quarantine area will have proper ventilation and proper air ventilation will be ensured outside of the quarantine areas. o Require individuals experiencing COVID-19 symptoms while in one of the District's buildings to report immediately to the designated quarantine location in that building. o Provide appropriate PPE to staff and students in the quarantine location and to those interacting directly with such an individual (one who becomes sick in school or demonstrates a history of exposure) who reports to the quarantine area. o Follow the MCOPH's guidance regarding when students can return to school following having symptoms of COVID-19 or contracting the virus. <p>Collaboration with State and Local Health Departments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Communicate with the Montgomery County Office of Public Health about all possible and/or confirmed cases of COVID-19. (COVID-19 is a reportable disease. As such, the District is required to communicate with the MCOPH to report all cases of COVID-19.)
<p>f. Diagnostic and screening testing;</p>	<p>The District shall continue to work collaboratively with the MCOPH on potential options for diagnostic and screening testing. Should the District engage in this testing, the community will be notified of such as soon as practicable.</p>
<p>g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;</p>	<p>The District shall continue to partner with pharmacies or other organizations to provide opportunities for eligible individuals to receive the COVID-19 vaccination.</p>
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health</p>	<p>The District shall continue to document individual student needs in students' IEPs or 504s. (Individual student needs will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.)</p>

<p>and safety policies; and</p>	
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<p>The District shall continue to communicate with the MCOPH on each case of COVID-19 and revise this health and safety plan, as needed, and according to updated information from the CDC, the PADOH, and/or the MCOPH.</p>

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Pottstown School District** reviewed and approved the updated Health and Safety Plan on **August 19, 2021**

The plan was approved by a vote of:

_____ **Yes**

_____ **No**

Affirmed on: _____

By: _____

(Signature of Board President)*

AMY FRANCIS

(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.