



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: **Chartiers-Houston School District**

Initial Effective Date: 7/1/2021

Date of Last Review: 8-23-2022

Date of Last Revision: 8-23-2022

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?

CHSD will monitor the latest recommendations from PDE, PADOH, and 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 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, CHSD will continue to encourage the vaccination of students and staff. CHSD will continue to practice standard mitigation efforts to include reducing close contact when feasible.

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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Universal and correct wearing of <u>masks</u>; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unless masks are mandated, students and staff will not be required to wear masks to school. Masks are optional. • CHSD will develop mitigation plans in line with the most recent PDE, PADOH, and CDC guidance with plans being updated every six months as needed. For those who are required due to a medical reason or opt to wear a mask, they must wear the mask correctly and consistently as recommended by the PA DOH. Mask wearing is a critical step everyone can take to reduce their risk of getting and spreading COVID-19. Staff and students will be trained on and reminded of proper mask use. • All implementation strategies will adhere to the student's IEP or 504 Plan. • As of February 28, 2022, the wearing of masks is not mandated for school buses, vans or other means of transportation as per the most recent CDC guidance issued February 25, 2022. Mask wearing on school transportation is optional.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modifying facilities to allow for <u>physical distancing</u> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding); 	<p>Physical Distancing is not required at this time.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</u>; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teach and reinforce good hygiene measures such as handwashing, covering coughs, sneezing into elbows and face coverings at start of school and ongoing as needed. • Provide hand soap, hand sanitizer, cleaning wipes/disinfectant spray, tissues, and paper towels in all classrooms and frequently trafficked areas. • Post signage in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate how to stop the spread. COVID-19 symptoms, preventative measures (including staying home when sick), good hygiene, proper respiratory etiquette and school/district specific protocols. • Perform hand hygiene after having contact with respiratory secretions and contaminated objects or materials.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Cleaning</u> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <u>ventilation</u>; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily cleaning of schools with soap and water, disinfectants and sanitizers to decrease how much of the virus is on surfaces and objects, which reduces the risk of exposure. Provide additional cleaning to frequently touched surfaces and objects including door handles, sink handles and drinking fountains. • Use of in-depth cleaning methods using HALT or other hospital grade disinfectants in the event of a severe breakout of COVID in a classroom or congregate school area. • Follow standard protocols to clean surfaces that are not high touch. • Ensure ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible, for example by opening windows and doors. Change air filters regularly.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Contact tracing</u> in combination with <u>isolation</u> and <u>quarantine</u>, in collaboration with the State and local health departments; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with school administrators and school nurses to identify an isolation room or area to separate anyone who exhibits COVID-like symptoms. • Contact tracing will not be performed with the general student population but will be performed by the school nurses when the contact tracing involves a student with high risk health conditions. • The School District will not quarantine students or staff due to being a close contact of a positive COVID case, quarantining is not mandated at this time. • School nurses and other healthcare providers should use Standard and Transmission- Based Precautions when caring for sick people. • Contact family or guardians for the safe transportation of anyone who is sick home or to a healthcare facility. • Submit a weekly report to the DOH detailing weekly aggregate positive cases. • Send out notifications to building staff and students with the appropriate information as needed. • Students and staff who test positive for COVID 19 should isolate for 5 days from the onset of symptoms or the positive result of a rapid, PCR or home test. If no symptoms are present, or if symptoms are resolved after 5 days including having no fever for 24 hours the positive staff

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p>member or student can end isolation and return to school and school extracurricular activities. However, if symptoms continue, positive staff or students should stay isolated while the fever and symptoms last. After ending isolation, the positive person should wear a well-fitted mask while in school for the next 5 days. A well fitted mask fits snug to the face and covers both nose and mouth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students who are close contacts with a COVID positive person, the parent may choose to quarantine the student at home for 5 days and then return the student to school if no symptoms develop. Staff members who are close contacts may also choose to quarantine at home for 5 days and then return to work if no symptoms are present. It is recommended that a close contact tests on Day 5 before returning to school and wears a well fitted mask upon return for an additional 5 days. • Develop policies and procedures based on CDC guidelines. Ensure that staff and students meet all requirements before returning to school safely.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Diagnostic</u> and screening testing; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diagnostic screening and temperature taking of students and staff as they enter the building is not required by PA DOH and will not take place. • Encourage staff and students to stay home if they are sick and encourage parents to keep sick children home.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to school communities</u>; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with community health centers and hospitals to provide on-site voluntary vaccinations and provide brochures and other information as to when and where staff and students can receive voluntary vaccinations at their sites.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that any policy regarding face coverings or any other parts of the health and safety plans should be sensitive to the needs of students and staff with medical issues. Appropriate accommodations in compliance with federal and state laws should be made for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies and procedures Mask breaks will be provided as needed for students opting to wear masks.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination with state and local health officials. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LEA will work together with the PADOH, community health agencies and County Emergency Management Agencies to coordinate resources in accordance with their health and safety plan.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closure due to a threshold number of positive COVID cases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no threshold number for positive COVID cases where the school would be mandated to close. A closure could be possible if the number of COVID positive staff members is high enough so as to impede the instruction and daily operation of the school.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic Intervention to reduce learning loss 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diagnostic and benchmark assessments will be used to gauge student progress in academic courses. At the secondary level, struggling students will attend the QRT sessions during the day. Pull out individualized instruction for struggling students will take place at the Elementary level.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing district resources to students to participate fully in instruction whether in-person or online. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District has issued laptops to all students grades 3 -12. Students in grades K-2 will also be receiving laptops later. Students and will use these for instruction, progress monitoring, minor assessments, and teacher communication.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Chartiers-Houston School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **September 12, 2022**

The plan was approved by a vote of:

Yes

No

Affirmed on: **September 12, 2022**

By:



(Signature* of Board President)

Laurie Popeck

(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.