



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: Shaler Area School District

Initial Effective Date: August 6, 2020

Date of Last Review: March 16, 2022

Date of Last Revision: March 16, 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?

The Shaler Area School District continues to focus on the maximization of in-person instructional opportunities for all students in an environment where they can succeed socially, emotionally, and academically in a safe and consequential manner alongside caring and supportive staff. The District will continue to progress toward this goal while implementing COVID-19 prevention and mitigation protocols that directly correlate to an appropriate and feasible set of procedures that are consistent with the existing level of community spread in the community and the surrounding region.

The District will continue the following safety-related mitigation strategies:

- Enhanced cleaning protocols through at least spring 2022.
- Plexiglass barriers will be left in place until otherwise directed.
- Signage for social distancing, face mask use (when in a high community transmission level), elevator occupancy, indoor lounge/dining seating and restrooms will remain in place through spring 2022.
- Water fountains (except bottle filling stations) and electric hand dryers will remain out of service.

Due to guidance from federal and state health agencies, Shaler Area will require universal masking for all K-12 students and staff when in an indoor setting, regardless of vaccination status only when Allegheny County is in a “high” level of community transmission.

Masking will not be required on district transportation, including after-school team and activities buses unless otherwise mandated by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). Additionally, this amendment will extend to all visitors to our district buildings and facilities. Visitors will not be required to wear a mask or face covering when indoors at any district building or facility for any reason, including to attend meetings, events, or athletic activities.

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 Shaler Area School District is providing the following focused summer instructional and enrichment programs (financed through a combination of District funds and ESSER funds) that started in June of 2021:

- A combination of In-person and Remote Secondary Summer School
- Primary/Elementary Summer Remediation
- Extended School Year (ESY) for qualified special education students
- Summer Jump Start Offerings

For the 2021-2022 School Year, the Shaler Area School District will provide the following instructional opportunities which will be available to all students:

- In-Person Face-to-Face Instruction
- Shaler Area Virtual Institute (Grades K-12)
 - Students in Grades K-12 will participate via the Allegheny Intermediate Unit's Waterfront Learning remote learning supported by Edgenuity/Accelerated curriculum.
 - Students will utilize district technology, be eligible for remote IT support, maintain access to their District school of attendance.

The District will continue to operate a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) for students throughout the 2021-2022 School Year. Through the continued use of the MTSS system, the District will complete interventions in English/Language Arts and Mathematics.

The District will continue to offer free lunch to the students in the community via the Federal feeding programs in place as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Universal and correct wearing of masks; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Universal Masking Order expired on June 28th. • On February 25, 2022 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued new guidance referred to as COVID-19 Community Levels (Low, Medium and High). These levels are used for determining when people should use masks and follow other COVID precautions based upon the potential for increased spread and strain on the health system.

ARP ESSER Requirement

Strategies, Policies, and Procedures

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective immediately face masks will no longer be required in Shaler Area School District at any time, <u>including on school buses and vans</u>. While the District hopes to remain in a mask optional environment for the remainder of the school year, please note that if the District discovers rising case counts in our schools, classrooms, or transition to a high community transmission level per the CDC, the District will consult with the Allegheny County Health Department and CDC guidance to determine if the District will reinstate universal masking. • Masking will no longer be required on all district transportation, including after-school team and activities buses unless otherwise directed by the CDC or the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) • Additionally, this amendment will extend to all visitors to our district buildings and facilities. Visitors will only be required to wear a mask or face covering when indoors at any district building or facility for any reason, including to attend meetings, events, or athletic activities when Allegheny County is designated as a “High” community transmission level. • The Board authorizes the Superintendent and/or designee to reinstate the masking policy without additional action when Allegheny County is in a “high” level of community transmission.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modifying facilities to allow for <u>physical distancing</u> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding); 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District’s safety measures now include strongly encouraging COVID-19 vaccines for employees and eligible students. Continued focus on vaccination attainment will enable the campus to remove masking requirements and relax distancing measures even further.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handwashing and respiratory etiquette; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District will implement the recommend 3-6 feet of social distancing for all students and staff. • Handwashing and hygiene protocols will remain in place as they are paramount to the health & safety of all students and staff. • CDC Handwashing In Community Settings • CDC Handwashing Poster • CDC Stop the Spread of COVID-19 Poster • The District will continue to provide hand sanitizer in all District classrooms and strategically placed in high traffic areas throughout school buildings. • Plexiglass barriers will be left in place unless individual office staff request removal. • Signage for social distancing, face mask use, elevator occupancy, indoor lounge/dining seating and restrooms will be removed in the Spring of 2022. • Water fountains (except bottle filling stations) and electric hand dryers will remain out of service.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced cleaning protocols will remain in place through at least the spring 2022.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When the District is in a mask optional state, the District will discontinue the contract tracing process, unless otherwise directed by the Allegheny County Health Department. Additionally, students who may have been in close contact both inside and outside of school and remain asymptomatic will no

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p>longer need to quarantine, regardless of vaccination status.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When a single classroom and/or school building is showing a significant increase in cases over a 14-day period, the District will institute increased cleaning and disinfection. The District will continue to monitor case counts throughout our school and may revisit our Health & Safety Plan should there be any drastic changes in local conditions or if we receive new advice of the Allegheny County Health Department. • If a student is displaying COVID-19 symptoms and visits one of our nursing offices, they may be asked to wear a face mask while the nurse is assessing the student. • Per current CDC guidance, If a student tests positive, regardless of vaccination status, students should stay home for 5 days after symptom onset. If the individual has no symptoms, they can return to school after 5 days and must continue to wear a mask around others for Days 6-10. If they have a fever, continue to stay at home until the fever resolves.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Diagnostic</u> and screening testing; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District does not intend to offer onsite COVID-19 diagnostic testing for either students and or staff. • Testing will continue to be recommended for individuals exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 as directed by State and local health departments. • The District will continue to educate families on the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 while encouraging families that they should refrain from sending their student(s) to school if he/she is displaying symptoms related to COVID-19.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to school communities</u>; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District will continue to promote vaccinations of eligible students and faculty in collaboration with the Medicine Shop Pharmacy. Vaccination clinics will continue to be scheduled both within the school day and after hours for the larger school community as deemed necessary.
<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"> • Students with disabilities who require specialized instruction will be afforded accommodations as discussed and agreed upon by the IEP team. Cyber learning will be available as directed by the team.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination with state and local health officials. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District will continue to collaborate weekly with the Allegheny Health Department via our Community COVID- conference calls hosted by the Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU 3). Additionally, our school nurses will continue to consult on an as needed basis with the staff at ACHD and UPMC Sports Medicine Training.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Shaler Area School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **August 11, 2021**. The plan was revised/amended and approved on **March 16, 2022**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

7 Yes

0 No

Affirmed on: **March 16, 2022**

By:



(Signature of Board President)

April Kwiatkowski

(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.