



ARP ESSER Health and Safety Plan Guidance

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: Bellwood-Antis School District

Initial Effective Date: July 29, 2021

Date of Last Review: August 9, 2022; September 12, 2023

Date of Last Revision: September 12, 2023

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 Bellwood-Antis School District will monitor the latest recommendations from PDE, PADOH, and CDC and update their Health and Safety Plans, as needed (at minimum every six months). The superintendent will have the authority to adjust the Plan, as needed, in response to changing conditions, regulations, or guidance, with ratification by the Board of Directors at the subsequent scheduled meeting. Prevention and mitigation protocols will focus on providing safe, in-person instruction.

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?**

Educational models will be adapted to the needs of the students as appropriate. The district will continue to offer full virtual instruction through BA Cyber Program, supported by AIU13 Waterfront Learning for those who wish to elect that format for instruction. Short-term remote learning will be provided, as needed, in the event of any necessary school closures or student quarantines/isolations. Google Suite, including Google Classroom and Microsoft Teams, will serve as the platform for asynchronous and synchronous learning. An iPad will be available for all learners. Social, emotional, mental health and other needs will be monitored and supports will be provided, as needed.

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 ;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masks/face coverings are optional for all individuals (staff, students, parents/guardians, and visitors), regardless of vaccination status, in District offices, classrooms and at school-sponsored events per

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p>expiration of PA required mandate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District will require compliance with any state or federal orders which require masks/face coverings in schools or on public transportation, including school buses and vans. All schools and school vehicles will maintain a supply of masks. • BASD will instruct staff and students on the correct use of masks (ex. snug over mouth and nose) and will maintain a supply of masks in both adult and child sizes in all schools. • Students and staff who travel to other locations for services/events must adhere to the Health and Safety Plan of the location of service or of the event venue.
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All schools may implement structural interventions to promote physical distancing, as necessary and appropriate to the situation. • Classrooms may be configured to physically distance, as appropriate and feasible. Nonessential furniture will remain removed. • Efforts may be made to physically distance, as appropriate and feasible, in the following situations: between adults, between adults and students, when eating, and when increased exhalation occurs (ex. voice and instrumental music and physical education). These activities may be moved outdoors or to large, well-ventilated space, when possible. • Schools will use cohorting (ex. self-contained classrooms, grade level groupings, etc.), when feasible, and limit contact between cohorts to minimize impact of quarantines on instruction.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools will continue staggered arrival and drop-off times. • Bus drivers will assign seating on buses to facilitate physical distancing, as feasible, with family-group seating encouraged. • Visitors and volunteers should practice physical distancing to the extent possible.
<p>c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools will teach and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If handwashing is not possible, hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol should be used. • Students will be instructed to avoid touching their eyes, nose, and mouth; to cover coughs and sneezes, to use tissues, when needed; to discard tissues appropriately; and to wash their hands/hand sanitize after blowing their nose, coughing, or sneezing. • The district will provide adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors, including soap, a way to dry hands, tissues, face masks, no-touch trash cans, and hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
<p>d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District will continue the best practices developed in response to COVID-19 for keeping school facilities clean, disinfected, and safe for staff, students, and visitors. • High touch surfaces and objects (ex. door handles, sink handles, toilets, water stations) within the school and on school buses will be cleaned regularly, using EPA-approved disinfectants. • Schools will ensure that ventilation systems operate properly and that filters are changed in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff may increase circulation of outdoor air by opening windows when safe and appropriate in classrooms and on school buses. • Water systems will be flushed after any prolonged facility closure. • Staff will use PPE appropriate for the cleaners and disinfectants.
<p>e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools will collaborate with the PA Department of Health to report individuals diagnosed with or exposed to COVID-19. • School officials will notify families of close contacts as soon as possible after they are notified that someone in the school has tested positive. • Isolation should be used to separate people diagnosed with COVID-19 from those who are not infected. Students and staff who are in isolation should stay home until they have met the criteria for release. • Students who are quarantined from exposure outside of the school should follow the direction of the applicable medical professional. • An exposed individual, regardless of vaccination status, will be expected to follow the most recent DOH guidelines and continue to closely monitor for symptoms. • School-based close contacts who have or develop symptoms should follow the instructions of their medical professional.
<p>f. Diagnostic and screening testing;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff, students, parents/guardians, and visitors are expected to self-screen at home for symptoms of COVID-19 or other contagious diseases before coming to school. • Staff and families will be educated about when they and their children should stay home and when they can return to school. Students and staff who have symptoms of COVID- 19

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	<p>should stay home and be referred to their healthcare provider for testing and care. If symptoms present at school, the student's parent/guardian will be notified immediately. Efforts will be made to separate students with COVID-19 symptoms or suspected or confirmed COVID-19 diagnoses through use of an isolation room/area until transportation can be arranged to send them home.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals with positive test results should remain home and isolate until they have met criteria for release from isolation.
<p>g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School officials will continue to collaborate with local and state agencies to support messaging and outreach about vaccination for members of school communities. • Schools will serve as vaccination host sites if called upon to do so.
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate accommodations in compliance with federal and state laws will be made for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies and procedures. Such accommodations will be addressed through the IEP process. • Schools will prioritize in-person instruction, when possible, for students with disabilities who require special education and related services.
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BASD will maintain existing partnerships with state and local agencies (ex. PDE, PA DOH, Blair County EMA). • BASD will follow the direction of the PA Department of Health in regard to reporting and responding to cases of COVID-19.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for the Bellwood-Antis School District reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on September 12, 2023.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

8 Yes

0 No

Affirmed on: September 12, 2023

By:



(Signature of Board President)*

Thomas Finn

(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.

