

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 Thorough an Integrated System of Support](#)

· [PA Department of Health - COVID-19 in Pennsylvania](#)

Health and Safety Plan Summary: **Bald Eagle Area School District**

Initial Effective Date: **July 30, 2021**

Date of Last Review: **July 27, 2021**

Date of Last Revision: **July 27, 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 Bald Eagle Area School District will follow all federal, state, and local mandates for the safe reopening of schools for in-person learning, including requirements for masking on all school operated vehicles (Federal Order, January 2021).
- Custodial staff will follow all protocols in cleaning and disinfecting of buildings prior to opening on a regular basis. Custodial staff will follow a district checklist to verify when all areas have been cleaned which will be monitored by the Director of Facilities and Maintenance.
- Building staff will follow the CDC, PDE, and DOH guidelines and requirements for COVID-19 cleaning and disinfecting.
- Bald Eagle Area will continue to use current suppliers through the 2021-22 school year. These vendors meet the requirements set by the CDC for COVID cleaning and disinfecting.

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?

- Instruction will be individualized and customized as much as possible, using district staff to best support all students.

- The district's MTSS framework will be used to provide interventions and continual academic/social/emotional tiered support for students in reading, math, and SEL.
- District will continue using Second Step in Grades K-8 and School Connect in Grades 9-12 for student social and emotional learning and well-being.
- School counselors and other district staff have been trained in Trauma Informed Instruction and Instructional Practices.
- District teachers and staff will be trained in Restorative Practices.
- The district is working with local mental health groups to provide additional resources and services to students and staff.
- Creation of a full-time Clinical School Counselor position in the district to provide therapeutic support and counseling for students, and family support services.
- PBIS and SAP will be utilized to support student social emotional wellness.
- School counselors will continue to check-in with students that have existing or are experiencing social emotional struggles.

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.

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a. Universal and correct wearing of masks:

- If masks are mandated by the state/federal government then staff/students/visitors will be required to wear them - otherwise masks **will not** be required.
- In the event of an outbreak or increase in cases, a determination (as a district) would be made concerning mask wearing.
- If anyone wants to wear a mask/face covering, they may do so.
- **NOTE:** These are subject to change based on updated state and/or CDC mandates.

b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding):

- 3-foot minimum distance between student desks.
- Classrooms will be limited to 28 students or less.
- PE classes will be encouraged to go outside, weather permitting. (Elementary, Middle, & High School)
- Each school building has a self-contained visitor entry area where they can speak with a school representative without entering the school building.
- Permission will be granted for outside groups to use indoor school facilities on a case-by-case basis (following school district guidelines).
- Continue to provide classroom supplies (e.g., crayons, markers, white boards, online textbooks, Chrome books, etc.) for individual student use.
- School visitors/volunteers must be approved by building principals and be Covid symptom free.
- Interns and student teachers are required to be vaccinated prior to placement.
- Limiting indoor/outdoor activities/spaces to groups participating at the same time.

- **NOTE:** These are subject to change based on updated state and/or CDC mandates.

c. Handwashing and respiratory Etiquette:

- Emphasis will be placed on using hand sanitizing stations and regular hand washing.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be placed throughout all district buildings.
- Students will bring their own water bottles to school as drinking fountains will not be in use. Water bottle filling stations will be available.
- Monitor student distance and seating arrangements during lunch.
- Students and staff will be encouraged to use hand sanitizer/wash hands before and after eating.
- No sharing of food or utensils.
- Any special activities (e.g., birthdays, parties, etc.) may only include pre-packaged, single serve food/snack items.
- District teachers and staff will be provided with sanitizing spray and/or disinfectant wipes to clean shared spaces/materials throughout the day.
- Signage will be displayed in all buildings reminding students and staff of proper hygiene procedures.
- **NOTE:** These are subject to change based on updated state and/or CDC mandates.

d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation:

- District teachers and staff will be provided with sanitizing spray and/or disinfectant wipes to clean shared spaces/materials throughout the day.
- Signage will be displayed in all buildings reminding students and staff of proper hygiene procedures.
- Students and staff will be encouraged to use hand sanitizer. Sanitizing stations are located throughout all district buildings.
- Custodial staff will follow protocols in cleaning and disinfecting of buildings using a district-made checklist (based on CDC guidelines), overseen by the Director of Facilities and Maintenance. Custodial staff will be trained/retrained on cleaning protocols and new products on as needed basis by the Director of Facilities and Maintenance.
- A deep cleaning of the school buildings will take place on a regular basis.
- High touch areas (e.g., door knobs, light switches, desks, bathrooms, bottle fillers, etc.) will be disinfected throughout the school day.
- The District purchased Bi-polar Ionization machines which were installed in all district classrooms. These machines kill germs, bacteria, and viruses. The district is considering installing similar units in offices across the district.
- Health rooms received stronger/more powerful Bi-polar Ionization units.
- Building staff will follow the CDC, PDE, and DOH requirements for COVID-19 cleaning and disinfecting.
- **NOTE:** These are subject to change based on updated state and/or CDC mandates.

e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments:

- Parents/guardians are encouraged to screen their child(ren) for COVID-19 symptoms before sending them to school.
- Parents are expected to keep their child(ren) home if ill or experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms.
- Staff are encouraged to screen themselves for COVID-19 symptoms before reporting to school.
- Signage will be posted in all district building main entrances requesting anyone with COVID-19 symptoms to not approach or enter the building.
- If a student or staff member shows any COVID-19 symptoms at school, they will be sent immediately to the nurse's office for further evaluation and sent home as soon as possible, if warranted.
- If a student or staff member becomes infected with COVID-19, the area(s) of contamination will be cleaned and disinfected.
- Students quarantined due to Covid, will be provided with flexible attendance options (e.g., online instruction).
- The school district will contact and work in partnership with local health department officials to conduct contract tracing and notification of families.
- Confidentiality of those testing positive for COVID-19 will be maintained.
- Staff and students with fevers or symptoms associated with COVID-19 should seek medical attention from a health care physician for further evaluation and instructions before returning to school.
- Staff or students with symptoms that have had direct exposure to a person with COVID-19 will be considered probable cases and should remain excluded from school/work until a health care provider determines they are healthy to return to school or work.
- Students will have three educational options (in-person, cyber, or online learning (for verified Covid reasons only)).
- The District will follow Department of Health guidelines of when and how to notify families of confirmed cases.
- **NOTE:** These are subject to change based on updated state and/or CDC mandates.

f. Diagnostic and screening testing:

- Parents/guardians are encouraged to screen their child(ren) for COVID-19 symptoms before sending them to school.
- Parents are expected to keep their child(ren) home if ill or experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms.
- Staff are encouraged to screen themselves for COVID-19 symptoms before reporting to school.
- Signage will be posted in all district building main entrances requesting anyone with COVID-19 symptoms to not approach or enter the building.
- If a student or staff member shows any COVID-19 symptoms at school, they will be sent immediately to the nurse's office for further evaluation and sent home as soon as possible, if warranted.

- If a student or staff member becomes infected with COVID-19, the area(s) of contamination will be cleaned and disinfected.
- Staff and students with fevers or symptoms associated with COVID-19 should seek medical attention from a health care physician for further evaluation and instructions before returning to school.
- **NOTE:** These are subject to change based on updated state and/or CDC mandates.

g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities:

- The district held two vaccination clinics, one for adults (spring 2021) and one for students/adults aged 12 and older (summer 2021).
- The district will continue to offer vaccination clinics based on need and interest in our surrounding communities.
- The district has a good relationship with medical centers that provide services to hold a vaccination clinic.

h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and

- Instruction will be individualized according to each student's IEP or 504 plan.
- Students with medical, mental health, and/or disabilities that are documented by a physician/medical provider may be placed on a 504 plan.

i. Coordination with state and local health officials.

- The district will work with state and local officials for following appropriate contract tracing protocol and to determine school closures (if necessary).
- The district will contact local medical centers to hold a vaccination clinic based on need and/or interest of surrounding communities.

BEA District Policies:

- 110 Instructional Supplies
- 121 Field Trips
- 122 Extracurricular Activities
- 123 Athletic Programs
- 124 Alternative Instruction Methods
- 200 Enrollment in District
- 201 Admissions of Students
- 203 Immunization and Communicable Diseases
- 204 Attendance
- 207 Confidential Communication of Students
- 209 Health Examinations/Screening
- 209.1 Student Accident/Illness
- 210 Use of Medication
- 216 Student Records
- 217 Graduation Requirements
- 224 Care of School Property
- 236 Student Assistance Program
- 239 Foreign Exchange Student
- 246 Student Wellness
- 249 Bullying/Cyberbullying

- 703 Sanitary Management
- 704 Maintenance
- 705 Safety
- 707 Use of School Facilities
- 709 Building Security
- 804 School Day
- 805 Emergency Preparedness
- 808 Food Service
- 810 Transportation
- 815 Acceptable Use and Safety of Internet
- 815-A Attachment
- 819 Suicide Prevention and Interventions/Student Crisis Management Guidelines
- 908 Relations with Parents/Guardians
- 910 Community Engagement
- 917 Parental/Community Engagement

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **the Bald Eagle Area School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **July 27, 2021**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

Yes

No

Affirmed on: **July 27, 2021**

By:

(Signature of Board President)*
(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.