



# 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 to 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 student's 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.
- j. Determining changes in mode of instruction.

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: Iroquois School District

**Initial Effective Date: July 29, 2021**

**Date of Last Review: March 11, 2024**  
**Date of Last Revision: March 11, 2024**

The Iroquois School District is committed to the Health and Safety of all students and staff. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the members of the school board, staff, and our administrative team have worked hard to make sure that our students can attend school for in-person learning. We are thankful that the Iroquois School District community worked with us by keeping students who had symptoms or were exposed to a COVID-19-positive person or probable cases at home.

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 to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning?

The Iroquois School District will continue to work closely with local, state, and federal entities to ensure the safe reopening and operation of our programs. We will also continue to make decisions based on guidance from the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PADOH), the Erie County Department of Health (ECDH), the Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The CDC recommends integrating various prevention and control components, which we will ensure are reflected in our mitigation efforts including but not limited to layered prevention strategies, consideration of indicators of community transmission, and phased prevention strategies based on levels of community transmission.

Prevention strategies will include the correct use of PPE as ordered or recommended by the PADOH and PDE, physical distancing when appropriate and possible, continued handwashing and respiratory etiquette, cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, and contact tracing in conjunction with the ECDH.

2. How will the LEA ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address the student's academic needs, and students and staff members' social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services?

The Iroquois School District will continue to follow the school's needs regarding the continuity of services. We will continue to move between face-to-face instruction, and hybrid, or virtual learning environments based on their needs. Administration, faculty, and staff will work together to ensure that not just the academic needs of students are met, but all of the needs of our students are met. A variety of digital tools and resources will be implemented to ensure effective and meaningful supports are in place. We will continue to provide devices to students needing them for both in-person and remote learning.

Fully online or hybrid professional development opportunities will remain an option for administration, faculty, and staff. We may offer smaller, more frequent training sessions to meet the changing needs of administration, faculty, and staff during the pandemic.

We will continue to require an individualized approach for students with disabilities consistent with the student's IEP or 504 plan. We will consider adaptations and alternatives to COVID mitigation strategies while continuing all efforts to protect students, teachers, and staff to the greatest extent possible.

As conditions change throughout the year about COVID protocols, we will ensure communication is maintained with all stakeholders.

3. Use the table below to explain how the LEA will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff 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.

APPLICABLE Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <u>Universal and correct wearing of masks;</u></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Iroquois School District will adhere to any changing face-covering requirements according to the current CDC or ECDOH guidance.</li> <li>● Any changes to guidance will be communicated to all stakeholders.</li> <li>● Any masking requirements will comply with students' IEP and 504 plans.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <u>Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</u></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Follow current CDC guidance spacing and distance.</li> <li>● Any changes to guidance will be communicated to all stakeholders.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</u></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Signage and announcements to remind students and staff of proper handwashing and respiratory techniques will be present on campus.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <u>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</u></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● We will follow current CDC, PA DOH, and PDE guidelines for cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities including but not limited to:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sanitizing/cleaning of high-touch areas daily</li> <li>○ Building ventilation will remain a priority</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

- Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;

● The Iroquois School District will follow the recommendations of the CDC and ECDOH for any changes to isolation and contact tracing.

- Diagnostic and screening testing;

- The Iroquois School District encourages individuals to self-monitor symptoms prior to reporting to school or work. The COVID-19 symptom checker is posted on the district website, symptoms are posted in the buildings, and communication with stakeholders will be provided throughout the school year.
- Symptomatic individuals will refrain from reporting to work and follow employee absence procedures should they experience symptoms.
- Parent(s)/guardian(s) will refrain from sending students to school should they experience symptoms.
- In the event a person tests positive for COVID-19 or has been exposed to an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 parents should follow current CDC guidelines for mitigation recommendations.
- We will follow all IEP and 504 accommodations with respect to health and safety policies as documented.

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

- Coordination with state and local health officials.

- We will maintain existing partnerships with the ECDOH, PA DOH, and PDE through multiple methods of communication with our Pandemic Coordinator. Additional correspondence and coordination will occur as needed and situations arise throughout the year.

- Determining changes in the mode of instruction

- Building-level administrators, the Superintendent, and the Pandemic Coordinators will monitor daily cases of students in isolation or quarantine by the recommendations of the PA DOH, CDC, and PDE.
- Numbers will be reported to Erie County when requested. Any determinations to change modes of instruction will be made through coordinated correspondence with PDE and ECDOH.

### Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement


The Board of Directors/Trustees for the Iroquois School District reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on March 19, 2024.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

Yes- 9 8

No- 0

Affirmed on: March 19, 2024.

 ANDREW JACHULA  
Signature of Board President/Vice-President

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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 is needed.