



# ARP ESSER Health and Safety Plan Guidance & Template

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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: Bellefonte Area School District

**Initial Effective Date: January 12, 2022**

**Date of Last Review: January 11, 2022**

**Date of Last Revision: January 11, 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 BASD will employ a layered prevention and mitigation strategy for the 2021-22 school year to operate in-person schooling in a safe and continuous manner.

The district will operate normally unless data related to the COVID19 pandemic indicate a need to phase in or add an additional layer of protection for staff and students. Data will be reviewed weekly to determine the need for additional mitigation measures.

Layered and Phased Prevention Strategies and Mitigation Efforts will be based on levels of community, district, building, and classroom transmission, reviewed weekly by the district administration.

Layers of mitigation measures could include:

- Masks / face coverings
- Physical distancing
- Increased handwashing, hand sanitizer, and respiratory etiquette
- Cohorting students
- Minimizing exposure from those outside the school organization.
- Deeper cleaning /sanitizing and ventilation efforts
- Contact tracing, isolation, and quarantining of affected individuals as outlined in district developed guidelines and protocols.
- Temporary remote learning options
- Other
  - Wearing face coverings will always be optional for district staff and students. Parents should notify their child's teacher should they desire their child to wear a face covering. The district will maintain a supply to be distributed as needed.
  - Teaching staff may continue to use physical distancing and desk shields in classrooms as they deem necessary to maintain the health and safety of students.
  - Hand sanitizer will continue to be provided to each classroom with a suggested schedule for use.

- Other suggestions and recommendations from the CDC, PDE, and PA DOH, to the extent possible.
- Limit non-essential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations if there is a significant outbreak in the school district.

The district is committed to remaining open to in-person learning and operating normally until all other prevention measures in the community have been employed before adding other mitigation measures.

When making decisions about and considering layered or phased prevention and mitigation strategies, the district will consider:

- Compliance with prevention strategies
- Level of community transmission
- Current layering of prevention strategies
- Collaboration with local health officials (PA DOH)

The district will prioritize in person instruction over extra-curricular activities if necessary to minimize risk of transmission.

Younger children and vulnerable groups will be prioritized for remaining in person if remote learning is considered to minimize transmission.

While remaining open to in-person learning is a priority, the district will continue to offer full-time remote learning through the district's BeLA (Bellefonte eLearning Academy) program for families that feel this remote learning option is best for their child for the upcoming school year.

The superintendent has completed and submitted the *Emergency Instructional Time Template Section 520.1 - 2021-22 School Year* to provide for remote learning days should this layer of mitigation be needed for the upcoming school year. These remote learning days will be temporary and based on the community and district COVID transmission data.

The district will utilize temporary or parts of a school closure first.

The school nursing department will:

- update as necessary, the Sick Day /Stay at Home guidelines for parents and make recommendations to parents regarding school attendance for students with medical symptoms or exposure to COVID19
- and offer referrals for diagnostic testing to any student/family to testing centers as indicated by symptoms or known exposure to COVID19
  - Maintain a list of places for testing on the district website
  - HR office will provide recommendations/referrals for staff
- and support and share public health efforts for vaccines to be posted on the district website

Attendance Policy flexibility may be granted on an individual basis for those who are following the Stay at Home guidelines, are isolated or quarantined.

#### Equity Considerations

- Continue with 1:1 Chromebooks
- District-sponsored program to increase internet access for families in need
- Consideration for vulnerable groups should remote learning be indicated
- Develop and maintain community partnerships to ensure that referrals for mental health services or services to maintain social and emotional well-being of students and families is available.
- Develop partnerships to assist families with basic needs such as food, shelter and medical care.
  - Participate in the USDA waivers that allow all children to continue to receive free meals for the 2021-22 school year.
  - YMCA Anti-hunger programs

The Human Resources department will work with any staff who have individual health-related needs.

The district will request that district staff and families report positive cases to the school to facilitate contact tracing and ensure communication and planning.

Students who are isolated or quarantined will have the opportunity to participate in classes remotely to the extent possible. The use of Google Classroom, Google Meet, and other district programs may be utilized for maintaining participation in learning.

The district will also consider all directives from the CDC, PDE, PA DOH, and others as they may become available.

Source of information:

[CDC COVID-19 Schools, Child Care, and Colleges](#)

[PDE/DOH Resources for School Communities During COVID-19](#)

[Responding to COVID-19 Case\(s\) in Schools](#)

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 district is committed to ensuring continuity of services to address academic needs by offering In Person learning full-time with a plan for temporary remote learning as COVID case data indicates. A fully-remote learning option (BeLA) will be available to any families that decide this is a better option for their current situation. The district increased staffing at BeLA to meet the increase in numbers. The district will continue to offer ESY in the summer

and throughout the school year as deemed appropriate and necessary. After school tutoring may be implemented at the elementary level during the school year and remediation and interventions for secondary students will be developed. An MTSS & an EST system will be implemented at the elementary level to address academic needs in reading and math. Student Assistance Teams (SAP) will continue to operate K-12 in addition to PBIS to address student SEL needs. School Counselors and Social workers are also available to all families. The School Board approved the hiring of a second Social Worker to meet family needs. The district will participate in waivers with the USDA to provide free meals to all students for the upcoming school year and collaborate with the YMCAs Anti-hunger programs additional family support.

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
<p>a. <b>Universal and correct wearing of <a href="#">masks</a>;</b></p>	<p>As a layered/phased prevention or mitigation strategy based on student/staff case counts or information from the CDC, PA DOH, and/or PDE. A district or building mask mandate could be considered should positive case counts start to impact if a building can remain open. See above.</p>
<p>b. <b>Modifying facilities to allow for <a href="#">physical distancing</a> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</b></p>	<p>As a layered/phased prevention or mitigation strategy based on student/staff case counts or information from the CDC, PA DOH, and/or PDE. See above.</p>
<p>c. <b><a href="#">Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</a>;</b></p>	<p>As a layered/phased prevention or mitigation strategy based on student/staff case counts or information from the CDC, PA DOH, and/or PDE. See above.</p>
<p>d. <b><a href="#">Cleaning</a> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <a href="#">ventilation</a>;</b></p>	<p>As a layered/phased prevention or mitigation strategy based on student/staff case counts or information from the CDC, PA DOH, and/or PDE. See above.</p>
<p>e. <b><a href="#">Contact tracing</a> in combination with <a href="#">isolation</a> and <a href="#">quarantine</a>, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</b></p>	<p>As a layered/phased prevention or mitigation strategy based on student/staff case counts or information from the CDC, PA DOH, and/or PDE. Superintendent or designee will develop contact</p>

	tracing/quarantine guidelines based on school & community status and considerations from CDC, DOH, & PDE. These may be updated as conditions change. See above.
f. <b><u>Diagnostic</u></b> and screening testing;	Offer referrals and maintain a website information page for community resources that offer these services. <a href="https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Symptoms-Testing.aspx">https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Symptoms-Testing.aspx</a> The district will explore the availability of onsite diagnostic testing for symptomatic students and close contacts. If a program is started, the superintendent or designee will establish testing guidelines for staff and students.
g. Efforts to provide <b><u>vaccinations to school communities</u></b> ;	Offer referrals and maintain a website information page for community resources that offer these services. <a href="https://www.vaccines.gov/search/">https://www.vaccines.gov/search/</a>
h. <b>Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</b>	Will follow all IDEA requirements for students with disabilities and provide special consideration for vulnerable populations to remain in-person to the extent possible. See above.
i. <b>Coordination with state and local health officials.</b>	We have a close relationship with IU10 staff, DOH epidemiologists, local providers, pharmacists, the YMCA, agencies that provide counseling and basic needs, etc to meet the needs of families.

**BASD Board Policies related to the Health and Safety of students: #203 Immunizations & Communicable Diseases; #204 Attendance; #236 Student Assistance Programs; #246 Student Wellness**

**Public input for this plan occurred in the following ways:**

- Board meetings during public comments
- Emails and phone calls with stakeholders
- Public comments via the district website “public comments” form
- Solicited parental review prior to board approval
- ~~A survey related to remote learning will be conducted at a later date~~



## Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Bellefonte Area School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **January 11, 2022**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

\_\_\_\_\_ **Yes**

\_\_\_\_\_ **No**

Affirmed on: January 11, 2022

By:

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*(Signature\* of Board 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 needed.