



# 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 Through an Integrated System of Support](#)
- [PA Department of Health - COVID-19 in Pennsylvania](#)

## Health and Safety Plan Summary: Hanover Area School District

Initial Effective Date: July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021

Date of Last Review: July 14, 2022

Date of Last Revision: March 31, 2023

Date of Last Revision: February 15, 2024

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 Hanover Area School District will continue to implement the best practice(s) & current mitigation strategies used throughout the pandemic and/or heightened contagious illness periods. We will regularly monitor the transmission rates within our schools, based on reported parent information, attendance rates and nursing log data. This data will be utilized to determine the effectiveness of our efforts and determine when our plan needs to be adapted to better-serve our school community. The HASD will implement any mandates and/or guidance that the Pennsylvania Department of Health and the Center for Disease Control, put forth. As prevention and mitigation procedures evolve, they will then be addressed by the Hanover Area Student Health Response Team, resulting in recommendations/adaptations brought to our Board of Education for a formal affirmative vote for change.

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?

During the 2021-22 school year, the HASD issued Chromebooks to implement a 1:1 initiative from grades K-12. (Pre-Kindergarten with iPads) The instructional delivery methods utilized this school year will continually evolve and be tailored to the community need, based on absentee rates related to COVID and contagious illnesses. In-person instruction will be utilized unless the physical environment is deemed unsafe. If unsafe conditions arise, the district will shift to a virtual education format. Google classroom is readily available for a seamless transition to create safer educational delivery for students and staff. Special education, social work/counseling & therapeutic services will be executed remotely to assure continuity of services.

In the 2021-22 school year, the HASD implemented a School Based Behavioral Health team, focusing on the mental and behavioral health needs of students. Also, we have a full-time school psychologist & two licensed social workers to address additional mental health needs.

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. Universal and correct wearing of <a href="#">masks</a>;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each school is its own entity with COVID-19 and contagious illness positivity rates. As a result, individual building rates will determine the re-establishment of the mask mandate below. If the district reaches a 10% absenteeism rate due to contagious illness, a district mask recommendation would be issued. HASD will continue to implement the parent-choice masking protocol.</li> </ul>
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for <a href="#">physical distancing</a> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<p>Environmental Precautions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>February 13, 2024 UPDATE: Water fountains have been turned on and are accessible to students throughout the district. Water Testing was completed in February 2023 at every school, and results have been posted on our district website.</li> </ul>
<p>c. <a href="#">Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</a>;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hand sanitizer provided throughout each building.</li> </ul>
<p>d. <a href="#">Cleaning</a> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <a href="#">ventilation</a>;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>February 13, 2024 UPDATE: Due to the high percentage of absences resulting from a number of contagious illnesses aside from COVID-19, the district will begin tracking each building's attendance rate daily. Each school building will be treated as its own entity. Should</li> </ul>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p>any building have 10% or more of its total population (including students &amp; staff) absent on any given day, that building will shift to remote status the following day.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Based on absenteeism rates and supplementary data, additional cleaning and sanitizing efforts would be implemented.</li> </ul>
<p>e. <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;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>February 13, 2024 UPDATE: Contact tracing is not currently in effect as there is no masking mandate. In addition, changes to quarantine recommendations have also eliminated the requirement to report close contacts and household members to the district.</li> <li>A Five-day quarantine is required only for individuals testing positive for COVID 19. Then will require Five-day masking.</li> <li>Families with possible exposure will always have the ability to request a rapid-antigen test from our medical staff by simply utilizing the online request for testing form on <a href="http://www.hanoverarea.org">www.hanoverarea.org</a>.</li> </ul>
<p>f. <a href="#">Diagnostic</a> and screening testing;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The HASD has all medical staff (School Nurses) trained in rapid antigen testing &amp; routinely provides on-site testing to any &amp; all students with parental permission.</li> <li><a href="http://www.hanoverarea.org">www.hanoverarea.org</a> - homepage houses several links</li> </ul>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p>for submission to the district concerning diagnostics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Positive Case Submission Form</li> <li>- Vaccination Declaration Form (including booster)</li> <li>- COVID-19 Parent Authorization Form</li> </ul>
<p>g. Efforts to provide <a href="#">vaccinations to school communities</a>;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vaccination information is available upon request.</li> </ul>
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The district will always provide for specified needs per student(s). Any necessary accommodations for staff &amp; students with disabilities pertaining to the health &amp; safety of our community will be adhered to, within the capabilities of the HASD.</li> </ul>
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HASD has a longstanding relationship with the Luzerne County Department of Health. We are committed to working with PDE &amp; DOH to implement their guidance &amp; mandates in an effort to provide the safest environment for students &amp; staff.</li> </ul>
<p>J. In the event of a future pandemic.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hanover Area School District has developed a response plan in the event of a future pandemic. The focus of the plan is to optimize the health &amp; safety of both the staff &amp; student-body. Meanwhile, preserving the district's ability to conduct in-person instruction through environmental &amp; personal safety precautions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The District also has developed educational format levels of operation:</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Green – Full in-person instruction with the use of CDC &amp; DOH recommendations.</li> <li>- Yellow – Hybrid Instruction, where students &amp; families will be accommodated based on comfort requests. Due to the community health, parents can choose this educational format during the yellow phase only.</li> <li>- Red – Completely virtual instructional delivery. Community health rates are not safe enough for students to be within the buildings of the HASD &amp; instruction will be carried out in a remote format.</li> </ul>
Changes made March 2022	
Changes made July 2022	
Changes made March 2023	
Changes made February 15, 2024	



## Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **the Hanover Area School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **February 15, 2024**.

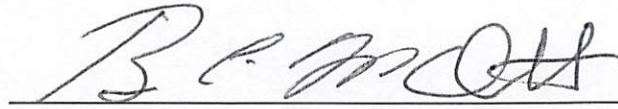
The plan was approved by a vote of:

8 Yes

0 No

Affirmed on: **February 16, 2024**.

By:



*(Signature\* of Board President)*

Brian C. McDermott

*(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.