



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

Health and Safety Plan Summary: **Blackhawk School District**

Initial Effective Date: July __, 2021

Date of Last Review: July __, 2021

Date of Last Revision: July __, 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?

Blackhawk intends to open the 2021-2022 school year with five days of in person instruction for students.

Additional instructional models will be prepared, in the event that schools are required to mitigate transmission through cohort grouping. In developing a Health & Safety Plan for the 2021-2022 school year, all should be mindful that as long as there are cases of COVID-19 in the community, there are no strategies that can completely eliminate the transmission risk within a school population. The District seeks to mitigate transmission while continuing to provide in-person instructional opportunities along with continuing school activities.

As of the writing of this Health and Safety Plan, the only guidance provided was that Pennsylvania local school boards would retain control of COVID-19 protocols. The CDC released recommendations on July 9, 2021; these recommendations can be found [here](#). The PA Department of Health and the Pennsylvania Department of Education released a statement on July 9, 2021 that they will provide additional guidance in the coming weeks. As this guidance is released, BSD will revise the plan as needed to meet requirements.

Mitigation Efforts to Reduce Transmission – PREVENTION

- Develop and communicate policies that encourage sick employees and students to stay at home without fear of reprisal. Consider not having perfect attendance awards, not assessing schools based on absenteeism, offering virtual learning, if feasible, due to COVID-19 or other documented medical absence.
 - Provide guidance to staff and families about when they/their child(ren) should stay home and when they can return to school, based upon the most up to date guidance from the CDC and the PA Department of Health.
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 past 15 months have presented unimaginable challenges for students, student’s families, and school districts. As the district develops this Health & Safety Plan, it is necessary to address the needs of the students and staff. Blackhawk and the School Board will re-evaluate the plan as often as necessary and make changes as conditions warrant.

The district has implemented many programs to address students’ academic needs. Through the implementation of a 1:1 technology program along with providing all students with home internet access to allow for a seamless flow of instruction for all students.

As part of the continuity of services, it is vital to address the social and emotional well-being of the students and staff. The district utilizes its guidance department, as well as contracting with Western Psych, to offer needed mental health assessments, opportunities for addressing mental health crisis, and providing mental health in-service opportunities. The district encourages students and staff to take breaks from watching, reading, or listening to news stories about COVID-19, including social media if they are feeling overwhelmed or distressed. The district encourages students and staff to eat healthy, exercise, get necessary sleep, and find time to unwind. The district encourages students and staff to talk to people they trust about their concerns and how they are feeling.

The district will continue to pack and distribute take-home meals for the students and students’ families who express a need.

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"> • Masking decisions are a parental choice. • If the CDC, the PA Department of Health, and the Pennsylvania Department of Education mandate masking, the district will re-evaluate masking and provide any guidance for exemptions. • If masking is mandatory, provide masks to individuals who are unable to provide their own mask, while supplies last. Staff provide their own mask
b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blackhawk intends to open the school year with five days of in person instruction for students.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the understanding that modified instruction models will be prepared and may be necessary, BSD will develop and communicate alternate learning schedules (remote instruction, hybrid instruction, in-person instruction, cyber instruction) if necessary for a classroom, grade-level, school, or entire district • Promote social distancing, when appropriate, but not in a manner that impedes teaching and learning. • Limit any non-essential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations as much as possible • Provide physical lines, identification labels, etc... on hallways, sidewalks, walls to create more efficient flows of traffic (e.g. guides for creating “one way routes” in hallways)
c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette ;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage hand washing with soap and hot water for at least 20 seconds • Hand sanitizer available in common areas and all classrooms and students and staff will be encouraged to use hand sanitizer upon entry into a building and into each classroom • Encourage students and staff to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash.
d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation ;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure proper signage is installed in building entrances, restrooms, hallways and common areas, offices, and classrooms that promote everyday protective measures and describe how to mitigate the spread of germs • Ensure supplies are readily available for custodians, students, and staff

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disinfect high touch areas frequently • Ensure safe and correct use and storage of cleaning and disinfection products • Limit shared classroom materials when possible • Utilize outdoor learning spaces for small group instruction • Clean and disinfect outdoor learning/play equipment
<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"> • Guidance on contact tracing, isolation, and quarantining are the responsibility of the CDC and the PA Department of Health. Should schools be directed to contact trace and report to the PA Department of Health, BSD will follow the guidance. • Students/Students' Families/Staff: Sick individuals should consult with their healthcare provider and local health department if they are sick with COVID-19 symptoms • Students/Students' Families/Staff: Sick individuals should not return until they have met CDC and PA Department of Health criteria • Provide designated isolation areas near the nurse's office to protect students and staff • Observe students/staff throughout the day and refer, to the school nurse, those who may exhibit or report COVID-19 like symptoms
<p>f. Diagnostic and screening testing;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage individuals to participate in a voluntary daily health screening, prior to entering a bus/building • Prepare COVID-19 tracking and monitoring tools, should the PA Department of Health or the PA Department of Education direct schools to do so.
<p>g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently, COVID-19 vaccinations for students and staff are an individual choice.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff were provided an opportunity to receive vaccines via the Intermediate Unit on March 11, 12, and 13. UPMC offered a clinic on district campuses for students and the community on May 27 and June 17.
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The district will address all students with disabilities and students identified with a documented need per Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (Section 504) of the Individuals with Disability Education Act (IDEA). Whether through the IEP or a 504 Service Agreement, the student's team will convene to determine, if based upon the information available, the student needs additional or changes to accommodations.
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When needed, communicate COVID-19 positive or presumed positive to Department of Health • Coordinate with Department of Health when assessing risk and other close contacts for a confirmed case

DRAFT

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Blackhawk School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **July __, 2021**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

Yes

No

Affirmed on: **July __, 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.