



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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: STRIDE SW Residential Program

Initial Effective Date: October 28, 2021

Date of Last Review: June 27, 2024

Date of Last Revision: June 27, 2024

1. How will STRIDE SW Residential Program, 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 STRIDE SW Residential program, in collaboration with the Armstrong School district, is committed to providing in-person learning to the maximum extent possible. The school, and the residential program, will continue to follow guidance from the Center for Disease Control, the Pennsylvania Department of Health and the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

2. How will STRIDE SW Residential Program 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?

Continuity of services will continue to be offered by continuation of placement within local schools as assigned by the IEP/education determination process. In the event that a student's school moves to remote or alternative learning, the program staff will assist in supporting the students to complete assignments as required.

Student's Academic Needs – remote learning will be implemented as defined by the Local Education Agency. Residential staff will provide support to the students when needed.

Student and Staff Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs – student needs will continue to be monitored by the residential program staff. Staff resources such as the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), are available to all staff.

Food Service Needs – The residential program will continue to provide food services for all students when educated at the facility and/or in the alternative school setting. The continuity of services will continue regardless of in-person or remote learning.

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 <u>masks</u> ;	STRIDE SW Residential Program will continue to follow CDC, PDE and PADOH's guidance, expectations, and any updates on masking. Continued training and professional development will be planned and implemented to train students and staff on correct mask wearing. All students and staff will be masked as per current CDC or DOH guidance. Individual modifications will be made based on individual student needs when required. Students will be provided breaks throughout the day wherein masks can be removed. In the event that the facility identifies the need to quarantine due to close contact or suspected/positive COVID-19 case, the staff and students will follow all actions in the site's pandemic plan, including utilizing the appropriate level of PPE depending on the situation.
b. Modifying facilities to allow for <u>physical distancing</u> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);	Staff and student will continue to maintain a distance of three to six feet apart or as indicated per regulatory guidelines. All residential areas will continue to honor maximum capacity numbers. Congregate activities such as meals, physical activities, and other interactions will be modified as needed given the level of community spread as per the site's approved pandemic plan.
c. <u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</u> ;	Residential programming will continue to educate students and staff on safe and healthy hygiene practices. This includes both hand washing and respiratory etiquette. Hand sanitizing dispensers have been installed in all programs and high traffic areas. Signage has been posted throughout the program illustrating proper hand washing techniques.
d. <u>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation</u> ;	Learning spaces, surfaces, and any other areas used by students are cleaned daily following CDC, PADOH and PDE guidelines. At any time, when safe, and appropriate, ventilation will be increased by opening windows and doors. Each facility has the ability to utilize an air purifier to maintain appropriate purification and circulation.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
e. <u>Contact tracing</u> in combination with <u>isolation</u> and <u>quarantine</u> , in collaboration with the State and local health departments;	The program will continue to follow all legally required mandates and directives by the Pennsylvania Department of Health.
f. <u>Diagnostic</u> and screening testing;	Residential students will be screened at the group home each morning and afternoon, as well as monitored for any signs or symptoms of illness.
g. Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to school communities</u> ;	Staff and clients are offered vaccinations as consistent with community availability. The program will continue to share vaccination opportunities for students, staff and the community.
h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	The program will provide the appropriate accommodations and adaptations based on the student's needs and/or guidance by the student's health care provider as it relates to their health and safety.
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	STRIDE SW Residential Program will continue to collaborate and coordinate with state and local health officials for the 2024-2025 school year.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Children's Center for Treatment and Education, D.B.A., Beacon Light Behavioral Health System** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **June 27, 2024**

The plan was approved by a vote of:

5 Yes

0 No

Affirmed on: **June 27, 2024**

By:



(Signature* of Board President)

MAURICE J. CASHMAN

(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.