



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;

The Ambridge Area School District's health and safety plan was presented to the Health and Safety Plan Committee on a meeting held on Thursday, June 10, 2021. The latest guidance from the Center for Disease Control was entered into the plan and discussed with the committee and voted on by the committee in order to implement best practices for mitigation concerning COVID-19.

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;

The district will work to determine additional considerations and supports needed for students with disabilities with complex medical needs to ensure the safety of these students and the individuals providing services to these students. Following PDE regulations, special education teachers will complete the revision of IEPs to address remote learning and reflect the reopening plan. In addition, the district will work to address equity and truancy risks relating to vulnerable populations such as homeless students, migrant students, English Learners and those served by the juvenile justice system. To provide students all necessary services, buildings will utilize SAP/Child Study teams to identify students struggling to re-acclimate to school setting and utilize Prevention specialists, social workers, guidance counselors to meet with students requiring social-emotional supports (face-to-face; virtual).

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:

The Ambridge Area School District will continue to follow this Health and Safety Plan until the Pennsylvania Department and/or the Center for Disease Control issues guidance that following this plan is no longer necessary to protect all stakeholders involved or receives services in the Ambridge Area School District.

Health and Safety Plan Summary: **Ambridge Area School District**

Initial Effective Date: **August 1, 2021**

Date of Last Review: **January 9, 2024**

Date of Last Revision: **August 18, 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 Ambridge Area School District's health and safety plan was presented to the Health and Safety Plan Committee on a meeting held on Thursday, June 10, 2021. The latest guidance from the Center for Disease Control was entered into the plan and discussed with the committee and voted on by the committee in order to implement best practices for mitigation concerning COVID-19.

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 will work to determine additional considerations and supports needed for students with disabilities with complex medical needs to ensure the safety of these students and the individuals providing services to these students. Following PDE regulations, special education teachers will complete the revision of IEPs to address remote learning and reflect the reopening plan. In addition, the district will work to address equity and truancy risks relating to vulnerable populations such as homeless students, migrant students, English Learners and those served by the juvenile justice system. To provide students all necessary services, buildings will utilize SAP/Child Study teams to identify students struggling to re-acclimate to school setting and utilize Prevention specialists, social workers, guidance counselors to meet with students requiring social-emotional supports (face-to-face; virtual).

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;	• The Ambridge Area School District will follow all state and federal masking orders. The Ambridge Area School District will review all recommendations with the board of school directors for their approval/disapproval. • When possible, AASD will distance the students in accordance with all state and federal social distancing orders. The Ambridge Area School District will review all recommendations with the board of school directors for their approval/disapproval. • When 4% of the building's students and staff test positive within a 14-day rolling window, that building would be required to mask, including guests and indoor sports spectators, with the exception of lunch periods, athletes participating in their sport, and physical education classes. This will stay in effect until that building's positive case numbers fall below 3%. • Provide protective face coverings (masks or face shields) to staff and students, including visiting adults if mandated or numbers reach what was approved at the January 19, 2022 school board meeting. • Teachers will continue to wear face coverings all day if mandated or numbers reach what was approved at the January 19, 2022 school board meeting. • ALL Students will wear face coverings in the hallways, on buses and in other areas at all times if mandated or numbers reach what was approved at the January 19, 2022 school board meeting. • When seated at their desk, or in the cafeteria, students may remove their masks if mandated or numbers reach what was approved at the January 19, 2022 school board meeting. • District will provide masks for students that forget/require new masks if mandated or numbers reach what was approved at the January 19, 2022 school board meeting.
b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);	• Establish distances of 6 feet (AASD will distance the students in accordance with all state and federal social distancing orders. The Ambridge Area School District will review all recommendations and implement when possible with the board of school directors'

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	approval/disapproval) between student desks/seating and other social distancing practices to the maximum extent feasible and appropriate. • All cafeteria seating will return to pre-pandemic protocol.
c. <u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</u>;	• School staff will teach and reinforce washing hands and covering coughs and sneezes among students and staff. Students will wash/sanitize their hands prior to leaving and when returning to the classroom. In addition, staff will instruct students on the proper use, and reasoning for, face coverings among all staff and students. The district will provide masks for students, staff and school visitors if mandated or numbers reach 4%, as approved at the January 19, 2022 school board meeting. • The Ambridge Area School District will follow all state and federal masking orders. The Ambridge Area School District will review all recommendations with the board of school directors for their approval/disapproval.
d. <u>Cleaning</u> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <u>ventilation</u>;	• Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects within the school and on school buses at least daily, including door handles, sink handles, whenever possible frequently throughout the day. Open drinking fountains throughout the building and permit students to bring an individualized water bottle, unless any individual building reaches 4% as approved at the March 16, 2022 school board meeting. • At the March 16, 2022 Ambridge Area School District School Board meeting, it was approved to modify the Health and Safety Plan to allow the operation of water fountains in all school buildings unless the COVID-19 case percentages in an individual building exceed 4%. At that time the water fountains at that specific building would be shut off until board approval to return to water fountain use.

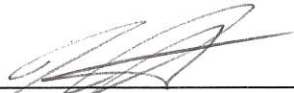
ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
e. <u>Contact tracing</u> in combination with <u>isolation</u> and <u>quarantine</u> , in collaboration with the State and local health departments;	• The Ambridge Area School District will follow the CDC COVID quarantine and isolation guidelines. • The district will also establish a process to address privacy concerns of monitoring practices and the potential stigma associated with monitoring and confirmed exposure or cases, and create a communication system for staff and families for self-reporting of symptoms and notification of exposures and closures.
f. <u>Diagnostic</u> and screening testing;	• AASD will, again, follow state and federal guidelines and comply with orders.
g. Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to school communities</u> ;	• The Ambridge Area School District will share local community and vaccination efforts with students and staff as well as provide literature concerning vaccinations and public in our schools.
h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	• The district will work to determine additional considerations and supports needed for students with disabilities with complex medical needs to ensure the safety of these students and the individuals providing services to these students. Following PDE regulations, special education teachers will complete the revision of IEPs to address remote learning and reflect the reopening plan. In addition, the district will work to address equity and truancy risks relating to vulnerable populations such as homeless students, migrant students, English Learners and those served by the juvenile justice system. To provide students all necessary services, buildings will utilize SAP/Child Study teams to identify students struggling to re-acclimate to school setting and utilize Prevention specialists, social workers, guidance counselors to meet with students requiring social-emotional supports (face-to-face; virtual).
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	• The Ambridge Area School District will follow all state and federal orders. The Ambridge Area School District will review all recommendations with the board of school directors for their approval/disapproval.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Ambridge Area School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **June 15, 2021. The Ambridge Area School District Board or School Directors reviewed the following Health and Safety Plan at their January 10, 2024 meeting. There were no changes to the previously approved plan.**

Affirmed on: **Wednesday, January 10, 2024**

By:



(Signature* of Board President)

Mr. John Carpenter, School 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.