

NORTHERN TIOGA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Building Opportunities

Health and Safety Plan
Northern Tioga School District
2023-2024



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: Northern Tioga School District

Initial Effective Date: August 9, 2021

Date of Last Review: August 14, 2023

Date of Last Revision: February 12, 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 CDC guidelines will be consistently reviewed and implemented as required by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) and the Department of Health (DOH).

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 LEA has a remote learning plan and a meal plan (for in-person and remote). Counseling services are in place for students using both district social workers and counselors as well as school based out-patient services. Professional development has been provided for SEL and we are in the process of implementation.

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 ;	Face masks are encouraged but not required unless required by CDC, PDE, DOH, or a governmental order.
b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);	Classroom/space occupancy will follow CDC, PDE, and DOH requirements.
c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette ;	Encourage handwashing and respiratory etiquette by posting signs to promote protective measures and verbal reminders. Hand sanitizer will be positioned throughout the school.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<p>d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</p>	<p>The district will follow the CDC's requirements for cleaning & disinfecting schools.</p> <p>Clean and sanitize frequently used areas multiple times daily.</p> <p>Increase ventilation rates for occupied and unoccupied times as possible.</p> <p>Complete checklist of sanitization and disinfecting responsibilities for areas including the cafeteria, public restrooms, entryways, and playgrounds.</p>
<p>e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<p>Contact tracing, isolation, and quarantine will be determined by following CDC, PDE, and DOH requirements in collaboration with our local health department.</p>
<p>f. Diagnostic and screening testing;</p>	<p>Parents/guardians will be encouraged to complete symptom screening at home each morning before the school day.</p> <p>All district staff are encouraged to perform a symptom screen on themselves prior to leaving for work, and will stay home if ill.</p> <p>Temperature screening may be required upon entrance to school for students or staff.</p> <p>Students and staff will be made aware of the signs and symptoms of COVID-19.</p> <p>Students who are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 should not ride the bus or come to school.</p> <p>Students and staff will go to the nurse immediately if symptomatic.</p> <p>The district will share resources with the school community to help families understand when to keep children home.</p> <p>Work with school administrators, nurses, and other healthcare providers to identify an isolation room or area to separate anyone who has COVID-19 symptoms.</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p>Consult local and state Department of Health and they will notify staff and families of confirmed case while maintaining confidentiality.</p> <p>Persons with COVID-19 who have symptoms and were directed to care for themselves at home may discontinue isolation under the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At least 10 days have passed since symptom onset and - At least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and - Other symptoms have improved. <p>The district may require a doctor's release to return.</p>
<p>g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;</p>	<p>Work with local medical providers to support local vaccination efforts.</p> <p>Follow CDC requirements concerning vaccinations.</p>
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<p>Consider developing individual healthcare plans for higher risk students and staff.</p> <p>Provide behavioral health/emotional support as needed.</p> <p>Provide extra precautions in low incidence programs (AS, MDS, SFLS, LSS).</p> <p>Where necessary, these precautions may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional handwashing. - Avoidance of communal objects. - Cleaning of personal devices. - Keeping facilities clean. - Following CDC personal protective equipment guidelines.
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<p>Continued commitment to coordination efforts with state and local health officials.</p>

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for Northern Tioga School District reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on February 12, 2024.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

7 Yes


0 No

Affirmed on: February 12, 2024

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.