



# 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: Baldwin-Whitehall School District

Initial Effective Date: July 21, 2021

Dates of Review: October 6, 2021

January 12, 2022

Date of Last Revision: January 12, 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 Baldwin-Whitehall School District administrative team will monitor the latest recommendations from the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), Pennsylvania Department of Health (PADOH) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and review the Baldwin-Whitehall School District Health and Safety Plan (BWHSP) at the minimum of prior to each school semester, and update the BWHSP as needed. The BWHSP will be presented to the Board of School Directors for initial approval prior to July 30, 2021, and subsequently when changes are necessary. Facilities, practices, and protocols will be adapted and modified to the extent possible to ensure that appropriate prevention and mitigation processes are followed.

The District shall continue to incorporate standard preventative measures such as physical distancing to the greatest extent possible, increased ventilation and air flow, handwashing and respiratory etiquette, cleaning and disinfecting, contact tracing and isolation/quarantine protocols, encouraging staff and students to stay home when not feeling well, use of PPE when required, and other standard mitigation efforts to reduce close contacts to the greatest extent practicable.

The District shall implement strategies to encourage the vaccination of students and staff as well as explore developing guidance related to screening testing.

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 Baldwin-Whitehall School District will continue to implement the academic and support services and programs as outlined in the District Comprehensive Plan. Modifications and standard mitigation strategies as outlined in the BWHSP will be made to ensure that programming and support efforts address the needs of the students, families and staff of the Baldwin-Whitehall School District. The delivery of education shall be adapted to the needs of students as appropriate, including the creation of a full remote learning program as well as short-term remote learning options as needed and as appropriate.**

**Social, emotional, mental health and other needs shall be provided by District social workers, school counselors, school health providers and other personnel as needed. Screening measures shall be utilized to gather feedback from students and families regarding areas of concern or need.**

**The District Food Service Department shall continue to provide meals to all eligible students utilizing the USDA's Seamless Summer Option for the 2021-22 school year.**

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. Masking (Graduated Masking Strategy) | <p>Utilizing feedback obtained through surveys of the parents/guardians, students (grades 6-12), and the faculty of the Baldwin-Whitehall School District distributed in December 2021 and January 2022, the following graduated masking strategy shall be implemented beginning January 25, 2022. The single greatest area of feedback related to comfort level of masking involved "Case Numbers and Transmission Rates within Allegheny County." Therefore:</p> <p><u>Low Level of Community Transmission:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low levels of county transmission rates and school-collected data may be used to recommend that masks become optional. The District may still recommend the proper wearing of masks as outlined by the CDC, ACHD, PADOH, and PDE.</li> </ul> |

**ARP ESSER Requirement**

**Strategies, Policies, and Procedures**

- The District shall comply with the CDC [order](#) regarding the use of masks on school buses, regardless of whether the student or employee is vaccinated or not.

Moderate Level of Community Transmission:

- Moderate levels of county transmission rates and school-collected data may result in the District strongly recommending that students, staff, and visitors wear masks within the indoor environments of the school buildings.
- Masks may be removed during breakfast and lunch periods while the students are eating and drinking.
- Mask breaks for students wearing masks shall be incorporated throughout the school day.
- The District shall comply with the CDC [order](#) regarding the use of masks on school buses, regardless of whether the student or employee is vaccinated or not.

Substantial or High Levels of Community Transmission:

- Substantial or High levels of county transmission rates and school-collected data may result in the District requiring masks to be worn by all students, staff, and visitors within the indoor environments of the school buildings.
- Staff and students will be trained on and reminded of proper mask use.
- Masks may be removed during breakfast and lunch periods while the students are eating and drinking.
- Mask breaks for students wearing masks shall be incorporated throughout the school day.
- Athletes shall be exempt from wearing a mask during active competition, however they shall wear a mask on the sideline, locker room, and other times during non-competition.
- The District shall comply with the CDC [order](#) regarding the use of masks on school buses, regardless of whether the student or employee is vaccinated or not.
- Medical documentation would be required for any individual to opt out of the mask requirement.

Shifts between levels included within this plan shall only be considered after a two-week collection of data and a report to the Board of School Directors.

| ARP ESSER Requirement   | Strategies, Policies, and Procedures   |
|---|--|
| <p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for <a href="#">physical distancing</a> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximum capacities will be determined for all educational spaces</li> <li>• Unused desks and furniture in classrooms will be removed to maximize physical distancing (to the extent practicable)</li> <li>• Students and staff will be encouraged to maximize physical distancing to the extent practicable</li> <li>• Use of signage within corridors and common areas to encourage physical distancing</li> <li>• Identify and utilize large spaces (i.e. gymnasiums, auditoriums, atriums) as well as outdoor spaces (weather permitting) for physical distancing</li> <li>• Limit unnecessary congregation of students and staff</li> <li>• Modifications of facilities to allow for physical distancing will be made as appropriate in response to levels of community transmission.</li> <li>• Use of dividers and barriers as appropriate</li> <li>• Limit visitors to the school to only those necessary</li> <li>• Maximize the use of virtual presentation tools to communicate with the school community and families</li> </ul> |
| <p>c. <a href="#">Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</a>;</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teach and reinforce good hygiene measures such as handwashing, covering coughs, and face coverings, when and where required.</li> <li>• Provide hand soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, cleaning wipes/spray, tissues and paper towels in all classrooms and frequently trafficked areas.</li> <li>• Post signage in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate how to stop the spread of COVID-19</li> <li>• Teach and encourage good respiratory etiquette.</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>• Daily cleaning of schools/facilities; clean AND disinfect within 24 hours if a case was present.</li> <li>• Cleaning of frequently touched surfaces and objects daily and throughout the day.</li> <li>• Follow standard protocols to clean surfaces that are not high touch or routinely used.</li> <li>• Ensure ventilation systems operate properly with increased rates of air exchange. Increase circulation of outdoor as appropriate.</li> <li>• Use of ultraviolet technology within classrooms to the greatest extent possible</li> <li>• Use of disinfection/sanitation equipment to the greatest extent possible.</li> </ul>   |

| ARP ESSER Requirement   | Strategies, Policies, and Procedures   |
|---|--|
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Administrators and supervisors will conduct regular inspections to ensure appropriate COVID-19 protocols are being followed.</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>The District will contact trace until January 14, 2022.</li> <li>After January 14, 2022, the responsibility for contact tracing will be returned to the ACHD.</li> <li>When notified the District MUST comply with the ACHD directives to quarantine or isolate as outlined in COVID-19 protocols.</li> <li>District staff will follow Department of Health Guidance related to the isolation/quarantining of students/staff in the event a student or staff member becomes sick in the school setting</li> <li>Areas within each school have been identified for isolation purposes as needed.</li> <li>School nurses will use Standard Transmission-Based Precautions when caring for sick individuals.</li> <li>The Pandemic Coordinator or designee will contact ACHD and PA DOH for recommendations when responding to known or suspected communicable disease.</li> <li>Establish procedures for safely transporting anyone who is sick home or to a healthcare facility.</li> <li>The Pandemic Coordinator will maintain proper records related to school-based isolation and quarantine</li> <li>Communicate necessary notifications to building staff and students/families with the appropriate information as needed.</li> <li>Follow ACHD guidance related to isolation/quarantine to ensure that staff and students meet all requirements prior to returning to the school setting.</li> </ul> |
| <p>f. <a href="#">Diagnostic</a> and screening testing;</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Educate families and staff regarding COVID-19 symptoms and the importance of symptom screening prior to arriving at school each day.</li> <li>Encourage staff to stay at home if they are sick and encourage parents to keep sick children home.</li> <li>Revise employment and student policies related to attendance as necessary.</li> <li>Use of temperature screening as appropriate in response to higher levels of community transmission.</li> </ul>  |



| ARP ESSER Requirement   | Strategies, Policies, and Procedures   |
|---|--|
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incorporate voluntary COVID-19 screening testing as provided by PA DOH and PDE</li> </ul>   |
| <p>g. Efforts to provide <a href="#">vaccinations to school communities</a>;</p>                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to work with community health providers to either provide on-site vaccination clinics or provide information as to when and where staff and students can receive vaccinations at community sites.</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>• Appropriate accommodations in compliance with Federal and state laws will be made for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies and procedures. Accommodations will be made in partnership with the student’s health care provider, school nurse and IEP, 504 or school health team.</li> </ul> |
| <p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The District will continue to work collaboratively with the AIU3, ACHD, PA DOH, etc. to coordinate resources in support of the BWHSP.</li> </ul>  |

## Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **the Baldwin-Whitehall School District** reviewed and approved the revised Health and Safety Plan on **January 12, 2022**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

9 Yes

0 No

Affirmed on: January 12, 2022

By:



\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature\* of Board President)

Peter D. Giglione

\_\_\_\_\_  
(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.