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 Thorough an Integrated System of Support
- PA Department of Health - COVID-19 in Pennsylvania

Health and Safety Plan Summary: (West Mifflin Area School District)

Initial Effective Date: (August 13, 2021)

Date of Last Review: (March 1, 2022)

Date of Last Revision: (March 24, 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 District will follow recommendations from the CDC and the Allegheny County Health Department to provide a healthy and safe environment within each school. The District will utilize the Covid-19 dashboard provided on the CDC and ACHD websites to determine the level transmission within the region. By utilizing the data provided by these agencies the District will be able to make informed decisions with concrete information. The District has developed a plan applying the transmission level to determine when masking will occur. When the county is in the High (Red) level of transmission all students and staff will be required to wear a mask and all social distancing practices will be implemented indoors. When the county moves to Medium (Yellow) or Low (Green) level of transmission masking will be optional for all students and staff.

   While in the High (RED) level of transmission the school facilities will not be open to outside groups. All District indoor events will follow the same protocols as determined by the transmission level. If the county is in the High (RED) level all spectators, coaches, and non-participants will be masked and socially distanced at all indoor events. If the District is hosting an outdoor event masking will be optional and social distancing will be recommended. When the transmission level goes below High (RED) masking will be optional and social distancing will be recommended at both indoor and outdoor events.

   Visitors to all schools will be limited and be required to wear a mask upon entering the buildings while the county is in the High (RED) level of transmission. The District will utilize on-line meeting platforms when possible.

   The District believes by employing the county's transmission rate as the determining factor provides all stakeholders a clear-cut standard that is data-driven by an outside source with specialized expertise. It is the goal of the District to provide our students, parents, and community with an expectation that is determined by data and in no way is vague or mis-leading.

   The District will continue to encourage parents to monitor their child's health by checking daily for symptoms. Parents will keep their child at home if they are showing any symptoms and students can participate while at home via the Schoology Platform.

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 also works closely with our food service provider to ensure all students have access to meals. During the 2021-2022 school year, families may pick up meals for their children at the secondary campus on Tuesdays and Thursdays. When school is in session, students in school will be provided both breakfast and lunch free of costs. Additionally, students may access meals at school or via pick up if they are learning remotely through the Titan Cyber Academy.

The West Mifflin Area School District strives to serve all students. The Director of Pupil Services is authorized to work with special education teachers, IEP Teams, and parents to make needed accommodations for the welfare and inclusion of students.

The District has partnered with Turtle Creek Mental Health and Family Behavioral Resources to provide counseling services for students. Both agencies provide school-based services for students and their families. Also, Allegheny County Department of Human Services provides an array of programs to assist children and families.

All employees are provided an Employee Assistance Program through the health insurance consortium. Posters are in every building listing the services that are provided. The EAP provides a multitude of services for our employees including anxiety/depression, stress, and work-related problems.

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.

All facilities and equipment within the building will be sanitized and cleaned per the CDC and state health guidelines. Additionally, surfaces that are frequently touched will be disinfected regularly. Each day custodial staff will be provided a specific checklist to ensure proper cleaning and sanitation takes place before the next school day. Prior to the start of the school year, all school personnel will be trained on appropriate cleaning techniques. Staff will be assessed and monitored to ensure that the appropriate cleaning procedures are being followed.

The District will continue its current cleaning strategy including disinfecting areas where an individual with a confirmed case was present. All staff will be encouraged to open windows in classrooms. All filters will be replaced periodically in the HVAC system to ensure good air quality. Frequently touched surfaces and restrooms will be sanitized throughout the day.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
a. Universal and correct wearing of masks;	Masks are required by the West Mifflin Area School District while Allegheny County is in the High (RED) level of transmission. All staff and students will wear a mask while in District facilities. Any indoor District events will follow the same protocols for masking. For outdoor events masking will be optional and social distancing will be recommended. If the county falls BELOW the High (RED) level masking will become optional. Any individual who wishes to wear a mask is welcome to wear one at school and school district functions. Mask will be mandatory on all District Transportation if the county's transmission rate is High (RED). Students may wear a mask on the school bus due to the close proximity to one another.
b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);	The District intends to operate a regular 5 day instructional schedule for the 2021-2022 school year. Should the cases of COVID-19 increase, the school district will follow all protocols instituted by the CDC and State Health Department. The District will permit outside organization to utilize our facilities that benefit our students and community. Outside groups will need to follow all procedures and protocols in place to enter the building. If a group does not follow the procedures established by the District their facility request will be revoked.
c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;	Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette Nurses and teachers will promote good hygiene for all students. Demonstrations on handwashing and respiratory etiquette will be presented to all students. In addition, signage and reminders will be posted in all buildings. (CDC Posters) The District wants to continue to emphasize to parents and guardians that if their child is exhibiting any symptoms to please keep them at home.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;	The District will continue its current cleaning strategy including disinfecting areas where an individual with a confirmed case was present. All staff will be encouraged to open windows in classrooms. All filters will be replaced periodically in the HVAC system to ensure good air quality. Frequently touched surfaces and restrooms will be sanitized throughout the day.
e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;	The District will not contact trace or quarantine while the mask requirement is optional as per the CDC. Once the county levels increase to High (RED) and masking becomes mandatory, contact tracing and quarantining procedures will be re-established. As required, all contact tracing information will be reported to the Allegheny Department of Health.
f. Diagnostic and screening testing;	The West Mifflin Area School District strives to serve all students. The Director of Pupil Services is authorized to work with special education teachers, IEP Teams, and parents to make needed accommodations for the welfare and inclusion of students. The District will also implement a benchmarking process to ensure students are receiving the proper level of instruction and being provided interventions to address learning loss.
g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;	West Mifflin Area School District is a partner with Allegheny County Health Department, AIU3, and Allegheny Health Network. As such, information regarding health resources will be disseminated to school nurses and the community. The district will continue to support parents and guardians in providing health services and information for those students in need.
h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	The West Mifflin Area School District strives to serve all students. The Director of Pupil Services is authorized to work with special education teachers, IEP Teams, and parents to make needed

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	accommodations for the welfare and inclusion of students.
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	The District participates in Allegheny Intermediate Units meetings when called or scheduled. During the past school year these meetings were held weekly. The District does participate in state webinars if they are scheduled. The school district disseminates “Health Updates" directly from the Pennsylvania Department of Health to the school community. Should Allegheny County return to the “High (RED)” Level those meetings will be instituted.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **West Mifflin Area School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **March 24, 2022**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

9 Yes

0 No

Affirmed on: **March 25, 2022**

The CDC has not implemented any new procedures or recommendations. 5-12-2025

By:

_____

(*Signature* of Board President*)

Mr. Matthew Blazevich

_____

(*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.