



# 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: (Albert Gallatin Area School District))

Initial Effective Date: (August 11, 2021)

Date of Last Review: (September 18, 2023)

Date of Last Revision: (September 18, 2023)

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 AGASD will monitor the latest recommendations from PDE, PADOH, and CDC and update their Health and Safety Plans as needed. Plans will be presented to the governing Board for approval when changes are necessary. Facilities and practices will be adapted to the extent possible to ensure that appropriate prevention and mitigation processes are followed. In addition to practicing standard preventative measures such as handwashing, cleaning and disinfecting practices, and the use of PPE when required. The AGASD will continue to encourage the vaccination of students, staff and the community. The AGASD will continue to practice standard mitigation efforts to include reducing close contact when feasible.
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? Educational models will be adapted to the needs of the students as appropriate including virtual if needed. Social, emotional, mental health and other needs will be monitored and provided by school health providers, social workers and other mental behavior specialists when needed. Food service will be provided using various models as appropriate to the situation, including the availability of free meals if needed for students throughout the entire 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Universal and correct wearing of <a href="#">masks</a>;</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ARP ESSER requires school districts and charter schools to develop mitigation plans in line with the most recent CDC</li></ul>

ARP ESSER Requirement

Strategies, Policies, and Procedures

- Modifying facilities to allow for [physical distancing](#) (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);

guidance with plans being updated every six months as needed. AGASD will develop mitigation plans while recognizing and considering the most recent PDE, PADOH, and CDC guidance with plans being updated every six months as needed. In regard to the wearing of masks, the AGASD will recognize and take into consideration current CDC, PDE and DOH guidance and recommendations.

- At this time, all students, staff and visitors have had the ability to be vaccinated and boosted against COVID-19. Therefore, face coverings / masks are optional for all students, staff and visitors.
- The Albert Gallatin Area School District will continue to monitor the level of COVID-19 community spread within the student and staff population. Should changes to this plan be necessary, we will update it depending on the safety and educational needs of our school district and community.
- Masks are optional while utilizing district transportation as the Federal Mandate has been removed for school buses and other district transportation.
- Correct and consistent [mask use](#) is a critical step everyone can take to reduce their risk of getting and spreading COVID-19. Staff and students will be reminded of proper mask use should masks become mandatory.
- Determine the maximum capacity for each room.
- Balance class numbers as much as possible.
- Staff will maintain at least 6 feet from students, whenever possible

ARP ESSER Requirement

Strategies, Policies, and Procedures

	<p>and when not disruptive to the educational process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish distance between the teacher’s desk/board and students’ desks.</li> <li>• Identify and utilize large spaces (i.e. gymnasiums and outside spaces – as weather permits) for social distancing.</li> <li>• All students in Grades K – 5 will be able to switch classes, as well as attend their daily special classes in the designated areas for each class.</li> <li>• The building principal may permit all students in grades K-12 utilize the cafeteria for lunch vs. eating in their classroom.</li> <li>• School cafeteria’s equipped with plexiglass barriers may remove the barriers from the tables. If necessary, the cafeterias may utilize the plexiglass barriers.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</a>;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teach and reinforce good hygiene measures such as handwashing, covering coughs, and face coverings when required.</li> <li>• Provide hand soap, hand sanitizer with at least 70% alcohol, cleaning wipes/disinfectant 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. COVID-19 symptoms, preventative measures (including staying home when sick), good hygiene, proper respiratory etiquette and school/district specific protocols.</li> <li>• Cover mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing.</li> </ul>



ARP ESSER Requirement

Strategies, Policies, and Procedures

- [Cleaning](#) and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving [ventilation](#);

- Use the nearest waste receptacle to dispose of tissues after use.
- Perform hand hygiene after having contact with respiratory secretions and contaminated objects or materials.

- Daily cleaning of schools with soap and water to decrease how much of the virus is on surfaces and objects, which reduces the risk of exposure. Apply to frequently touched surfaces and objects including door handles, sink handles and drinking fountains.
- At least daily and throughout the day disinfecting schools and transportation vehicles using EPA-approved disinfectants against COVID-19 to reduce the risk.
- Use of routine cleaning practices for indoor areas that have not been used for 7 or more days or outdoor equipment.
- Follow standard protocols to clean surfaces that are not high touch.
- Ensure ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible, for example by opening windows and doors. Do not open windows and doors if doing so poses a safety or health risk (e.g., risk of falling, triggering asthma symptoms) to children using the facility.

- [Contact tracing](#) in combination with [isolation](#) and [quarantine](#), in collaboration with the State and local health departments;

- Work with school administrators and school nurses to identify an isolation area to separate anyone who exhibits COVID-like symptoms.
- School nurses and other healthcare providers should use Standard and Transmission- Based Precautions when caring for sick people.
- Establish procedures for safely transporting anyone who is sick home or to a healthcare facility.

ARP ESSER Requirement

Strategies, Policies, and Procedures

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Albert Gallatin Area School District will only restrict access to students and staff who are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19.</li> <li>• All other asymptomatic students and staff, even if they are deemed close contacts at school or on school transportation, will not be subject to restriction from school or school activities regardless of vaccination status.</li> <li>• Students and staff who are symptomatic, but have not tested positive for COVID-19 may return to school with one of the following:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Improving symptoms and fever free for twenty-four hours without the aide of fever reducing medication.</li> <li>2. A note from the student's / staff member's physician releasing them back to school.</li> </ol> </li> <li>• Students or staff members who have tested positive for COVID-19 may return following:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Improving symptoms and fever free for twenty-four hours without the aide of fever reducing medication.</li> <li>2. A note from the student's / staff member's physician releasing them back to school.</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Diagnostic</a> and screening testing;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We will no longer complete temperature checks of all students upon arrival / entrance into school. We will only complete temperature checks of students that are sent to the nurse due to symptoms.</li> <li>• Consider a process to address privacy concerns of monitoring practices and the potential stigma associated with monitoring and confirmed exposure or cases.</li> </ul>



ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a system for home/self-screening and reporting procedures.</li> <li>• Encourage staff to stay home if they are sick and encourage parents to keep sick children home.</li> <li>• Regardless of vaccination status, any person with new or unexplained symptoms of COVID-19 should stay home until fever free for twenty-four hours without the aide of fever reducing medication and improving symptoms.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Efforts to provide <a href="#">vaccinations to school communities</a>;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with community health centers and hospitals to either provide on-site vaccinations or provide brochures and other information as to when and where staff and students can receive vaccinations at their sites.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that any policy regarding face coverings or any other parts of the health and safety plans should be sensitive to the needs of students and staff with medical issues. Appropriate accommodations in compliance with federal and state laws should be made for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies and procedures.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordination with state and local health officials.</li> </ul>	<p>AGASD will work together with the Joint Task Force, PADOH, community health agencies and County Emergency Management Agencies to coordinate resources in accordance with their health and safety plan.</p>

## Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **(Albert Gallatin Area School District)** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **(September 20, 2023)**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

  9   Yes

  0   No

Affirmed on: **(September 20, 2023)**

By:



*(Signature\* of Board President)*

Eric Miller

*(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.