



Mifflin County Academy of Science and Technology 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: **Mifflin County Academy of Science and Technology**

Initial Effective Date: **August 26, 2021**

Date of Last Review: **August 11, 2022**

Date of Last Revision: **August 11, 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?

All Academy activities and decisions will be informed by the CDC, PA DOH and/or PDE. Depending upon the public health conditions in any county within the Commonwealth, there could be additional actions, orders, or guidance provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) and/or the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH). The Academy will practice and support prevention and mitigation efforts in response to the changing conditions. The Academy is prepared to practice prevention and mitigation strategies along a continuum of most to least restrictive strategies in response to the changing conditions of the Pandemic. In addition to practicing standard preventative measures such as handwashing, cleaning practices, and the option of PPE, the Academy will continue to encourage the vaccination of students and staff. The Academy will continue to practice standard mitigation efforts to include reducing close contact when feasible. As long as there are cases of COVID-19 in the community, there are no strategies that can completely eliminate transmission risk within a school population.

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?

Understanding that many scenarios may require a fluid transition between remote, blended and face to face options, the Academy will continue to utilize a delivery of instruction that provides ease of transition from face-to-face to remote learning. Instructors will create both synchronous and asynchronous experiences as students transition between face-to-face instruction, hybrid and remote learning. Instructors will provide direct instruction, guided support, one-on-one feedback, assessments, and progress monitoring through a variety of in-person and digital tools.

The Academy's plan considers the needs of diverse learners and families across unique programs. Additional considerations for special education supports, English Learner supports, Gifted Education, and Social-Emotional Learning/mental health supports for students will be integrated in partnership with the families. Mental health supports for staff will also be considered.

Most synchronous instruction will occur through the use of Zoom and Google Classrooms. The students will be using these platforms for blended instruction during onsite instruction as well, so there will be familiarity. Laptops will be provided to Mifflin County students by the Mifflin County School District and to Juniata County students by The Academy. For families without internet access, offline instructional materials will be provided. For families that cannot afford internet, but have access to cellular service, the Academy will provide MiFi hotspots on a limited basis.

Attendance will be taken in school for all face-to-face learning days. On remote learning days, attendance will be recorded one of the following ways: The student can login to their Academy Skyward account or call into the main office or complete the scheduled assignment. Students should complete work each day listed in the academic calendar, regardless of weather delays or closures.

- 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"> Universal and correct wearing of masks; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Face coverings will be an option, but not a requirement for students and staff when in school buildings. All implementation strategies will adhere to the student's IEP or 504 Plan.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding); 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There will be no modifications or requirements for physical distancing, unless mandated by the CDC, PA DOH, and PDE.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Handwashing and respiratory etiquette; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow the current CDC, PA DOH, and PDE guidelines for handwashing and respiratory etiquette. Signage will continue to be posted to remind students and staff of proper handwashing techniques.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow the current CDC, PA DOH, and PDE guidelines for cleaning and ventilation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow the current CDC, PA DOH, and PDE isolation mandates for students and staff testing positive for COVID. The Academy will follow contact tracing guidelines when made aware of a positive COVID case.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents will be notified in writing and verbally if their student is a close contact to a positive COVID case. Quarantine will be an option, but not a requirement for students (<i>per MCSD Board of Directors vote on December 16, 2021</i>). • Staff will be notified if they are identified as a close contact to a positive COVID case, and will be required to follow guidelines per CDC and PA DOH Guidelines.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diagnostic and screening testing; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow any current diagnostic testing and screening mandates required by the PA DOH or PDE.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow any current vaccination requirements by PA DOH or PDE.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow all IEP and 504 accommodations as documented.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination with state and local health officials. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain existing partnerships with local and state PA DOH, PDE, and emergency management. Refer to PA DOH as needed for guidance on responding to COVID situations.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **the Mifflin County Academy of Science and Technology** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **August 11, 2022**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

_____ **Yes**

_____ **No**

Affirmed on: **August 11, 2022**

By:

(Signature of Board President)*

John Knepp, JOC 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.