



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: **Esperanza Academy Charter School**

Initial Effective Date: 7/20/2021

Date of Last Review: 9/15/2022, 12/15/2022

Date of Last Revision: 9/15/2022, 12/15/2022

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?

Esperanza Academy Charter School (EACS)'s Health and Safety Plan is informed by guidance from our federal, state, and local authorities. These include and are not limited to the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Pennsylvania Department of Education, the Philadelphia Department of Public Health and the Center for Disease Control.

EACS will continue to work in coordination with these agencies and our local partners to develop and refine expectations that meet all requirements.

EACS will revise this plan as necessary, based on changing guidance at any of these levels, at the required frequency. Such changes will be communicated to all stakeholders.

1. 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?

EACS will continue to ensure safe learning and working environment for all student, faculty and staff members.

EACS will continue to provide in-person instruction during the 2022-23 school year. Based on public health conditions and any related mandates/requirements, EACS will remain positioned to quickly change between in-person and online instruction.

EACS will continue to ensure all students receive instruction that meets state and federal standards and have the necessary supports for success, including access to technology and connectivity.

EACS will continue to offer a wide array of social and emotional wellness and health support, including:

- access to a licensed social worker, counselor, school psychologist and administrators

- deliver of evidence-based SEL programs.
- supports to meet needs of special populations, through the IEP/504 process and/or through our multi-tiered, multi-domain system of support
- access to training, time, support, and flexibility necessary for staff to prepare for successful instruction.

EACS will provide proactive, clear communication to all families and staff members.

2. 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;	Mask and/or face shields will be optional for all faculty, staff and students.
b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);	EACS will rely on best practices, informed by federal, state and local guidance, to design and implement high quality, student-centered instructional environments. Specifically, EACS will continue to rely on the Philadelphia Department of Public Health’s guidance to design safe instructional and workspaces for all individuals. EACS will maintain 3 ft. social distancing in classrooms and will conform to social distancing measures wherever possible in the school buildings.
c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;	<p>All individuals will continue to be encouraged and reminded to sanitize or wash their hands on a frequent basis. Hand sanitizer will continue to be made available in all common areas, classrooms hallways, and/or lobby areas where sinks for handwashing are not available, in order to encourage frequent use.</p> <p>EACS will continue to post signs in highly visible locations that promote everyday protective measures/hygiene and how to stop the spread of germs.</p> <p>EACS will continue to include proper personal hygiene in program curricula.</p>
d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;	<p>EACS will continue to follow proper cleaning and disinfection protocols following CDC, EPA and manufacturer guidelines.</p> <p>Ventilation remains as a component of available strategies to maintain healthy facilities.</p> <p>EACS’s cleaning efforts will continue to focus on high-touch surfaces.</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p>Hand sanitizing stations will continue to be maintained throughout all buildings.</p> <p>All cleaning products are approved by the EPA for COVID-19 mitigation.</p>
<p>e. <u>Contact tracing</u> in combination with <u>isolation</u> and <u>quarantine</u>, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<p>EACS will continue to work in partnership with the Philadelphia Department of Public Health for all COVID-19 related case investigation and contact tracing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● COVID infections will be handled similarly to other conditions in existing school nursing policies. ● Once a student/staff member has resolving symptoms and has been fever-free for 24 hours without medication, they are able to return to school ● Students or staff without symptoms, regardless of exposure, will not be sent home from school to quarantine. ● EACS will continue to allow the option for students and staff to wear masks. ● We will continue to track all COVID-19 cases. ● In most situations, school and classroom notification will not be necessary. <p>Contact Tracing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● EACS will continue to report all positive cases to the Philadelphia Department of Health. ● We will no longer be notifying the school community with positive cases. ● COVID infections should be handled similarly to other conditions in existing school nursing policies. <p>Isolation and Quarantine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● EACS will continue to report all positive cases to the Philadelphia Department of Health. ● The predetermined period of isolation and quarantine is no longer required ● COVID infections should be handled similarly to other conditions in existing school nursing policies. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ An individual who tests positive for COVID-19 should not report to school/work for 5 consecutive days. After the 5th day they can return to school/work assuming symptoms

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p>have improved and have been fever-free for 24- hours without medication.</p>
<p>f. <u>Diagnostic and screening testing;</u></p>	<p>Parents and guardians are required to immediately notify the building principal and school nurse if their child becomes sick with COVID-19 symptoms, and should contact their health care provider for additional guidance. Rapid COVID-19 testing can be completed by the school nurse upon receiving parental consent.</p>
<p>g. <u>Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;</u></p>	<p>EACS will continue to partner with federal, state, local and health care agencies regarding opportunities to receive the COVID-19 vaccines. EACS will ask all employees to be vaccinated. Unvaccinated employees will require weekly testing for COVID-19</p>
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<p>EACS is a high-quality provider of services for individuals with disabilities. The school will continue to meet those needs through the IEP/504 process and the multi-tiered, multi-domain system of support model. The district continues to design and follow any individualized health and safety plan for the students were serve. EACS will continue to train staff and contracts on Universal Precautions.</p> <p>EACS will communicate best practices for health and personal hygiene to all stakeholders to reinforce healthy instructional and work environment.</p> <p>EACS will continue to collaborate with federal, state, local and health care agencies to promote and offer opportunities to receive the COVID-19 vaccination.</p>
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<p>EACS will rely on best practices, informed by federal, state, and local guidance, to design and implement high quality, student-centered instructional environment.</p> <p>Specifically, EACS will rely on local health authority guidance to design safe instructional and workspaces for all individuals.</p> <p>EACS will continue to participate in discussion forums and planning with federal, state, and local health authorities, and among school entities.</p>

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Esperanza Academy Charter School** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **12/15/2022**.


The plan was approved by a vote of:

 7 **Yes**

 0 **No**

Affirmed on: **12/15/2022**

By:



(Signature* of Board President)

Angel L. Ortiz

(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.