



# 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: Turkeyfoot Valley Area School District

Initial Effective Date: **June 22, 2021**

Date of Last Review: **February 8, 2024**

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? Turkeyfoot Valley Area School District was opened for in-person learning for the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years with mitigation and prevention efforts in place. The district will continue to review up-to-date guidance received from the CDC and state department of health online and through direct correspondences. The district will work with county and state agencies to maintain up-to-date information on prevention, transmission, and mitigation policies. District officials will regularly review prevention and mitigation updates on the CDC, Pennsylvania Health Department, and Pennsylvania Education Department websites. Cleaning and disinfecting will continue to be in line with health department recommendations to operate school facilities to operate in-person learning.
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? Turkeyfoot Valley Area School District will ensure continuity of services for academic needs by continuing district efforts to enhance academic engagement and utilization of a learning management platform. The district had plans in place to address remediation for students who missed school during the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school year. The district is offering evening tutoring to students across grade levels, summer learning programs, summer STEM and Reading camps, and early learning materials for families.

Turkeyfoot Valley Area School District ensures continuity of services for social and emotional and mental health needs by increasing the amount of social work services being offered within the district beginning with the 2021-2022 school year. The district will continue to provide increased social work and mental health services for district students for the 2023-2024. The district is also trained staff on social-emotional learning practices to support students and implemented mentoring across grade levels to help provide supports for mental wellness.

Turkeyfoot Valley Area School District will ensure continuity of services for other needs by working with families and stakeholders to gauge needs through surveys and discussions to ensure needs are being met throughout the district. Other needs will be addressed referencing resources from the local, state, and federal guidelines.

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
<p>a. Universal and correct wearing of <u>masks</u>;</p>	<p>The district reviews CDC and PA Department of Health guidelines for universal face coverings and masks. Masking and face covering guidelines from the CDC are posted around the buildings. Masks and face coverings will be provided to those in need of one to wear. Mask wearing resources from the state department of education and health are referenced by district staff often for compliance measures.</p> <p>Masking and face covering will be <b>optional</b> within the school building and on school transportation.</p>
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for <u>physical distancing</u> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<p>The district groups students in cohorts and assigns seats in general areas to the greatest extent possible. Student seating is spaced apart allowing for physical distancing as often as possible. Outside areas have been developed during the 2020-2021 school year to allow for several outdoor classroom areas providing additional areas for physical distancing. The district plans to develop additional outdoor classroom areas to allow for physical distancing through grant funding. Physical distancing resources from the state department of education and health are referenced by district staff often for compliance measures.</p>
<p>c. <u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</u>;</p>	<p>The district has signs for proper hand washing at sink areas, breaks for handwashing, and encouragement of frequent handwashing from district staff. Students have access to hand sanitization stations in each classroom and throughout general school areas. Students are instructed by staff to wash hands after and cover mouths for coughs and sneezes. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette resources from the</p>

## ARP ESSER Requirement

## Strategies, Policies, and Procedures

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

state department of education and health are referenced by district staff often for compliance measures.

All district buildings are cleaned with disinfectants throughout the day and overnight. Communal spaces are cleaned and disinfected between uses as often as possible to prevent spreading of germs during the school day. Deep cleaning is completed nightly by custodial staff who have been trained on disinfecting properly. Cleaning and ventilation resources from the state department of education and health are referenced by district staff often for compliance measures.

The Turkeyfoot Valley Area School District improved ventilation in several areas of the building during 2020-2021 and is completing the additional ventilation improvements through grant funding scheduled to be complete during the 2023-2024 school year.

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

The district will continue to reference the CDC and state health department guidelines for contact tracing and quarantine information. The district works with families and staff to contact trace and notify the state department of health of positive cases and close contacts as required. Contact tracing, isolation, and quarantine resources from the state department of education and health are referenced by district staff often for compliance measures.

- f. [Diagnostic](#) and screening testing;

Parents and guardians are asked to screen their child daily before sending to school and stay home if showing any signs or symptoms of illness. Testing is conducted by medical facilities determined by the families outside of the district.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<p>g. Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to school communities</u>;</p>	<p>The district has and will continue to work with the Intermediate Unit 8 and county agencies to provide information about vaccinations in the community, as necessary.</p>
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<p>The district works with the IEP team to determine appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure health, safety, and individual needs. Clear barriers are used to provide a barrier for students who need to be in close proximity for services. Accommodation resources from the state department of education and health are referenced by district staff often for compliance measures.</p>
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<p>The district administration and nurse communicate and coordinate with state and local health experts to ensure implementation of standard pandemic procedures. The district completes required weekly surveys for possible cases with the department of health.</p>

## Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors for the **Turkeyfoot Valley Area School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **June 21, 2021**. The Board of Directors for the **Turkeyfoot Valley Area School District** revised and approved the updated Health and Safety Plan on **February 8, 2024**.

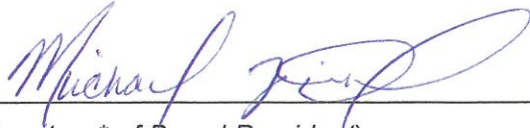
The plan was approved by a vote of:

9 Yes

0 No

Affirmed on: **February 8, 2024**

By:



(Signature\* of Board President)

Michael J. Diehl

(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.