



# 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: General McLane School District

**Initial Effective Date: July 21, 2021**

**Date of Last Review: September 21, 2023**

**Date of Last Revision: September 21, 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 General McLane School District recognizes the importance of having students in school with their professional teachers, and this will be a priority for the 2022-2023 school year. GMSD is prepared to implement a variety of prevention and mitigation strategies as noted in the chart below. The level and type of mitigation will be influenced by local data and recommendations from the CDC, which will be shared by GMSD.

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?

## Academic Needs

- All buildings will utilize existing and expanded strategies and interventions to meet students' academic learning and SEL needs.
- State and federal grant funds were utilized for three mental health liaisons to support students' areas of need based on academic and beginning-of-the-year screenings.
- The K-3 classrooms will utilize the learning management system SeeSaw while Grades 4-12 will utilize Schoology. This will allow the seamless provision of classroom instruction and materials to flow between students and teachers, regardless of in-person or online instruction.
- All students in grades K-12 are issued iPads that can be taken home. If we need to provide remote instruction, students lacking internet service at home will be given cellular-enabled iPads.

## Social/Emotional/Mental Health:

- Each building will continue to operate a student assistance program that utilizes a referral/screening process to identify students in need of help. ARP ESSER funds will be utilized to hire additional counselors as the need is expected to be

great. Employees will be able to access the Employee Assistance Program, contracted with an outside agency.

- Food service will return to normal operations.

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. <b>Universal and correct wearing of <a href="#">masks</a>.</b></p>	<p>Students, staff, and visitors are not required to wear face coverings at the school. The district will provide recommendations from the CDC. Mask wearing is optional, and GMSD will support all persons who opt to wear face coverings.</p> <p>GMSD will provide N95 masks to those students and staff during the school day upon request.</p>
<p>b. <b>Modifying facilities to allow for <a href="#">physical distancing</a> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding). Darkened bullets designate mitigation efforts in place at each incidence level.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluate interactions between groups of students to the extent feasible.</li> <li>• Designate visitors as either essential or non-essential.</li> <li>• Non-essential visitors are not permitted to enter district facilities.</li> <li>• Virtual meetings and conferences are encouraged.</li> </ul>
<p>c. <b><a href="#">Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</a>;</b></p>	<p>Signage, instruction, and reminders will be provided in visible locations regarding appropriate mitigation strategies related to hygiene.</p>
<p>d. <b><a href="#">Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation</a>;</b></p>	<p>Daily cleaning protocols, which meet the CDC recommendations for cleaning and disinfecting public spaces to reduce the risk of infection, will be maintained. A sizeable portion of ARP ESSER funds will be used to upgrade ventilation in the buildings that need it.</p>
<p>e. <b><a href="#">Contact tracing</a> in combination with <a href="#">isolation</a> and <a href="#">quarantine</a>, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</b></p>	<p>The district will not independently contact trace students, staff, or family. When testing positive...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notify the building nurse and your physician.</li> <li>• Stay home and isolate for 5 days.</li> <li>• Return on day 6 if symptoms are improved and fever free for 24 hours.</li> <li>• The district strongly recommends masking through Day 10 unless negative test on a home rapid test on Day 6 and again on Day 8 of your isolation.</li> </ul> <p>If you are exposed to COVID...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regardless of vaccination status, you do not need to quarantine if symptom-free.</li> <li>• The district strongly recommends masking for 10 days in school/sports from the last day of exposure to positive and monitoring for symptoms.</li> <li>• Recommend testing on day 6 of exposure</li> <li>• If symptoms develop, isolate, test and update the building school nurse.</li> </ul>
<p>f. <b><a href="#">Diagnostic and screening testing</a>;</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Easy access to information for testing and screening will be provided.</li> <li>• Testing will be available in schools.</li> </ul>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Parents/Guardians/Students/Staff should symptom screen before leaving home each morning.</li> <li>● Direct students and staff are encouraged to see the school nurse immediately if feeling symptomatic.</li> </ul>
<p><b>g. Efforts to provide <a href="#">vaccinations to school communities</a>;</b></p>	<p>GMSD has hosted several vaccine clinics during the 2020-21 and 2022-23 school years for our school and regional community. We will encourage eligible persons to be vaccinated.</p>
<p><b>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</b></p>	<p>Per the IEP and 504 processes, accommodations are provided to meet individual student needs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Provide appropriate PPE equipment for at-risk students as needed.</li> </ul>
<p><b>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</b></p>	<p>During 20-21 and 21-22, the Intermediate Unit coordinated weekly meetings with local superintendents and the Erie County DOH. We will participate in any meetings arranged and will collaborate with ECDOH and other agencies via the IU in 22-23, as well.</p>

## Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **General McLane School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **September 21, 2022**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

  9   **Yes**

  0   **No**

Affirmed on: **September 21, 2023**

By:



\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature\* of Board President)

Carrie Crow

\_\_\_\_\_  
(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.