



# Berwick Area School District 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: Berwick Area School District

**Initial Effective Date: August 8, 2022**

**Date of Last Review: August 1, 2022**

**Date of Last Revision: August 8, 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?

In the best interest of education, the Berwick Area SD recognizes the need to have students participating in face-to-face instruction as often as possible. This plan outlines the Berwick Area SD's strategy in comparing responses to and recovering from the pandemic including specifically COVID-19. This will serve as a guide for our district to support prevention and mitigation procedures in line with the most up-to-date guidance from the CDC and PA Department of Health. This document is based on local data specific to Berwick Area School District needs. As the CDC guidelines state, we will reference local, state, and federal guidelines, which will continue to develop over time. This plan is based on the district's ability to follow the local, state, and federal guidelines to the best of its ability to be able to provide in-person instruction; however, this plan is developed to reduce the level of risk, it does not completely eliminate risks and exposure to COVID-19 or other illnesses.

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?

The Berwick Area SD will open all our schools on September 6th, grades K-12, for all students who want to attend in-person traditional school. This is the preferred recommended plan. We will continue to follow the guidelines of CDC, PA Department of Health, and PDE. These decisions are specific to the community in which our district is located.

For those families that are interested in a virtual model, their child will be able to enroll in our Berwick Area School District K-12 Cyber program. All Berwick cyber students are eligible for special education and guidance services, as well as extracurricular opportunities.

Students will eat in the cafeteria. Parents/guardians will be encouraged to use an online payment portal to avoid the handling of cash or checks in the cafeteria. The cafeteria will be cleaned between lunch periods. Students will be encouraged to follow

the hand sanitizer protocol provided at stations within the cafeteria prior to and after consuming food or beverages.

The Student Assistance Program (SAP) is a collaborative team of trained and certified school district and county agency personnel who meet on a regular basis to identify student needs and provide support in removing barriers to learning. The SAP team provides information and guidance to students and families to obtain school and community resources, support, and services. Second Step SEL is research-based, teacher-informed, and classroom-tested to promote the social-emotional development, safety, and well-being of children from Early Learning through Grade 8. Our district has implemented this curriculum in the past and continues to do so this year. Zones of Regulation are being implemented in all elementary buildings, facilitated by the guidance counselors, with training provided to staff. Zones of Regulation is a systematic, cognitive-behavioral approach used to teach self-regulation by categorizing all the different ways we feel and states of alertness we experience into four concrete colored zones. The Zones framework provides strategies to teach students to become more aware of and independent in controlling their emotions and impulses, manage their sensory needs, and improve their ability to problem solve conflicts. The Berwick Area School District also implements a Wellness Committee for all district employees with a mission to foster a worksite culture that supports a focus on adult care for social-emotional wellness and the desire to make healthy lifestyle choices.

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.

\*Berwick Area School District will continue to monitor the strategies and procedures recommended from CDC and PA Department of Health to address the following. In addition local data will be reviewed to make decisions specific to the needs of the BASD community. (Section 520.1)

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
a. <b>Universal and correct wearing of <u>masks</u>;</b>	The District will continue to follow mandated guidelines set forth by the PA DoH, CDC and/or PDE
b. <b>Modifying facilities to allow for <u>physical distancing</u> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</b>	In accordance with the CDC recommendations and the importance of in-person learning physical distancing to the greatest extent possible students should be socially and/or physically distanced.
c. <b><u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</u>;</b>	All staff and students will practice regularly scheduled handwashing practices, including but not limited to entry into the classroom, after using the restroom, before eating, after

	coughing/sneezing, If soap and water are not available in a classroom or other area of the building then hand sanitizer will be made available.
d. <b><u>Cleaning</u></b> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <b><u>ventilation</u></b> ;	<p>Follow <u>CDC's Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Schools</u></p> <p>Scheduled protocol for cleaning high-touch and high-traffic areas including door handles and sink handles at key points throughout the day</p> <p>Classrooms and common areas will be ventilated with additional circulation of outdoor air when possible, using windows, doors, and/or fans.</p> <p>Routine scheduled replacement of AC filters</p>
e. <b><u>Contact tracing</u></b> in combination with <b><u>isolation</u></b> and <b><u>quarantine</u></b> , in collaboration with the State and local health departments;	<p>The District will continue to follow mandated guidelines set forth by the PA DoH, CDC and/or PDE</p> <p>The District will follow all requirements set forth in Chapter 27 Communicable and Noncommunicable Disease per PA School Code</p>
f. <b><u>Diagnostic</u></b> and screening testing;	<p>Symptom screening done by parents/guardians at home before school each day. Parents will not send a child to school who has symptoms, fever, or exposure to COVID-19.</p> <p>All staff will screen for symptoms before coming to work. Staff will not come to work if experiencing symptoms.</p> <p>Individuals becoming ill or showing symptoms during the day should be isolated to the greatest extent possible until transported home</p>
g. <b>Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to school communities</u></b> ;	Should vaccinations be mandated, school district will share vaccinate location to school communities.
h. <b>Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</b>	<p>Extra precautions in low incidence programs (AS, MDS, SFLS, LSS).</p> <p>Servicing students in low incidence programs can be problematic due to, but not limited to, students with medical concerns, students not</p>

	<p>understanding the importance of wearing a mask, students unable to maintain proper social distance, students requiring hand-over-hand instruction and support, students requiring assistance with feeding or toileting.</p> <p>For these reasons, extra precautions will be implemented.</p>
i. <b>Coordination with state and local health officials.</b>	<p>BASD has three certified school nurses who maintain communication with the PA Department of Health. There is no local health department.</p> <p>Geisinger Health System provides a liaison for assistance and guidance.</p>

## Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for Berwick Area School District reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on : **August 8, 2022**

The plan was approved by a vote of:

\_\_\_\_\_ **Yes**

\_\_\_\_\_ **No**

Affirmed on: **August 8, 2022**

By:

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*(Signature\* of Board President)*

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*(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.