



ARP ESSER Health and Safety Plan

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: **Widener Partnership Charter School**

Initial Effective Date: August 1, 2021

Date of Last Review: August 2000

Date of Last Revision:

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?

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?

Consistent with CDC guidance, we will prioritize in-person learning during the 2021-22 school year.

We believe that there are five general actions that guide effective Covid-19 safety measures:

- Regularly encouraging individuals in our community eligible for vaccines to receive them,
- Routine symptom monitoring and exclusion of ill individuals, and contact tracing when cases present,
- Maintaining physical distance between not fully vaccinated individuals to the maximum extent possible,
- Use of masks by all individuals not fully vaccinated, and by vaccinated individuals when conditions require it for mitigation, except where health considerations preclude use,
- Rigorous cleaning, sanitation, and ventilation protocols at the building level and rigorous standards for individual hygiene.

We routinely revise and update these general practices according to CDC and PA Department of Health guidelines and modify them at the recommendations of the Delaware County Office of Public Health. They are routinely reviewed as levels of virus transmission within Delaware County fluctuate.

2. How will 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?

We intend to operate onsite 5-days per week, barring direction from the Delaware County Office of Public Health (DCOPH) or other authorized entity to make an emergency closure. All meals for the 2021-22 school year will be provided to all students at no cost.

Operationally, we are emphasizing to all parts of our community that all individuals should be prepared for changes in practices to be imposed at any time. Because mitigation guidelines are tied to covid-19 incidence, positivity, and vaccination rates within the county and community, we may change guidelines for students and staff on short notice. Many models anticipate seasonal surges in covid-19 infections, and this makes it possible that we will resume more restrictive practices for periods of time during the school year.

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 masks;</p>	<p>WPCS will require wearing masks for all students and staff in the building.</p> <p>Exemptions to mask guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children under the age of 2 years • A person with a disability who cannot wear a mask, or cannot safely wear a mask, because of a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.). • A person for whom wearing a mask would create a risk to workplace health, safety, or job duty as determined by the relevant workplace safety guidelines or federal regulations.
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<p>We will adhere to physical distancing guidelines aligned to current recommendations made by the CDC, PA Dept. of Health to the maximum extent feasible, prioritizing the continuity of our onsite programs.</p> <p>We will physically distance individuals in classrooms and schools to the maximum extent feasible when necessitated by</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p>transmission rates within the community, prioritizing the continuity of our onsite program and allowing for students to participate fully with their classroom cohort in their designated classroom space.</p> <p>Plexiglass barriers can be used for teachers to facilitate small group instruction when elected by staff.</p> <p>Buildings will consider other physical distancing strategies specific to their sites as appropriate.</p> <p>Food Service Considerations (from CDC Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K12 Schools):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximize physical distance as much as possible when moving through the food service line and while eating (especially indoors). • Given very low risk of transmission from surfaces and shared objects, there is no need to limit food service approaches to single use items and packaged meals. • Clean frequently touched surfaces. Surfaces that come in contact with food should be washed, rinsed, and sanitized before and after meals. • Promote hand washing before, after, and during shifts, before and after eating, after using the toilet, and after handling garbage, dirty dishes, or removing gloves. <p>All individuals should be prepared for more restrictive physical distancing guidelines to be imposed at any time. Because these guidelines are tied to covid-19 incidence, positivity, and vaccination rates within the county and community, we may resume more restrictive physical distancing mandates for students and staff on short notice. Many models anticipate seasonal surges</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p>in covid-19 infections, and this makes it possible that we will resume some physical distancing strategies for periods of time during the school year.</p>
<p>c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</p>	<p>Student hand-washing breaks will include before and after eating, before and after recess or breaks, after using the restroom, and as needed.</p> <p>Hand sanitizer will be available in all areas where there is not sink access. Hand sanitizer will be available in common areas, hallways, and classrooms.</p> <p>Staff are expected to follow same guidelines.</p>
<p>d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</p>	<p>Cleaning and disinfecting procedures for bus drivers and custodians focus on high touch areas including: all door handles; lavatory sinks, lavatory door handles, and toilets; drinking fountain mechanisms where in use; countertops, tabletops, and desktops; door push/pull points; handrails; public touchscreens.</p> <p>High touch surfaces will be disinfected daily. Student and staff toilet rooms will be cleaned and disinfected each evening following days when programs are onsite.</p> <p>Special procedures for cleaning and disinfecting areas occupied by known covid-19 positive individuals will be followed.</p> <p>CDC ventilation standard for HVAC systems have been installed on all large air handlers and RTUs in the district.</p>
<p>e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<p>Staff and students are expected to comply with CDC recommendations for self-quarantine after exposure. School nurses will track absence line symptom information and report it to the Principal.</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p>WPCS will implement assistance from Widener’s University Health service department with contact tracing with the boundaries of FERPA</p>
<p>f. Diagnostic and screening testing;</p>	<p>Currently, at this time we do not have measures in place to diagnose or screen test students or staff.</p>
<p>g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;</p>	<p>WPCS will continue to promote vaccines as the most effective Covid-19 prevention method and encourage families to vaccinate their children eligible to receive vaccines. Currently, vaccines are approved for children 12 and older. Should they become available to younger children during the duration of this plan we will explore the efficacy and need for holding vaccination clinics at WPCS through partnerships with local pharmacies</p>
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<p>Students with individualized education plans (IEP) or 504 plans will have their needs reviewed by their case manager or at parental request. IEP team will determine services and accommodations with consideration to health and safety plan.</p> <p>In instances where physical distancing or other safety guidelines cannot be fully implemented due to the nature of student needs, IEP team will determine the extent to which health and safety guidelines can be met following state and federal law and make individual recommendations for adaptation to staff providing services to the student.</p> <p>Staff delivering services such as physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech will follow cleaning and disinfection protocols for all equipment between student visits. Staff will visit students in classrooms when feasible; some students will need to receive services in other spaces because of the nature of their needs.</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	Teams will consult CDC guidelines for: people at risk of increased illness, other at-risk populations, and people who need to take extra precautions when determining individual adaptations to this health and safety plan.
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	WPCS intends to fully comply with guidance from the CDC, Pennsylvania Department of Health, Pennsylvania Department of Education, and the DCOPH. This plan will be periodically reviewed to ensure consistency with current public health guidance.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Widener Partnership Charter School** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **(INSERT DATE: MONTH, DAY, YEAR)**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

_____ **Yes**

_____ **No**

Affirmed on: **(INSERT DATE: MONTH, DAY, YEAR)**

By:

(Signature of Board 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.