



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: Russell Byers Charter School

Initial Effective Date: August 23, 2021

Date of Last Review: August 20, 2020

Date of Last Revision: August 9, 2021

- 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?**

Russell Byers Charter School will follow CDC guidelines to reopen school for the upcoming 2020-2021 school year. Our most important prevention is encouraging vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals to continue to wear masks to mitigate the spread of the new strand of COVID-19.

We will continue to provide the school community with health and safety supplies to support the well-being of our students and unvaccinated individuals. Although we are unable to support social-distances, we are provided layers of protection to support the safety of our staff and students.

- 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?**

Russell Byers Charter School will offer students and families 100% in-person learning or 100% virtual. Hybrid learning will not be an option. RBCS will require teachers to plan and provide assignments on Google Classroom in the event cohorts need to quarantine. RBCS will provide students with Chromebooks to support their learning. The City of Philadelphia continues to provide our students with the PHL Internet Hotspots so they have equitable access to the internet.

As a new School Food Authority we provide families access to free meals during students quarantining. In addition, we will provide families communication of places to pick up free meals in the City of Philadelphia.

- 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>All vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals will be required to wear masks/face coverings while in the building. Extra masks will be on-site for those individuals whose masks are damaged or lost.</p> <p>Signage will be hung around the building to remind staff, students and visitors to wear masks.</p>
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<p>RBCS requires students to be in cohorts throughout the school day.</p> <p>Teachers will have the option to use privacy shields on students' desks as a barrier.</p>
<p>c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</p>	<p>All classrooms will be required to have a sanitizing station that includes: Hand-sanitizer, wipes and disinfectant.</p>
<p>d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</p>	<p>RBCS will continue its standard practice of cleaning. RBCS will continue to purchase cleaning supplies for staff. High touch areas in communal spaces are frequently disinfected. RBCS installed a new HVAC system with air scrubbers that neutralize germs. Three water bottle stations were installed so staff and students can limit drinking from the water fountains.</p>
<p>e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<p>RBCS will follow CDC guidelines around quarantining and isolation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Contact with a person with COVID-19 15 minutes or more within a 6 feet distance is exposure. That said person will need to quarantine ● A student or staff member in a cohort tests positive for COVID-19, the cohort will have to quarantine for 10 school days. Or, they receive a negative COVID-19 test after 7 days.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students or staff members that are vaccinated do not need to quarantine. • A staff member or student who is symptomatic with COVID-19 symptoms will be required to be isolated for 14 days.
f. <u>Diagnostic</u> and screening testing;	Staff, students and visitors will be required to have their temperature checked when entering the building each day. Only staff and visitors will be required to record their temperature.
g. Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to school communities</u>;	<p>RBCS continues to talk with individuals who are unvaccinated to understand their point of view with the vaccine.</p> <p>RBCS will support the fight against COVID-19 by providing information about the vaccine to the school community.</p>
h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	Students with special needs who struggle with sensory issues will be provided with face shields to protect them from exposure of COVID-19.
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	<p>Individuals who are diagnosed with COVID-19 will be reported to the Philadelphia Department of Health.</p> <p>Students who are diagnosed with COVID-19 will be reported to the School District of Philadelphia Transportation Office.</p> <p>RBCS will participate with the PDOH who is offering a free, voluntary COVID-19 school testing programs to all K-12 schools.</p>

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Russell Byers Charter School** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **August 19, 2021**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

_____ **Yes**

_____ **No**

Affirmed on: **August 19, 2021**

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.