



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: January 20, 2022

Date of Last Revision: May 17, 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?**

Russell Byers Charter School will follow CDC guidelines to reopen school for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year. As new mitigation changes, RBCS will modify our Health and Safety Plan to match new guidance. Our most important prevention is encouraging vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals to continue to wear masks to mitigate the spread 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 Staff. Although we are unable to support social-distances, we are provided layers of protection to support the safety of our Students and Staff.

- 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 this current school year. 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. This will be a 1:1 model. 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>RBCS is requesting that all individuals wear a mask. Mask mandates have been lifted in Philadelphia County. All schools have moved to a mask optional phase, however with the increase in positive cases we are asking that individuals wear a mask until the close of school. Disposable masks will be on-site for individuals.</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 student desks as a barrier as an extra layer of protection.</p> <p>Cohorts will sit together during lunch periods to minimize COVID-19 exposure.</p>
<p>c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</p>	<p>All classrooms will be required to have a sanitizing station that includes: Hand-sanitizer, disinfectant wipes and any other cleaning supplies.</p>
<p>d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</p>	<p>RBCS will continue its standard practice of cleaning.</p> <p>RBCS will continue to purchase cleaning supplies for staff and students.</p> <p>High touch areas in communal spaces are frequently disinfected.</p> <p>RBCS installed a new HVAC system with air scrubbers that neutralize germs.</p> <p>Three No Touch Water Stations were installed.</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 is exposure. That said a student or staff member should get tested. If positive, the set person will need to be isolated for 5 days. ● An individual can end isolation after 5 full days if they are

	<p>fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and other symptoms have improved (Loss of taste and smell may persist for weeks or months after recovery and need not delay the end of isolation).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● If a person continues to have fever or other symptoms have not improved after 5 days of isolation, he/she/they should wait to end their isolation until he/she/they are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and other symptoms have improved. Continue to wear a well-fitting mask through day 10. Contact your healthcare provider if you have questions ● A student or staff member who is positive for COVID-19 is encouraged to get a negative COVID-19 test upon returning back to the building. ● Students or staff members that are vaccinated do not need to quarantine.
<p>f. Diagnostic and screening testing;</p>	<p>Staff students and visitors will not be required to have their temperature checked when entering the school building each day.</p> <p>Visitors and community members will not be required to show proof of vaccination upon entering RBCS.</p>
<p>g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;</p>	<p>RBCS has mandated that Staff be vaccinated. Medical and religious exemptions will be granted with valid proof of reason.</p> <p>RBCS will require Staff who are unvaccinated to be tested frequently each week.</p>

	Students have the option to be tested for COVID with parental consent.
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.
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	<p>Individuals who are diagnosed with COVID will be reported to the Philadelphia Department of Health.</p> <p>RBCS will continue to participate with the PDOH who is offering a free, voluntary COVID-19 school testing program to all K-12 schools.</p> <p>RBCS encourages households to obtain free testing kits by the federal government.</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 **February 17, 2022**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

Yes

No

Affirmed on: **February 17, 2022**

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.