



# 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: **Innovative Arts Academy Charter School**

**Initial Effective Date: 07-29-2021**

**Date of Last Review: 07-29-2021**

**Date of Last Revision: 07-2-2021**

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?

Our goal is to prioritize in-person instruction for our students in the safest manner possible and appropriate for our students and employees. We are aware that cases of COVID-19 still exist in our region and continue to fluctuate so we must be responsive and flexible to ensure the health and safety of our students and employees.

We will continue to monitor and review the latest guidance and recommendations from the CDC, DOH, and local health agencies. The goal is to keep transmission as low as possible to safely continue school activities. This local and state guidance will be used when determining appropriate prevention and mitigation procedures and protocols for the Innovative Arts Academy

The Innovative Arts Academy Charter School Board of Directors grants the CEO the authority to alter this plan without Board approval to adhere to released orders or guidance of federal, state, and local authorities and in consideration of number of cases in the school and overall community spread.

This plan will be monitored, revised, and updated as Federal, State, and local orders and health data evolve throughout the summer and school year.

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?

Through the use of ESSR funds, IAACS is operating summer programming for all students interested and able to participate, including those especially at risk (i.e. English Language Learners, etc. ) This summer programming is designed to address learning gaps caused by the pandemic as well as provide SEL education and supports. Attendees will be provided breakfast and lunch in coordination with our Seamless Summer Option (SSO) program. In addition, we will also operate Extended School Year (ESY) and provide COVID Compensatory Services (CCS) throughout the summer to qualifying students of special needs.

Students and families will have access to behavioral health supports including school

counselors, school psychologists, and third-party providers to assist students. Additionally, students may access the Safe2Say reporting tool when needed. Employees have access to a variety of Behavioral Health Supports that may include the School Psychologist and Community resources.

The school will update its Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) for students throughout the 2021-2022 school year with interventions in English/Language Arts and Mathematics, positive behavior support programs, special education programs and services, and programs specialized to meet the needs of students with social, emotional, or mental health needs, as well as SSO Program throughout the 2021-2022 school year. These programs will be available for ALL students.

IAACS is prepared to offer five-day a week in-person instruction for all students to start the 2021-2022 school year, we will also be prepared to offer online synchronous/asynchronous learning due to the technology devices/platforms already purchased using ESSER funds if we are mandated by PDE or another state or federal level agency, or we choose locally, to switch to fully online instruction for a temporary amount of time.

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
a. Universal and correct wearing of <a href="#">masks</a> ;	Students and staff will comply with CDC/PA Department of Health masking guidelines and requirements.
b. Modifying facilities to allow for <a href="#">physical distancing</a> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);	Students will be socially distanced to the greatest extent feasible and appropriate. Principals and teachers will modify their classroom layouts, arrival and dismissal procedures, locker usage, etc. to the maximum extent feasible and appropriate to assist with the implementation of social distancing procedures. Please note that social distancing amounts will vary by classroom, location, activity, etc.
c. <a href="#">Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</a> ;	Signs have been posted in highly visible locations throughout the school. Frequent hand-washing is encouraged. Hand sanitizer dispensers have been mounted inside/outside of all classrooms. Portable dispensers are available in all common areas. Teachers will review handwashing information during the first week of school

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<p>d. <a href="#">Cleaning</a> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <a href="#">ventilation</a>;</p>	<p>IAACS will continue to assess and replace HVAC filters when necessary. The school will provide cleaning and sanitizing solutions and materials to classrooms and employees for cleaning as needed and provide routine cleaning of facilities and classrooms by employees. We are also working to increase the flow of outside air into the classrooms and have purchased air purifiers to be placed throughout the building</p>
<p>e. <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;</p>	<p>IAACS will abide by, to the maximum extent possible, any contact tracing, isolation, and quarantine requirements issued by the Center for Disease Control/Pennsylvania Department of Health/Pennsylvania Department of Education.</p>
<p>f. <a href="#">Diagnostic</a> and screening testing;</p>	<p>IAACS will promote diagnostic and symptom screening by parents/students/employees who are symptomatic or have suspicion of COVID-19 exposure prior to arriving at the school.</p>
<p>g. Efforts to provide <a href="#">vaccinations to school communities</a>;</p>	<p>IAACS may consider offering a vaccination clinic to allow our families, including students and staff, and the surrounding community to receive a COVID-19 vaccination if warranted or contacted by the state department of health.</p>
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<p>Reasonable accommodations, as appropriate, will be provided to students with disabilities with respect to health and safety protocols.</p>
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<p>IAACS will actively participate in collaborative efforts with local and state health officials who desire coordination related to responses to the pandemic</p>

## Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Innovative Arts Academy Charter School** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **August 16, 2021**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

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

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

Affirmed on: **August 16, 2021**

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.