



Gateway School District Health and Safety Plan

December 22, 2021

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 comments 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 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: Gateway School District

Initial Effective Date: August 23, 2021

Date of Last Review: December 15, 2021

Date of Last Revision: December 15, 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 to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning?

The Gateway School District will continue to work in concert with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Pennsylvania Department of Health, Allegheny County Health Department, and the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) when opening our school facilities for the 2021 – 2022 school year. All health and safety planning for our district will be informed by guidance from each respective government agency.

The Gateway School District will continue prevention and mitigation efforts that were implemented the previous school year at the start of the pandemic. The following mitigation and prevention efforts will be maintained:

- High traffic touch points will be disinfected and sanitized throughout each school day.
 - Disinfecting fog machines will be utilized on a regular basis to ensure that all areas within the school are cleaned and sanitized.
 - Sanitation stations will continue to be present within each classroom. The sanitation stations will include hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, masks, gloves, etc.
 - Disinfectant wipes and hand sanitizer stations will be available throughout each building for all students and staff.
 - The traditional shared water fountains will continue to be closed to students and staff. All students and staff will have the ability to access water through filling individual water bottles.
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?

The Gateway School District will provide in-person learning for students during the 2021 – 2022 school year. An emphasis will be placed on addressing each student's academic needs and assuring that all students are appropriately challenged. Specifically, the following additional positions will be added for the 2021 – 2022 school year:

- Elementary Schools
 - 3 Instructional Support Teachers
 - Additional Grade 2 Teacher
- Middle School
 - ELA Instructional Support Teacher
 - Math Instructional Support Teacher
 - Home School Visitor/Social Worker
- High School
 - Math Instructional Support Teacher

Families within the Gateway School District will also have the option to enroll their child in virtual instruction during the 2021 - 2022 school year. Specifically, the Gateway Cyber Academy will be available for all students. In addition, students within kindergarten through grade 6 will have the option to enroll in the Gateway Academic Transition Education (GATE) Program.

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 masks ;	<p>The Gateway School District will institute a mask optional protocol. The wearing of face coverings will be optional, absent any legal mandates from the Pennsylvania Department of Health, state, or federal government regarding the use of face coverings for students, employees, and visitors.</p> <p>In the event that COVID-19 cases reach a substantially high level of community transmission, a building specific mask mandate may be instituted at the discretion of the Superintendent and Central Administration.</p> <p>Substantial transmission is 50 to 100 cases per 100,000, or a positivity rate between</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p>8% and 10%. High transmission is 100 or more cases per 100,000 people or a positivity rate of 10%.</p> <p>The federal mandate requiring face coverings on all school public transportation remains in effect. This federal mandate includes all Gateway School District school buses and vans.</p>
b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)	Gateway School District will return to standard operating procedures for all activities during the school day, evenings, and athletic events. Any potential changes will be informed by guidance from each respective government agency.
c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette ;	The district-wide handwashing campaign will continue. Procedures for effective handwashing from the CDC will be shared regularly with all members of the school community.
d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation ;	Mitigation efforts that include regularly sanitizing and disinfecting high traffic areas within facilities and utilization of disinfectant fog machines will continue. Every effort will be made to increase ventilation within the district's facilities.
e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine , in collaboration with the State and local health departments;	The Gateway School District will continue to work in concert with the Allegheny Health Department to complete contact tracing. All recommendations for isolation and quarantine will be determined through guidance from the Allegheny County Health Department.
f. Diagnostic and screening testing;	Formal diagnostic and screen testing of students for Covid-19 will not be administered within the district. All members of the school community will be reminded to screen signs and symptoms of Covid-19 prior to arriving at any school activity or event.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities ;	The Gateway School District's proximity to Forbes Regional Hospital and UPMC East has provided many opportunities for all members of the school community to access the vaccine. The district will continue to refer individuals to the local vaccination clinics.
h. Appropriate accommodation for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	If a student requires a specific health plan, the health plan will be incorporated into the student's 504 Plan or IEP as appropriate.
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	The Gateway School District will continue to work in concert with all state and local health officials.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Gateway School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on December 16, 2021.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

☒ **Yes**
☐ **No**

Affirmed on: TBD

Jack Bova, Gateway School Board President
