

# ARP ESSER Health and Safety Plan

## Guidance & Template

2021 - 2022

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 Thorough an Integrated System of Support](#)
- [PA Department of Health - COVID-19 in Pennsylvania](#)

# Health and Safety Plan Summary:

## DuBois Area School District

**Initial Effective Date:** July 23, 2021

**Date of Last Review:** February 24, 2022

**Date of Last Revision:** February 24, 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?

The DuBois Area School District will support prevention and mitigation strategies provided by the CDC to the greatest extent possible and in response to the impact the pandemic has within the DuBois Area School District. The predominant goal for the 2021-2022 school year is to safely open and maintain the operations of schools for in-person learning while keeping the health, safety and welfare of students and staff as the top priority. The District will continue to follow our evidenced-based Health & Safety Plan that successfully guided our District through a year of in-person instruction during the 2020-2021 school year. The District will continue to update our Health & Safety Plan as often as necessary in response to the impact of the pandemic.

The DuBois Area School District will maintain many of its prevention and mitigation strategies throughout the 2021-2022 school year including, but not limited to the following:

- The DASD will continue to communicate the Health & Safety Plan and any changes as necessary to the school community through the Skyward Skylert and Messaging Center (phone calls and emails).
  - Families will be notified of confirmed cases of COVID-19 by building via email.
  - Families will be notified of temporary school closures for deep cleaning if necessary, via phone.
- Prior to arrival at school, individuals are responsible for monitoring their symptoms. If an individual has a fever of 100.4 degrees or higher, a cough, shortness of breath, or loss of taste and smell, they must stay home.
  - Please refer to the Symptom Monitoring chart below.

<b>Group A</b> <b>1 or more symptoms = STAY HOME</b>	<b>Group B</b> <b>2 or more symptoms = STAY HOME</b>
Fever (100.4 or higher) New/Unexplained Cough Shortness of Breath Difficulty Breathing	Sore Throat Runny Nose/Congestion Chills New Lack of Smell or Taste Muscle Pain Nausea or Vomiting Headache Diarrhea

- Protective face coverings will be permitted and provided upon request, to any individual that cannot self-provide
- The DASD will continue to offer the option of exceptional in-person educational programming as well as the option of high quality, asynchronous educational programming through the District's Virtual Academy
- The DASD provided vaccination clinics to all employees in the spring of 2021 and has hosted vaccination clinics for the community. Continued efforts with the District and the vaccination providers will be coordinated as necessary.
- The DASD will continue to implement cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting practices recommended by the CDC
  - Electrostatic handheld sprayers will be used to supplement cleaning
- Hand sanitizing stations or hand sanitizer will be available in classrooms, hallways and common areas throughout all buildings
- Traditional water fountains have been replaced or are in process of being replaced with water bottle filling stations
- The DASD is in the process of removing carpet and installing new flooring district-wide to further ensure deep cleaning of flooring throughout the District.
- Signage will be available promoting proper hygiene, restricted areas, directional movement and identification of hand sanitizing solutions
- Social distancing will be promoted and practiced to the greatest extent feasible
- When possible, hallway traffic patterns will be established areas to avoid face-to-face contact
- The use of available outdoor spaces is encouraged when weather permits
- Classrooms will be arranged with seats facing the same direction to the greatest extent possible
- Schedules will be coordinated to minimize transition interactions during arrival and dismissal times

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 DuBois Area School District will provide families with the option to attend school in-person or to attend virtually through the K-12 DASD Virtual Academy. All instructional staff will maintain a Google

Classroom to facilitate instruction in the event that quarantines and temporary school closures are necessary.

The DASD provides a district issued electronic device to all students and faculty. The District will assist students with internet access in their homes to ensure access to academic, social, mental health and other needs during times of online instruction. Regardless of the instructional model, the DASD will continue to offer access to food service, academics, social, emotional, mental health and other needs as deemed necessary.

The DASD is offering ALL students in grades K-12 the following opportunities to engage in summer learning: Elementary Summer Skills Enhancement, Extended School Year Services, Credit-Recovery/Summer School Programming for students in grades 5 through 12. In addition, the District launched a K-4 Summer Enrichment website to include: recorded readings of books, online engagement activities, lessons to spark ideas for using their educational materials, free virtual summer camps for kids and a Summer Enrichment Challenge. The District also provided every student in grades K-4 with a Summer Enrichment Bag full of instructional supplements by grade level to include: five selections of children's literature, journal, colored pencils or crayons, math fluency cards, beach ball activity, jump rope and sidewalk chalk.

The District has provided and will continue to provide educational programming and services after school during the 2021-2022 school year.

The District will provide tutoring and/or academic supports throughout the school day for ALL students in grades K-12.

The District will continue to meet the social, emotional and mental health needs of the students and staff through their comprehensive K-12 Wellness Curriculum, social emotional learning and trauma-invested district practices, as well as individualized and small group K-12 counseling support services. Each building level is also implementing their own building-specific initiatives including:

DuBois Area High School - Social Emotional Learning activities, clubs and extracurricular activity opportunities are provided for students to make connections, build relationships and thrive collaboratively with and for the benefit of our school community. Additional opportunities include: 23 varsity sports for students to participate in, student access to online resources for social needs via our guidance website, weekly Student Assistance Program meetings to support students, "Beaver Buddies" program with students supporting each other in collaborative learning, "Beaver Commons Café" learning and collaboration area for students, tutoring periods provided throughout the school day for all students, Safe Crisis Response Team, and the Safe to Say Something Team supporting students' behaviors of concern.

DuBois Area Middle School - Social Emotional Learning (SEL) activities include but are not limited to: extensive extracurricular club opportunities. This includes two clubs that specifically address SEL matters. The Student Assistance Program helps students who are struggling with potential mental health and/or drugs/alcohol. The Guidance Staff maintains a Google Classroom that provides resources to all students that addresses SEL. We have established a Hope Squad, a suicide prevention program where peers are trained to look for warning signs. The Middle School has two project based learning programs through a student maintained greenhouse and a coffee/snack cart. We have a food pantry to provide meals for students on weekends whom are experiencing food insufficiencies in their homes. The clothing closet provides clothing and shoes to any child who is in need. The Middle School also provides social opportunities through athletics, dances, leadership opportunities (Honor Society and Student Council), and the arts.

DuBois Area Elementary Schools – SEL activities throughout the four elementary schools include but are not limited to: student support/recognition throughout each month/quarter, regular classroom lessons with the School Counselor on various topics to support students' emotional health, calming

corners are available for students in classrooms, and Crisis Teams, ESAP and Child Success programs are provided to support students in every building. Students may also meet individually with the School Counselors or available staff as needed. Many other Positive Behavior Programs continue to flourish in each building. Elementary schools are encouraged to provide daily Mindfulness Activities, as well as Daily Intentions to promote a calm and focused start to each day.

As a Community Eligibility Provision District, all students will maintain access to a free breakfast and lunch daily. A drive-thru food service will continue to be available upon request for students enrolled in the DASD Virtual Academy or who are in quarantine. Food pantries have been established in every school to meet the nutritional needs of students over the weekends and holidays. In the event of a temporary closure, the district will make every attempt to provide meals to students prior to dismissal; to nourish them during the closure. In the event of an extended closure, the District will maintain the drive-thru option and has purchased a food truck to deliver meals to students in need. Over the summer months, the District provides free lunches to any student 18 years of age or younger on site and at various permanent locations and mobile locations throughout the community through the DASD Food Truck.

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> ;	<p>The DASD has considered the guidance and recommendations from the CDC related to universal and correct wearing of masks.</p> <p>The DASD has determined that protective face coverings are effective but only one of many layers of COVID mitigation strategies.</p> <p>The DASD will review recommendations from the CDC and determine if/how we can implement prevention and mitigation strategies to the greatest extent feasible based upon the needs of the school community.</p> <p>All students and staff are required to follow all commonwealth face covering guidelines while on the bus. As per the <a href="#">Federal order issued in January 2021</a>, the CDC requires face coverings, regardless of vaccination status, when on public transportation - this includes on school buses operated by public and private school systems. However, a driver does not need to wear a face covering if they are the only person on the bus.</p> <p>Protective face coverings will be permitted, are strongly encouraged and will be provided to individuals that cannot self-provide.</p> <p>Protective face coverings within school buildings will not be required unless mandated by the PDE/CDC/PA DOH <u>or</u> unless COVID outbreaks</p>

	<p>within the school are resulting in temporary building closures.</p> <p>In the event of COVID outbreaks that cannot be controlled through temporary closures for deep cleaning, the district may strongly encourage or require the use of protective face coverings. Updates reflective of new requirements will be provided to staff, students and families.</p>
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for <a href="#">physical distancing</a> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<p>The DASD has considered the guidance and recommendations from the CDC related to modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing.</p> <p>Physical distancing will be practiced to the greatest extent feasible throughout all schools and regulated based upon the level of in-school transmission.</p> <p>Signage that encourages social distancing will be posted in common areas throughout the schools.</p> <p>The DASD will follow commonwealth guidelines on occupancy limits for events/gatherings.</p>
<p>c. <a href="#">Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</a>;</p>	<p>The DASD has considered the guidance and recommendations from the CDC related to handwashing and respiratory etiquette.</p> <p>Students and staff are encouraged to practice regularly scheduled hand washing or sanitizing; including but not limited to entry into the school, classroom, after using the restroom, before and after eating or using shared materials/resources/equipment, and after coughing or sneezing.</p> <p>Posters including COVID mitigation strategies, handwashing and respiratory etiquette guides will be posted throughout buildings in highly visible areas including restrooms.</p> <p>Staff will teach and encourage effective hygiene measures such as handwashing, not touching your face and covering your coughs and sneezes to students.</p> <p>Hand sanitizing stations or hand sanitizer will be available in classrooms, hallways and common areas through all buildings</p> <p>Reminders of mitigation strategies will be provided during the morning announcements.</p>

<p>d. <a href="#">Cleaning</a> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <a href="#">ventilation</a>;</p>	<p>The DASD has considered the guidance and recommendations from the CDC related to cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation.</p> <p>Continue daily cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting strategies with products recommended by the CDC to reduce the likelihood of COVID transmission. High contact areas and restrooms will be prioritized for cleaning during and after the school day.</p> <p>As new, potentially more transmissible variants of SARS-CoV-2 continue to emerge, broad improvements in indoor air quality are important for reducing transmission. HVAC upgrades are underway in five of the six schools and are scheduled to be completed by 2024.</p> <p>Frequent cleaning and replacement of MERV13 and/or MERV8 air filters in facility ventilation systems will continue as a common practice.</p> <p>All district buildings will be flushed with outside air twice daily: after dismissal and prior to the arrival of staff and students.</p> <p>Staff will be encouraged to open classroom windows to the greatest extent feasible to optimize air flow.</p> <p>School provided transportation will optimize air flow to the greatest extent feasible and will be cleaned, sanitized and disinfected daily.</p> <p>Portable HEPA air filtration systems will be used in the nurses' offices and specialized classrooms.</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>The DASD has considered the guidance and recommendations from the CDC related to contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine in collaboration with the State and local health departments.</p> <p>In accordance with the PA DOH guidelines, upon exposure to someone who tests positive for COVID-19 for 15 minutes or more, the student/employee will be informed of the exposure.</p>



	<p>During the contact tracing process, the individual will be asked:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If a student or staff member has been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the last 90 days.</li> <li>• If a student or staff member has completed all recommended COVID-19 vaccines, and remains symptom free or if the exposed individual has tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 3 months (90 days) and recovered, the student/staff member will be excused from quarantine.</li> <li>• If a student or staff member is diagnosed with COVID-19, with or without a positive test and/or symptoms, the District will follow applicable health department protocol and guidance while respecting the confidentiality of those involved.</li> <li>• If a student or someone in the student's household is being tested for COVID-19, immediately notify the School Nurse.</li> <li>• If a student or staff member develops COVID-like symptoms, they will be asked to follow up with their Primary Care Physician.</li> </ul> <p>The District will maintain areas to isolate students/staff that exhibit COVID-like symptoms.</p> <p>Nurses, Principals and the Pandemic Coordinator will work collaboratively with the State and local health departments.</p> <p>The District will follow contact tracing and quarantine mandates.</p> <p>The District will communicate with staff and students as mandated regarding communicable diseases.</p>
f. <a href="#">Diagnostic</a> and screening testing;	<p>The DASD has considered the guidance and recommendations from the CDC related to diagnostic and screening testing.</p> <p>Daily wellness screenings to include a temperature check will be performed by all employees and by parents for students attending school.</p> <p>The District will provide wellness screening checkpoints for students or staff that are unable to complete a screening prior to arriving on campus.</p>

	<p>The District will monitor staff and students for COVID-like symptoms.</p> <p>The District will encourage staff and students to stay home if they are sick.</p> <p>Information pertaining to diagnostic testing will be provided upon request and/or as it is made available to school systems.</p> <p>Faculty/staff and parents/guardians must notify the school if an absence is due to COVID-19 symptoms, close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual or a positive COVID-19 test.</p> <p>Our Health Department is available to answer questions for students, staff and parents/guardians. In addition, they are available during the school day to address any COVID-19 related questions/matters.</p>
g. Efforts to provide <a href="#">vaccinations to school communities</a> ;	<p>The DASD has considered the guidance and recommendations from the CDC related to efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities.</p> <p>The District has provided vaccination clinics to all employees and has hosted vaccination clinics for the community. Continued efforts with the District and the vaccination providers will be coordinated as necessary.</p>
h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	<p>The DASD has considered the guidance and recommendations from the CDC related to appropriate accommodations for students and employees with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies.</p> <p>The District will provide appropriate accommodations in compliance with federal and state laws and regulations for students and employees who have disabilities.</p>
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	<p>The District will continue to cooperate and work in coordination with the state and local health officials as well as the PA Department of Education as they provide guidance not only related to the pandemic but also any future health, safety and welfare matters to protect our school community.</p>

# Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **DuBois Area School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **July 22, 2021**.

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **DuBois Area School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **February 24, 2022**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

7 **Yes**

0 **No**

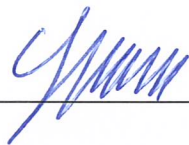
2 – Absent (Excused)

Affirmed on: **July 22, 2021**

Reviewed on: **February 24, 2022**

By:

Signature\* of Board President: \_\_\_\_\_



Print Name of Board President: Larry Salone

\*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.