



ARP ESSER Health and Safety Plan

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 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

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.

Health and Safety Plan Summary: Valley Grove School District

Initial Effective Date: July 27, 2021

Date of Last Review: August 23, 2021

Date of Last Revision: August 23, 2021

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?

After reviewing the most up-to-date guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for the reopening and operation of school facilities, Valley Grove School District will, to the greatest extent practicable, evaluate those recommendations given the existing capacity of our instructional areas and within the context of our individual school buildings. We plan to utilize the CDC guidance to continuously and safely open and operate our schools for in-person learning for all students.

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?

Valley Grove School District will ensure continuity of services to address students' academic needs as outlined in the Emergency Instructional Time Template filed and as outlined in Section 520.1 of the School Code. VGSD will maintain our current level of staffing in our School Counseling, Special Program Services, and Food Service departments, to help ensure continuity of services to address students' and staff members' social, emotional, and mental health needs, including student health and food services. In addition, VGSD has increased our academic intervention and support team by 2 professional staff members to evaluate and address learning loss.

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: Universal mask wearing, physical distancing, handwashing, cleaning, improved ventilation, contact tracing, diagnostic testing, efforts to provide vaccinations to the community, and appropriate accommodations for children to follow health and safety procedures.

a. Universal and correct wearing of [masks](#)

If required by the Department of Health/CDC, appropriate face coverings, such as masks or shields, must be worn by all individuals, while on school property.

Currently VGSD will require face coverings on school transportation in compliance with the DOH. Masks and face coverings, while encouraged, are not currently required in school buildings or on school grounds.

b. Modifying facilities to allow for [physical distancing](#)

(use of cohorts/podding/assigned seating)

If required by the Department of Health/CDC, students will be physically distanced and spaced to the maximum extent possible in our instructional spaces based upon classroom capacity.

c. [Hand washing](#) and respiratory etiquette

Ensure handwashing strategies include washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after using the restroom; before eating; and after blowing the nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not available and hands are not visibly dirty, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

CDC handwashing resources that include health promotion materials, information on proper handwashing technique, and tips for families to help children develop good hand washing habits.

Ensure adequate supplies (soap, paper towels, hand sanitizer, tissue) to support healthy hygiene practices.

CDC Posters will be posted in all district cafeterias, restrooms, and other high traffic areas

d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

Frequently touched surfaces and objects within the school and on buses will be cleaned and disinfected at least daily. This includes, but is not limited to, door handles, sink handles, and drinking fountains.

Electrostatic Spray Disinfectant will be utilized on a daily/weekly basis.

Ensure HVAC systems (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems) are operating properly.

Classrooms and common areas will be ventilated with additional circulation of outdoor air when possible, using windows, doors, and/or fans

e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine in collaboration with State and local health departments

Records of any persons, other than students and staff, who enter the building, their reason for being there, the location in the building they visit, and the names of the close contacts that they visit in the building will be maintained.

Provide regular information on the Valley Grove School District website and in letters/robocalls/e-messaging.

Prepare parents and families for alternative instructional models if a class or school is temporarily dismissed/closed.

Students, staff, and educators diagnosed with COVID-19 should isolate and stay away from the school premises until requirements for end of isolation are met.

Students, staff, and educators who have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 and who are not fully vaccinated should quarantine and contact their personal care provider to discuss diagnostic testing.

Any close contacts who test positive for Covid-19 or who have symptoms should begin isolation regardless of vaccination status or prior infection.

f. Diagnostic and screening testing

All students and parents/guardians are encouraged to perform a symptom screening prior to arriving at school or at the bus stop each day.

No student with symptoms should be sent on a bus or brought to school.

All district staff are encouraged to perform a symptom screen on themselves prior to leaving for work and should stay home if ill.

Students and staff will consistently be made aware of the signs and symptoms of COVID-19

Students and staff should go to the nurse immediately if feeling symptomatic.

The District will share resources with the school community to help families understand when to keep children home.

g. Efforts to provide [vaccinations](#) to school communities

The District will communicate with local health agencies to review opportunities to receive vaccinations.

The District will help to publicize vaccination opportunities within the local community.

h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies

Consult and update individual healthcare plans for students with complex needs or other vulnerable individuals.

Students with medical concerns, students unable to maintain proper social distance, students requiring hand-over-hand instruction and support, and students requiring assistance with feeding or toileting will have extra strategies implemented.

These precautions include: If a sink is available in the classroom, staff should thoroughly wash hands immediately before and after working with a student.

Limit use of communal objects for student reinforcement. If such objects are used with multiple students, each object should be disinfected immediately before and after student use.

Personal student electronic devices should be disinfected each time a student enters or exits the classroom.

Bathrooms and changing areas should be disinfected before and after student use.

Limit students to one at a time. Students should be assisted with hand washing.

I. Coordination with state and local health officials.

We will coordinate with local and state health officials on all aspects of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic as appropriate.

J. Additional update:

Moratorium on unnecessary overnight Student Travel outside of our region will be lifted for the 21-22 school year and trips will be considered on a case by case basis.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Valley Grove School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on August 23, 2021.

The updated plan was approved by a vote of:

Yes 9

No 0

Affirmed on: July 26, 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.