



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: Catalyst Academy Charter School

Initial Effective Date: March 6, 2024

Date of Last Review: 6.7.2022 (The plan below is scheduled to be approved by the Board on March 5, 2024)

Date of Last Revision: 3.5.2024 (The plan below is scheduled to be approved by the Board on March 5, 2024)

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?

Catalyst Academy CS will align its practices with the guidance provided by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) *Operational Strategy for K-12 School Through Phased Prevention* and the Pennsylvania Department of Education's *COVID-19 Resources for Pre-K to 12 Schools* to ensure safe option of full in-person instruction throughout the 2023-2024 school year.

1. 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?

Catalyst Academy CS will provide full in-person instruction to meet student's academic and health needs. The organization will closely monitor transmission rates in Allegheny County and, in consultation with the Allegheny County Health Department, will make decisions about mandated distance learning if indicated. Student services including school health, school counseling, and nutrition will continue to operate during a potential distance learning scenario.

2. 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;	Consistent with revised CDC guidance, and the official end of the declared public health pandemic in 2023, the wearing of masks will be optional. Catalyst Academy will comply with any future requirements issued by PDE and/or the Allegheny County Health Department with

	<p>regard to masking of students, staff, and school visitors and other mitigation measures.</p> <p>Catalyst Academy students that ride a school bus to school will be required to adhere to the bus masking policies established by their school districts of residence and/or the companies operating their specific bus route.</p>
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<p>If the CDC, PDE, and/or the ACHD recommends physical distancing, Catalyst Academy will seek to keep students and staff apart when feasible in educational and communal environments.</p>
<p>c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</p>	<p>Students will be encouraged and provided with transition time to accommodate hand washing and hand sanitizing.</p> <p>Signage for handwashing will be displayed to remind students of proper handwashing procedures.</p> <p>Adequate supplies (i.e. soap, paper towels, hand sanitizer, facial tissue) to support healthy hygiene practices will be available.</p> <p>Hand sanitizer will be located in several accessible areas of the building.</p>
<p>d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</p>	<p><i>Cleaning</i> Catalyst Academy CS will follow the CDC's <i>Guidance for Cleaning & Disinfecting Schools</i> when feasible.</p> <p>Frequently touched surfaces and objects within the school will be cleaned regularly.</p> <p><i>Ventilation</i> HVAC systems for most classrooms and common areas have been upgraded in 2020-2021 and 2022-2023. The upgraded system monitors air quality and brings in additional fresh air as needed. Additional areas of the building will be renovated when feasible.</p>

<p>e. <u>Contact tracing</u> in combination with <u>isolation</u> and <u>quarantine</u>, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<p>Catalyst Academy CS uses the school nurse office as an isolation area which can be used for staff, students, or visitors who demonstrate COVID-19 symptoms while at school. These isolation areas house students until their parents/guardians retrieve them. Immediate pick-up will be mandated.</p> <p>In alignment with current CDC guidance issued March 1, 2024, staff or students who have have contracted COVID-19, may return to school and resume normal activities when, for at least 24 hours, symptoms are improving overall, and if a fever was present, it has been gone without use of a fever-reducing medication.</p> <p>Once resuming normal activities, additional prevention strategies are encouraged for the next 5 days to curb disease spread, such as enhancing hygiene practices, and wearing a well-fitting mask.</p> <p>The Catalyst Academy administration may make changes as conditions and/or local, state, or federal (e.g., CDC) guidelines change.</p>
<p>f. <u>Diagnostic</u> and screening testing;</p>	<p>Parents/guardians will be asked to continue to monitor students for COVID-19 and other respiratory virus symptoms.</p> <p>Catalyst Academy CS will share information with the school community to help families understand when to keep children home.</p>
<p>g. Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to school communities</u>;</p>	<p>Catalyst Academy CS will help to publicize vaccination opportunities within the local community.</p>
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<p>Students with exceptionalities may require additional accommodations.</p> <p>Accommodations may include: Limit the 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.</p>

	Students may need assistance with handwashing.
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	Catalyst Academy CS will coordinate with the Allegheny County Health Department as needed.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Trustees for Catalyst Academy Charter School reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on March 5, 2024.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

6 Yes

0 No

Affirmed on: March 5, 2024

By:



(Signature of Board President)*

Rachel Amankulor

(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.