

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:
4.
 - 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: Tidioute Community Charter School

Initial Effective Date: 8/11/2021

Date of Last Review: 7/28/2021

Date of Last Revision: 6/9/2021

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?**
 - TCCS will actively monitor state and county covid-19 numbers and transmission, and we are proactive in our approach to health and safety. Social Distancing, masking, and cleaning has been taken into account with the recommendations and guidance from CDC and the PA Department of Health. TCCS will monitor local school and county districts to collaborate in response to local spread of COVID-19.

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?

- TCCS safely screens all visitors and students into the building, proper signage and education is provided in the field of health care to all students and staff, as we have made efforts to provide opportunities for vaccinations and contact tracing. The TCCS school nurse is proactive in quarantining procedures and health concerns related to staff and students. Additionally, the school nurse collaborates with the Department of Health when COVID-19 situations arise daily in the school. TCCS will provide vaccination information on a regular basis and offer vaccination clinics to our students and community members.
- TCCS will use ESSERS funds to provide mental health support, to meet the academic needs of the students. TCCS will continue to use ESSERS to continue the employment of a full time in-house mental health therapist.
- TCCS has and will continue to provide summer school in 2021 and will also do the same in 2022 to close student achievement gaps. Multi-Tiered Systems of Support for reading in grades K-3 will be utilized to target instructional support for literacy. District-wide and school-based professional development activities will focus on reading, writing, and math best practices, data analysis, and small group instruction.
- TCCS will make every effort necessary to provide food services to local families.
- Tutoring services will be provided for students at TCCS.
- Professional development planning will be designed specifically for administrators focusing on Leadership. Next, teacher development will be focused on the core academic subjects to close learning gaps.

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
<p>a. Universal and correct wearing of <u>masks</u>;</p>	<p>Parents, students, staff, and visitors will not be required to wear a face covering in school except for on busses and other forms of school transportation. TCCS reserves the right to make masks mandatory if they are mandated by PDE or the Pennsylvania Department of Health and/or county numbers should go back to substantial. Face coverings will be required by all who visit the health suite. Students will wear masks on busses per federal law at the current time. The board realizes the decision is up to the parents/guardians if the students will choose to wear a mask.</p>
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for <u>physical distancing</u> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<p>TCCS will clean and sanitize on a daily basis, ensuring that high traffic areas are cleaned and prepared for daily use. TCCS will use recommended safe distancing in the educational setting to mitigate spread of infection. TCCS will keep students safely distanced to the maximum extent</p>

	<p>possible. If the COVID rate moves into the substantial category, TCCS will restrict interaction between students to the maximum extent possible. Additionally, TCCS will move classes to bigger spaces and alter classrooms to ensure student safety. Seating charts will be required by teachers to ensure detailed contact tracing. TCCS has constructed an outside pavilion and other outdoor classroom spaces to utilize for outdoor classroom space when possible. Students or families wishing to request distance learning because of medical or health concerns for the 2021-2022 school year should contact the TCCS Administrative Team. A doctor's excuse will be required explaining the health concern or medical necessity. TCCS has plans to improve their heating and ventilation systems. TCCS has completed electrical upgrades to expand space and allow safe distances between students and staff members. TCCS improved the outside playground facilities to allow students to use it to its maximum potential. If the county reaches substantial levels, we will only permit essential employees in the building. Essential employees will be required to use district entrance procedures. Additionally, virtually meetings will be encouraged to limit the number of parents, visitors, and staff members.</p>
<p>a. <u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</u></p>	<p>TCCS will provide proper handwashing stations, education for proper respiratory etiquette to all students and staff. Proper signage will be displayed in all bathroom facilities to draw attention to student and staff health care.</p>
<p>a. <u>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</u></p>	<p>TCCS is committed to continuing to employ a day to day cleaner to maintain health and safety concerns to mitigate the spread of illness. TCCS has committed \$500,000 to improving ventilation and replacing boilers in the school to improve the air quality for students and staff. TCCS will require classroom windows to be open and circulation of air. TCCS has dedicated money to improve air conditioning in each classroom setting. We have approved an outdoor classroom setting to be constructed. TCCS will follow CDC guidelines regarding cleaning protocol after an identified case of COVID-19. TCCS will continue to use bottle fill stations and restrict water fountains. The TCCS cafeteria will be cleaned between each lunch.</p>
<p>a. <u>Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</u></p>	<p>TCCS will follow guidance from the Pennsylvania Department of Health and CDC on contact tracing and quarantine procedures to ensure health and safety for our students and staff. Students who are identified as a close contact of a positive case or they themselves are diagnosed with covid19 or have symptoms of covid19 will be excluded from school according to PA DOH guidelines or until clearance from their provider is received.</p>

<p>a. <u>Diagnostic</u> and screening testing;</p>	<p>TCCS will provide educational materials to families and staff regarding symptoms of covid19. TCCS will encourage families to self screen prior to school for symptoms of covid19. If symptoms are present, students and staff should remain home and will be encouraged to follow up with their health care provider. TCCS will remain diligent in taking temperatures and monitoring students that display symptoms that are related to COVID-19. If students/staff develop symptoms of COVID-19, they will be sent to the health office. TCCS will follow recommended CDC/PA DOH isolation and quarantine guidelines to maintain health and safety within the educational setting. Visitors to TCCS will enter through Jefferson St. door and will have to complete a series of questions as our screening process upon entering.</p>
<p>g. Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to school communities</u>;</p>	<p>The TCCS health office and administration will conduct vaccination clinics for students, staff, and families throughout the 21/22 school year. A covid vaccine clinic was held at TCCS in spring 2020.</p>
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<p>TCCS created a nurses suite central to the location of the elementary and middle/high school students that is on the main floor. Students will be required to wear masks when entering the health office. TCCS staff will clean the health office regularly and between students. TCCS will provide access to PPE equipment. TCCS will work with any parent/guardians of high risk students or staff to provide reasonable accommodations based on the recommendations from a physician, physician's assistant, or nurse practitioner.</p>
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<p>The Nurse and administration will coordinate with health officials from the PA Department of Health, state, and local health officials, and the intermediate unit, to stay up to date with local and state guidance.</p>

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for Tidioute Community Charter School reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on (INSERT DATE: MONTH, DAY, YEAR).

The plan was approved by a vote of:

4 Yes

1 No

Affirmed on: (INSERT DATE: MONTH, DAY, YEAR)

8/11/2021

By:

(Signature* of Board President)

Handwritten signature of Albert M. Haney, Jr. in cursive script.

ALBERT M HANEY, JR

(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.