



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: Saint Benedict Catholic School

Initial Effective Date: July 21,2020

Date of Last Review: December 13, 2021

Date of Last Revision: December 13, 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?

The health and safety of the Saint Benedict Catholic School staff and students remains, as always, the top priority of the organization. The Saint Benedict Catholic School Administration, the Diocesan Education Office Administration, and the Pandemic Response Team continue to take critical steps making decisions that protect the health and safety of our school community in the ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Saint Benedict Catholic School has identified organizational standards and expectations which outline the protocols expected of all staff members, students, and visitors as the school organization moves forward.

Protocols include the following:

- **Self-screening for COVID-19 symptoms**
- **Following communicable disease reporting procedures**
- **Practicing appropriate hygiene etiquette**
- **Optional use of face coverings/adherence to health and safety plans**
- **Cleaning and disinfecting one's workspace**
- **Maintaining physical distancing protocols when feasible**
- **Staying informed of CDC's guidance relative to travel**
- **Maintaining best practices in regards to mitigation efforts**

Expectations will be dependent on the latest mandates, edicts, and orders issued by the Governor's Office, the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH), the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The Diocesan Administration, the Saint Benedict School Administration, and the SBS Pandemic Response Team will continue to monitor communications from these entities. As conditions change related to COVID -19, all protocols are subject to change.

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?

Saint Benedict Catholic School resumes classes on Tuesday, August 17th. Students will have the following educational delivery option:

1. In-Person classroom instruction at Saint Benedict Catholic School. (remote learning may be occasionally necessary depending on positive cases within the school community and governing body mandates)

Student COVID-19 medical issues which require a temporary leave from the classroom will be addressed on a case by case basis to determine the most appropriate instructional alternatives to continue the student's education.

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>Saint Benedict Catholic School will follow current guidelines and orders from the CDC, DOH, or PDE requiring the face coverings for students, staff, and students ,staff and visitors.</p> <p>Face coverings will be required on all public school district transportation for drivers and passengers when ordered by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) on public transportation.</p> <p>When not required by mandate or order, it is recommended that students, faculty, visitors wear face coverings to protect themselves and others.</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	The school will keep on hand a supply of masks in the office and cafeteria for those who wish to take one.
b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);	Saint Benedict Catholic School will adhere to the latest mandates by PDE,DOH, and CDC relative to physical distancing. Whenever COVID-19 is prevalent locally, physical distancing to the maximum extent feasible will continue to be recommended for indoor and outdoor spaces regardless of vaccination status.
c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette ;	<p>Saint Benedict Catholic School expectations related to handwashing and respiratory etiquette are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Washing one’s hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds • Using hand sanitizer that contains at least 70% alcohol (for staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer) • Avoid touching one’s eyes, nose, and mouth • Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or cough or sneeze into one’s elbow
d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation ;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saint Benedict Catholic School will adhere to the latest mandates provided by PDE, DOH, and CDC related to cleaning and ventilation. • SBS is committed to continuing the best practices developed in response to COVID-19 for keeping the workplace clean, disinfected, and safe for staff, students, and visitors. • The use of universal precautions designed to minimize the transmission of communicable diseases will continue to be implemented. Hand sanitizer and cleaning materials will remain available.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limiting sharing materials and use of toys/games that cannot be easily cleaned will continue when feasible. • Staff will continue to be expected to share in the cleaning and disinfecting of shared equipment and furniture/items within an individual's classroom or office. • Additional cleaning and disinfecting protocols may be required as deemed appropriate or directed by the PA Department of Health.
<p>e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Pennsylvania Department of Health considers COVID-19 a communicable disease. As such, it is among DOH'S listing of reportable diseases. • All staff members are required to report any suspected or known case of COVID-19 to the principal within 24 hours. • SBS will contact the Diocesan Education Office Administration who will contact DOH and follow any applicable guidance.
<p>f. Diagnostic and screening testing;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All students, staff and visitors are required to perform a symptom screening prior to arriving at school or at the school bus stop each day. Symptomatic people will be asked to NOT attend school or school sponsored events. • If a student, staff or visitor whom has entered the building and is screened by the office manager with a temperature greater than 100.4 will be sent home for monitoring of further symptoms and asked not to return to school until 24 hours fever/symptom free. • SBS will share resources with the school community to help families understand when to keep students at home.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities ;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saint Benedict Catholic School will communicate local vaccine opportunities available to students, staff and the community. • COVID -19 vaccines will not be required unless mandated by law.
h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SBS will work with families to develop student specific education plans for students with disabilities.
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saint Benedict Catholic School will continue to maintain existing partnerships with local, state agencies regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. • SBS will contact the Diocesan Education Office Administration who will contact the DOH to report a suspected or known case of COVID-19 and follow any applicable guidance.

Saint Benedict Catholic School Pandemic Response Team

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