



# ARP ESSER Health and Safety Plan Guidance & Template

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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: The New Academy CS (NACS)

**Initial Effective Date: 7/28/2021**

**Date of Last Review: 7/30/2021**

**Date of Last Revision: 7/30/2021**

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 New Academy CS (NACS) will continue to monitor the recommendations from PDE, CDC and the Governor of Pennsylvania. Recommendations will be implemented to the greatest extent possible. Enhanced cleaning, social distancing (per CDC guidelines), masking requirements and increased education on personal hygiene practices will continue to be implemented to keep our buildings open and operating safely. The New Academy CS will also continue to monitor and contact trace, to quickly react to outbreaks should they occur.

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 New Academy CS will continue to adapt to the changing needs of both staff and students. Students will have technology, interventions, and Social Emotional curriculum embedded into their daily schedules.

All staff members will be trained in the Trauma Informed Approach before the start of the 21-22 school year. Classroom teachers, counselors and other behavior specialists will monitor students social, emotional, and mental health needs through a multi-tiered system of support and Check and Connect program. In-house Mental Health Therapists will also be available for students.

The New Academy CS provides both breakfast and lunch free of charge for all students. During the 20-21 school year meals were delivered to each student's home to ensure food insecurity would not be an issue. The New Academy CS is equipped to return to that model if circumstances change and we would have to return to a remote/hybrid model.

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 <a href="#">masks</a>;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NACS will continue to monitor the recommendations from the CDC, PADOH, and PDE and make recommendations as necessary.</li> <li>• Given new evidence on the B.1.617.2 (Delta) variant, NACS is following the updated CDC guidance for fully vaccinated people; CDC recommends universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status.</li> </ul>
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for <a href="#">physical distancing</a> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<p>NACS will continue to monitor the recommendations from the CDC, PADOH, and PDE regarding social distancing and make recommendations as necessary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• According to current CDC guidelines, classrooms will be modified to allow for 3 feet social distancing between students and 6 feet between adults where feasible</li> <li>• Auxiliary areas may be used for lunch where it is difficult to maintain social distancing.</li> <li>• Excess furniture will be removed as necessary to maintain proper distancing.</li> <li>• Cohorting will be implemented wherever possible to limit exposure to large groups of students.</li> </ul>
<p>c. <a href="#">Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</a>;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•NACS staff and students will continue to be educated on proper handwashing, respiratory etiquette and personal hygiene routines.</li> <li>• All schools and District facilities have posted signage illustrating proper handwashing techniques</li> <li>• Hand sanitizing dispensers have been installed in high traffic areas in all of the buildings.</li> </ul>
<p>d. <a href="#">Cleaning</a> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <a href="#">ventilation</a>;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building Custodians/Maintenance Staff (who receive annual training on proper use of CDC approved disinfectants, and cleaners) will clean, sanitize and disinfect daily. Custodians complete a daily checklist on cleaning high touch points using a peroxide base cleaner</li> </ul>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p>during the day and disinfect high touch points, classrooms, and bathrooms in the evenings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NACS has an ample supply of electrostatic sprayers that are used in the evenings as needed.</li> <li>• Each classroom is supplied with sanitizer wipes.</li> <li>• NACS Maintenance staff continue to monitor ventilation equipment for proper operation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NACS Maintenance staff will ensure there is an adequate supply of HVAC equipment replacement filters. Filter Merv ratings were upgraded where possible. The filters are dated, logged and monitored. When necessary and appropriate the filters will be changed.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NACS requires staff to report cases of COVID-19 and/or symptoms related to COVID-19 as well as any close contacts directly to HR representative.</li> <li>• NACS works collaboratively with the Allegheny County Health Department when needed.</li> <li>• NACS installed a quarantine room for any student or staff member that may be exhibiting symptoms.</li> </ul>
<p>f. <a href="#">Diagnostic</a> and screening testing;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NACS is not currently testing students or staff.</li> <li>• Students and staff are asked to use a COVID-19 daily symptom self-screener for symptoms prior to reporting to work or school.</li> <li>• If symptoms are discovered students and staff are directed to stay home and follow-up with their PCP for appropriate testing as necessary.</li> </ul>
<p>g. Efforts to provide <a href="#">vaccinations to school communities</a>;</p>	<p>Based on interest, vaccination clinics will be held on campus</p>
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NACS will ensure that any of the policies or parts of the Health and Safety Plan will be sensitive to the needs of students and staff with</li> </ul>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p>medical issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NACS conducts IEP meetings to address specific and unique needs that a student may have related to a safety requirement for COVID-19.</li> <li>• Accommodations of this nature would be documented in the IEP and made in accordance with federal and state laws.</li> </ul>
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NACS has regular contact with the Allegheny County Health department and will continue to work with the ADOH, PADOH, CDC and PDE to coordinate with any recommendations or requests.</li> </ul>

## Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **The New Academy CS** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **7/29/2021**

The plan was approved by a vote of:

\_\_\_\_ **Yes**

\_\_\_\_ **No**

Affirmed on: **7/29/2021**

By:

William Nunn

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature\* of Board President)

William Nunn

\_\_\_\_\_  
(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.