

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 2023-2024. **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 26, 2024, 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 26, 2024. * 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 26 deadline applies only to school districts and charter schools that received federal Title I-A funds in FY 2023-2024 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 \(updated link\)](#)
 - [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](#)
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- **Health and Safety Plan Summary:** Young Scholars of Greater Allegheny Charter School

Initial Effective Date: August 1, 2021

Date of Last Review: September 12, 2023

Date of Last Revision: September 12, 2023

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?

YSGA will continue to monitor the most up to date CDC guidelines during the 23-24 school year. The guidelines provided by the CDC will be used to plan and execute the school's mitigation policies and protocols. YSGA will continue to provide sanitizing stations in and around each of the classrooms in the school building. Proper handwashing practices will be taught to students at the start of the school year. Students will sanitize their hands upon entering the classroom. Before snacks and meals, students will properly sanitize their hands. Students will repeat this process following all snacks and meals. Common surfaces, such as door handles, light switches, tables, etc. will be

cleaned and disinfected throughout the day. The school building will also be cleaned each night prior to the start of the following school day. Young Scholars will also continue to maintain the air quality throughout the building by regularly replacing the air filters in the indoor air systems.

Masks and sanitizers will be provided at all building entrances. The entrances will have health and safety guideline posters.

Upon arrival at the building, students will be welcomed by staff members, who will complete a visual check of students. If a student appears to be experiencing COVID-19 or flu related symptoms, they will have their temperature taken with a touchless thermometer. If the student has a temperature elevated to 100.4 or above, the nurse will be called to assist in evaluating the student.

Signs will be posted around the building to provide a visual for hand-washing, how to maintain social distancing, and how to stop the spread of germs.

At this time, masks are optional on the YSGA campus and on buses. This rule applies to staff, students, visitors, and other faculty members.

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?

YSGA will continue to address students' academic needs by maintaining services through in person learning. Classroom schedules will continue to allow time for intervention teachers to support classroom teachers to address varying needs in the classroom, as well as provide additional support through the use of small group learning. The classroom schedule has also been constructed to include an additional period of literacy time for teachers to address individual student needs. Differentiated instructional practices will be utilized to ensure that students are receiving instruction at their instructional level and grade level.

YSGA will continue to address the social, emotional, and mental health needs of students and staff through additional professional development and ongoing curricular experiences. Professional development for staff will focus on diversity training and trauma-informed practices that will be used in the classroom throughout the school year.

The practices shared with staff during training will be revisited during the school year. Additional times will be built into the students schedules to focus on community, culture, and social and emotional learning. Schedules will include times for community building and the development of a positive classroom learning environment. Curriculum will

address diversity, identity, and community to promote a positive environment for students to learn and grow.

All scholars will have access to free breakfast and lunch during the school day. The food services team will continue to use proper safety equipment and practices to ensure the safety of our scholars and staff. Proper hand washing and handling of food will continue to be a top priority for food services. Posters will be available in the cafeteria and the kitchen to promote healthy standards.

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 |
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| <p>a. Universal and correct wearing of masks;</p> | <p>In the current state, the Governor of Pennsylvania and the acting Secretary of Health, has made mask wearing optional for all staff, faculty, students, and visitors to a school building while present on campus. YSGA will continue to monitor mandates if and when they occur. following this mandate and enforcing mask wearing among all faculty, staff, students, and visitors,</p> <p>If the Governor and/or acting Secretary of Health’s mandate were to repeal in the future, the following policy will go into effect on the YSGA campus:</p> <p>YSGA will continue to comply with the mask wearing guidelines from the state. The LEA will adopt the policies and procedures set by the state and update school policies as the school year continues.</p> <p>Substantial & High</p> |

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| | <p>When the COVID-19 rates in Allegheny County are listed as substantial or high, YSGA will adopt the following policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Face coverings will be mandatory for all staff and students while in the school building, outside activities and on school buses. |
| <p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p> | <p>YSGA will continue to review PDE, DOH, and CDC guidelines.</p> |

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

*Appropriate hand washing will be reviewed and modeled for students at the start of the school year. Hand washing procedures will be reviewed throughout the school year.

Hand Washing- 5 Steps

1. **Wet** your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), turn off the tap, and apply soap.
2. **Lather** your hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails.
3. **Scrub** your hands for at least 20 seconds. Need a timer? Hum the “Happy Birthday” song from beginning to end twice.
4. **Rinse** your hands well under clean, running water.
5. **Dry** your hands using a clean towel or air dry them.

Hand Sanitizer-

- Apply the gel product to the palm of one hand (read the label to learn the correct amount).
- Rub your hands together.
- Rub the gel over all the surfaces of your hands and fingers until your hands are dry. This should take around 20 seconds.

Snacks/Meals- A schedule will be created for students to sanitize prior to meals and after meals.

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| | <p>Restrooms- Students will wash their hands after using the restroom.</p> |
| <p>d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</p> | <p>Routine Cleaning</p> <p>-Common Surfaces- Common surfaces, such as door handles, light switches, tables, etc. will be cleaned and disinfected throughout the day. Teachers will have disinfectant spray and wipes to clean commonly touched surfaces within the classroom. Custodians will be responsible for cleaning common surfaces outside of the classrooms. A cleaning schedule will be determined for common surfaces outside of the classroom. -Restrooms- A schedule will be determined for restroom cleaning. The restrooms will be cleaned and disinfected throughout the day. The schedule will include cleanings during the day and a nighttime cleaning. The custodial staff will be responsible for the daytime cleanings and the contracted cleaning company will be responsible for the nighttime cleanings. -Cafeteria- The cafeteria will be cleaned and disinfected before and after use by students during breakfast and lunch. The cafeteria will also be cleaned and disinfected at night in preparation for the following day.</p> <p>Ventilation - Young Scholars will continue to maintain air quality throughout the building by regularly replacing the air filters in the indoor air systems.</p> |

- For students and staff members with a history of exposure, the nurse will follow up and give guidance to the admin team based on the CDC's recommendation. Administration will then make a final decision.

- YSGA will work with the county and state health departments to determine when students, staff, or visitors should isolate or quarantine at home.

- YSGA will work with the county and state health departments to determine procedures related to the individual case that will include notifying the staff and families of a positive case, while maintaining confidentiality consistent with applicable federal and state privacy laws.

- YSGA will work with the county and state health departments to determine when isolated or quarantined individuals should return to school/work.

f. [Diagnostic](#) and screening testing;

Protocol for Screening & Reminders

No touch thermometers will be available at all entrances.

Hand sanitizers will be in each classroom and commonly used spaces.

Visual reminders, such as signs with a list of COVID-19 symptoms, will be displayed throughout the classroom/building. Signs will also relate to personal hygiene, including regarding covering mouth, washing hands, sanitizing, etc.

Educate families on how to keep the school updated about signs of illness or exposures while at home.

COVID-19 self-checkers will be encouraged for use for all students and staff before arrival to the building each day.

Testing

Staff & Students

YSGA will not be testing students at the school; however, if a student is showing symptoms of COVID-19 they either a) complete a 5 day quarantine and wear a mask to school for the following 5 days.

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| <p>g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;</p> | <p>Communication with Staff and Community</p> <p>YSGA will communicate with staff and the school community about vaccinations and their availability in the community.</p> <p>The school will continue to share regular updates about the benefits, safety, effectiveness, and general overviews of the vaccines available in the community.</p> <p>Key messages and postings will be shared with the school community to inform them about the vaccine and key information about the vaccines available.</p> <p>The information shared with the school community will align with resources provided by the CDC and Allegheny County Health Department.</p> |
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| <p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p> | <p>Students with disabilities will receive educational services throughout the school year. Our students will receive services during the school day with an assigned special education teacher.</p> |
| <p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p> | <p>YSGA will continue to seek guidance from the CDC, the PA Department of Health, and ACHD regarding our policies and protocols.</p> <p>We will continue to seek guidance from the CDC and ACHD regarding potential cases, and exposures. Information will continue to be reported to the appropriate parties in a timely manner.</p> |

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Young Scholars of Greater Allegheny Charter School** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **(10/06/2023)**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

_____ **Yes**

_____ **No**

Affirmed on: _____ 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.*