



## ARP ESSER Health and Safety Plan

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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, 2022, 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, 2022.\* 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: TECH Freire Charter School

**Initial Effective Date: June 16, 2021**

**Date of Last Review: November 13, 2024**

**Date of Last Revision: March 8, 2024**

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 operations team at the Freire Schools Collaborative Network Office will review and analyze any new health and safety guidance regarding the operation of schools. As new information becomes available, the Network Office will support school administration in revising policies and procedures as well as communicating updates with families and staff.

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?

TECH Freire ensured continuity of services through increased teaching and student support roles. ESSER III funds enabled TECH Freire to fund the salary and benefits of new and existing positions that supported student growth both academically and socially. Funded positions included building substitutes, teachers, academic advisors, outreach coordinators, and/or a school nurse. In conjunction with ESSER III funding that supported 1:1 technology, TECH Freire maintains the ability to transition to a completely virtual format with a range of software which supports both academic and emotional supports programming.

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><b>a. Universal and correct wearing of <a href="#">masks</a>;</b></p>	<p>TECH Freire Charter School’s policy on face masks currently indicates masks are optional for all individuals while in the building. We will continually monitor CDC as well as state and local guidelines for updates to inform any possible changes.</p>

<p><b>b. Modifying facilities to allow for <a href="#">physical distancing</a> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</b></p>	<p>Current guidance for schools has deprioritized distancing so we have returned to standard spacing in classrooms and hallways. We will continually monitor CDC as well as state and local guidelines for any changes.</p>
<p><b>c. <a href="#">Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</a>;</b></p>	<p>Hand sanitizer is readily available throughout the building especially in high-touch areas.</p> <p>Staff will continue to reinforce handwashing and respiratory etiquette.</p>
<p><b>d. <a href="#">Cleaning</a> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <a href="#">ventilation</a>;</b></p>	<p>TECH Freire Charter School uses MERV-13 filters and air ionizers in the central HVAC to support greater air filtration.</p> <p>We will continually monitor CDC as well as state and local guidelines for updates to modify our cleaning, ventilation, and sanitization procedures and protocols.</p>
<p><b>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;</b></p>	<p>Per updated CDC guidance as of March 2024, students and staff with symptoms of a respiratory virus should stay home until they are fever-free for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medications) and their symptoms are improving. The CDC has for schools, we have discontinued contact tracing and quarantine for exposure.</p>
<p><b>f. <a href="#">Diagnostic</a> and screening testing;</b></p>	<p>Per updated CDC guidance for schools, we will no longer regularly do surveillance testing. When rapid tests are made available, we will send them home with staff and students to support testing after exposure.</p>
<p><b>g. Efforts to provide <a href="#">vaccinations to school communities</a>;</b></p>	<p>In the 2021-22 school year, TECH Freire Charter School provided three “Dragon Vax” clinics per campus, in partnership with Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.</p>

	<p>These clinics provided first and second doses and boosters of the Pfizer vaccine for students and staff.</p> <p>The Freire Network will continue to promote COVID vaccinations and boosters for staff and students in accordance with CDC and state and local guidelines.</p>
<p><b>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</b></p>	<p>Additional protective equipment will be available for settings that require close human contact, such as staff providing support for students with disabilities and counseling services.</p> <p>We will continually monitor CDC as well as state and local guidelines for updates to modify our accommodations to students with disabilities.</p>
<p><b>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</b></p>	<p>TECH Freire Charter School has submitted its Health and Safety Plan to the appropriate state and local health officials. As new information on health and safety guidelines develops, we will adapt our policies and procedures to the new guidance and submit our plans to the relevant health officials. We will keep communicating with state and local health officials to ensure we are aligned to their directives.</p>

## Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **TECH Freire Charter School** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **November 13th, 2024**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

\_\_\_ **Yes**

\_\_\_ **No**

Affirmed on: **November 13th, 2024**

By:

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*(Signature\* of Board President)*

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*(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.