



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: Abraxas Academy

Initial Effective Date: (8/24/2021)

Date of Last Review: (Reviewed by Senior Management Team 8/26/2021)

Date of Last Revision: (Sent to the Board 8/26/2021)(signed by board president 9/29/2021)

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?

In compliance with Pennsylvania Department of Education guidance, Abraxas Academy created this Health and Safety Plan which will serve as the local guidelines for all instructional and non-instructional school activities. As with all emergency plans, Abraxas Academy developed this Health and Safety Plan in consultation with local health agencies to meet the unique needs of our residential student population. Given the dynamic nature of the pandemic, this plan includes flexibility to adapt to changing conditions. Our Health and Safety Plan focuses on professional learning and communications, to ensure all stakeholders in the Abraxas Academy community are fully informed and prepared for a phased or rapid changes of school throughout the facility. This plan will be presented to the Abraxas Academy Board of Directors at the within 30 days meeting for approval. Abraxas Academy will continue to monitor our Health and Safety Plan throughout the year and update as needed. Any revisions will be reviewed by the Abraxas Academy Board of Directors as needed and posted on our public website, <https://abraxasyfs.com>

The health and safety of the students and staff at Abraxas Academy continues to be of the utmost importance. The Abraxas Academy Senior Leadership Team will continue to monitor available information related to the COVI-19 Pandemic, and take the necessary steps to respond appropriately.

We will continue to follow the latest mandates issued by the Governor's Office, the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH), the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE). The Senior Leadership Team will continue to monitor communications. As conditions change related to COVID-19, protocols are subject to change.

Included within this plan are strategies from our previous health and safety plan that are both practical and have proven effective.

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 Abraxas Academy will provide three instructional options for the start of the 2021-2022 school year. The three options include a full in-person 5 days per week

instructional model, a hybrid model delivering instruction on units and in school if quarantine becomes necessary using partial virtual instruction, as well as a fully virtual instructional model in quarantine environments.

While we are planning for a full in-person instructional model there may be times when we must shift to a short term virtual models if warranted by current health conditions and or through direct guidance from the DOH.

The Abraxas Academy has at its disposal multiple resources related to the social emotional needs of students. We will continue to provide these resources to families on an as needed basis. Additionally, all staff have access to an Employee Assistance Program.

As Abraxas Academy is a residential treatment facility we provide all meals and snacks for all students. As always we will follow all Federal State and local Regulations and the advice of the CDC to insure proper safe food delivery.

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.

In all areas listed below, Abraxas Academy will continue to follow the latest mandates from DOH, PDE, and CDC.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
a. Universal and correct wearing of <u>masks</u> ;	In the absence of mandate make usage will not be required but left up to the student, regardless of the vaccination status. Staff are not required wear masks in they are vaccinated, while any visitor who enters the school must wear a mask. It will be a personal decision when it comes to mask usage, provided there is not an existing, valid, or binding order to the contrary. We will review and recommendations from the CDC and determine how we can implement prevention and mitigation measures, to the greatest extent practicable based on our student/school needs.
b. Modifying facilities to allow for <u>physical distancing</u> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);	Our schools goal is resume pre-COVID measures in our school and during school activities (classroom, cafeterias, recreation) to the greatest extent practicable and in consideration of the recommendations from the CDC. Remove any non-essential furniture.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p>Small group gathering spaces will be minimized to maximize separation of desks. Individual student desks faced forward and will be physically distanced to the maximum extent feasible. In classrooms with tables, students will be physically distanced to the maximum extent feasible. We will review and recommendations from the CDC and determine how we can implement prevention and mitigation measures, to the greatest extent practicable based on our student/school needs.</p>
<p>c. <u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</u></p>	<p>Students will be expected to wash hands or use hand sanitizer especially after using the bathroom, before/after eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.</p>
<p>d. <u>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</u></p>	<p>Frequently touched surfaces - Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects within the school at least daily, including desktops, chairs, electronic devices door handles, sink handles, etc. Handwashing and Hand sanitizer: Hand washing is the preferred hygiene method. Classrooms with sinks will continue to be supplied with soap and towel dispensers. Students will be encouraged to wash hands frequently. Sanitizing wipes will be available in all classrooms and cafeterias for students to wipe desks and tables. Building ventilation Maximize the amount of outside air allowed in within the capacity of our building. To include all HVAC systems will be set to maximize airflow and ventilation. Physical Education All shared materials will be sanitized at least daily and in between uses to the maximum extent feasible. Lessons will be adjusted to focus on more drill-oriented activities and will be moved outdoors when practical.</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<p>e. <u>Contact tracing</u> in combination with <u>isolation</u> and <u>quarantine</u>, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<p>Abraxas Academy will adhere to any existing valid, and binding orders from the PA Department of Health regarding contact tracing, isolation, quarantining. We will review any guidance from the CDC to determine if we can implement additional prevention and mitigation measures, to use the greatest extent practicable based on our students/school needs. In all classroom situations, the recommended 3 feet of social distance is regularly achieved, this was also the case prior to COVID.</p>
<p>f. <u>Diagnostic</u> and screening testing;</p>	<p>Student screening for symptoms will be completed by our medical team within our facility. All staff will perform a symptom screening on themselves prior to leaving for the day and will stay home if they are feeling sick. Students and staff are encouraged to self-report and symptoms to our medical team. Any student who contracts COVID will be in quarantine/isolation for the recommended time frame and will continuously be monitored by our medical team. If any student or staff exhibit symptoms while in the school building and screening test will be completed by our trained medical team.</p>
<p>g. Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to school communities</u>;</p>	<p>Abraxas will continue to offer local and regional options for vaccinations for students and staff.</p>
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<p>Individualized health and safety plans will be developed in collaboration with families, staff, and probation offices, as needed for any student requiring additional accommodations and safety measures.</p>
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<p>Abraxas will continue to communicate with local health experts and state contacts with the Department of Health.</p>

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Abraxas Academy** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **September 29, 2021**.

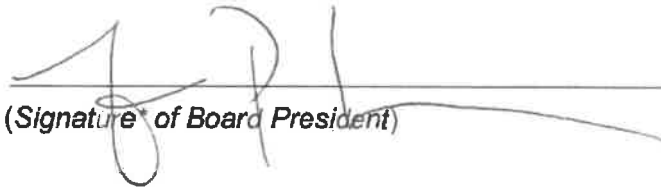
The plan was approved by a vote of:

Yes

No

Affirmed on: **September 29, 2021**

By:


(Signature of Board President)

Jonathan Swatsburg

(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.