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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: Mountain View School District

Initial Effective Date: August 23, 2021

Date of Last Review: October 11, 2021

Date of Last Revision:

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 Superintendent of Schools and the administrative team hold weekly COVID-19 team meetings where the most up-to-date CDC requirements and recommendations will be reviewed, discussed and processed. Additional COVID-19 team meetings will occur if the CDC information is updated and/or changed. Both the elementary and high school may have slightly different action plans based on the dynamic of the building and the needs and age of the students. These action plans are reviewed and practiced by the administrative team for each building along with the professional and support staff following the most up-to-date CDC requirements. The focus of these plans will include but are not limited to: Cleaning, Sanitizing, Disinfecting, Ventilation, Social Distancing and Monitoring Student and Staff health. Our two (2) district school nurses and our Director of Building and Grounds also actively participate in our team meetings.

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?

While in-person instruction is in place, our faculty and staff begin to check on the health, safety and welfare of our students as they arrive in the morning and are dropped off. Each building has professional and support staff checking on the mental health of students. Teachers are to report any emotional, mental health and /or academic issues immediately to a school counselor or an administrator. Mindfulness classes occur daily at the elementary school along with mental health breaks scheduled into each day. The high school has added an additional counselor to assist and support the mental health needs of both the faculty and students. Professional development will be offered to the entire district at several different points during the year to help identify mental health concerns and how to get help. Our 2nd Step Program (Positive Choice Making and Mindfulness) is done in grades K-8 in a whole group setting. Academically, educational gaps were being addressed at both the elementary and high school through additional math and reading summer programs and planned after school reading and math programs for the fall 2021.

Additionally, after school tutoring will be offered 3 days a week in the fall of 2021 and spring 2022 with transportation provided for all students. Flexible grouping opportunities will be provided in the fall/spring at both the elementary and high school to target specific skill needs in reading and math.

When in-person instruction is interrupted, the LEA will ensure continuity of services through the following action steps:

- a. All students have a district issued Chromebook in grades Pre-K through 12 where instruction is given through Google Classroom and Google Meet. All families that have had issues with internet services have been identified through a district-wide survey. These families have been set-up with hotspots purchased by the district to support the on-line education of all students. Paper copies are made available to families that request them. Our district provides asynchronous and synchronous guidelines, rules and grade level schedules for all grade levels while remote learning occurs. These are posted on our website.
 - b. Our IT department has met with each teacher and support staff member to ensure that they have every available technology to teach and support their students. Our teachers report all absent students immediately to our school counselors and follow up phone calls are made to ensure the continuity of their education. Professional development has been provided to each district faculty and staff member on our most current technology to ensure that they can perform their jobs at the highest level.
 - c. Our teachers and support staff complete mental health check-in with our students during live instruction. Our support staff provide additional mental health support by contacting students by phone. Any student concerns are reported in a timely fashion to our school counselors who follow-up by making mental health check-in phone calls. If students are habitually absent, our school nurses will make contact to the families by phone and then report concerns to the administration.
 - d. Our district works very closely with our Nutrition Group Inc. Food Management service to provide meal preparation and pick-up opportunities for all students and families during school closures. Breakfast and lunch are offered to our students and families during school closures.
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 <u>masks</u>;</p>	<p>The LEA will follow CDC recommendations for masking employees and students during the 2021-2022 school year. The LEA will ensure that every employee and student has access to district provided masks if the staff member and/or students do not have access to masks. The district followed the indoor masking mandate which started on Tuesday, September 7, 2021. The district will follow this mandate until the CDC revises its guidelines for masking in school. As per the federal mandate, issued in January 2021, masking is still required on all public transportation including school buses. The bus driver may remove his/her mask when no students are present. All employees will receive additional guidance and training in proper wearing of masks. Further, upon return to school, students received a refresher training on proper mask wearing. The superintendent may temporarily mandate masking in the future if the county changes to the high transmission level for COVID-19 or in an effort to stay with the in-person instructional model even after the order from the PA Department of Health has been lifted. Masks are required at indoor sports/activities for all spectators and players and coaches on the bench. Players do not need to wear a mask when playing in a game/scrimmage. Players, coaches and spectators will follow the expectations of the host school for away games.</p>
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for <u>physical distancing</u> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<p>The LEA will continue to work with the building principals on identifying the using of common areas as extra instructional teaching space to maximize social distancing. The cafeteria, gymnasium, library and auditorium have been used as additional instructional space as needed. Especially in elementary classrooms, extra furniture and supplies has been removed to maximize distancing opportunities. The district will maintain three (3) feet of physical distance</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p>whenever possible. The district may use a hybrid learning approach to reduce the number of students in the school of the district at any given time if the district positive COVID-19 cases spreads and contact tracing cannot be completed with fidelity.</p>
<p>c. <u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</u>;</p>	<p>Hand sanitizer and/or hand wipes are provided in all classroom areas. Hand sanitizer is also available in the cafeteria, main offices, hallways, gymnasium, and on all school buses. Handwashing signs are currently in all buildings along with best practices for handwashing. A review of best handwashing practices will be reviewed with students at several different points of the year.</p>
<p>d. <u>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation</u>;</p>	<p>Our high traffic areas (counters, tables, door knobs and water foundations) are wiped down throughout the day. Teachers open windows during the day to help with ventilation when weather permits. High grade air filters are currently being used and are changed quarterly. All cleaning supplies and disinfectants meet the CDC guidelines. Every classroom and high traffic areas are byoglobed every day. Elementary and high school bathrooms are byoglobed several times each day. All buses are wiped down before and after each bus run. The district is looking into purchasing new classroom air handlers for high school classrooms.</p>
<p>e. <u>Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine</u>, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<p>As recommended from the Department of Health and the CDC, employees or students who are fully vaccinated or have tested positive for COVID-19 within the timeline that has been established by the PA Department of Health do not have to be quarantined if they are exposed to someone who has COVID-19 unless they become symptomatic. The district continues to work directly with the Department of Health to follow the most up to date quarantining and contact tracing guidelines. The LEA will require isolation and quarantine of infected and close contact persons as per the PA</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	Department of Health guidelines. The LEA will follow the PA Department of Health guidance for close contacts who are fully vaccinated and CDC guidance if both the infected student and close contact(s) are masked.
f. <u>Diagnostic</u> and screening testing;	The district is open to the opportunity if offered by the PA Department of Health to conduct diagnostic and screening testing on school district campus for students and staff.
g. Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to school communities</u> ;	The district has offered two separate vaccination clinics to our faculty, staff, students and community in March 2021 and June 2021. One of the clinics were open to all community members 12 years and older. If offered the opportunity, the district would gladly host future vaccination clinics.
h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	Our LEA works directly with our Director of Special Services on identifying any additional health and safety accommodations needed for our students with disabilities. The LEA ensures that all accommodations are met so all of our students can find success within our health and safety plan. Further, our Special Education Teachers assist by working directly with families of students to check on and review any and all needs that are necessary to ensure future academic and emotional success.
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	The LEA collaborates with the district pandemic team on all district positive COVID-19 cases and on the process of contact tracing. The LEA and the district pandemic team works collaboratively with the PA Department of Health. All close contacts will be contacted and all necessary information will be shared with the PA Department of Health to help ensure the health and safety of our students. Any further recommendations from the PA Department of Health on updating our Health and Safety measures will be discussed and considered.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for (Mountain View School District reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on (October 11, 2021).

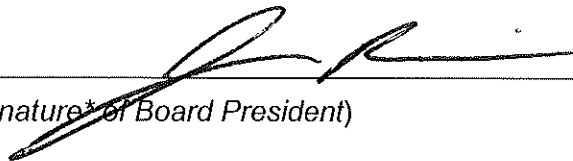
The plan was approved by a vote of:

Yes 8 yes 1 Absent
 No

Michael S. Olin, Ed.D.
Superintendent 10/11/2021

Affirmed on: (October 11, 2021)

By:



(Signature* of Board President)

Jason Richmond

(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.