



Colonial School District

ARP ESSER Health and Safety Plan

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;

Colonial School District plans for the safe return to traditional in-person instruction five days per week for the 2022-2023 school year. The district reviews guidance from the CDC, the Pennsylvania Department of Health, and the Montgomery County Office of Public Health (MCOPH), **as well as CSD school positive cases** in its preparation for the opening of school. The district was open for five days of in-person learning



throughout the 2021-22 school year. **In 2022-2023, the CSD administration's goal is to continue with the traditional in-person instructional model with minimal disruption.**

CSD emphasizes the importance of good hygiene, including frequent hand-washing throughout the day. CSD has placed hand sanitizer dispensers in each classroom in the district and supplied faculty and staff with disinfect wipes in each school.

CSD has considered the guidance of the MCOPH, the Pennsylvania Department of Health/Governor's Office, and the CDC when it comes to masking. Masking will be optional for the duration of the 2022-23 school year, except when a student or staff member has tested positive for COVID-19. Those who test positive must stay home for five days. Upon their return to school, students and/or staff will need to wear a mask for 6 to 10 days while in school. This is based on Centers for Disease Control recommendations as of Aug. 11 ([click here for information](#)). The District will continue to maintain a record of all reported positive cases in each school building.

Families will be notified of positive cases in school if a trend in a particular classroom or bus is noted. Otherwise, the public will be able to track cases through the District's COVID-19 dashboard, which will be located on the website and shared via a link in weekly e-newsletters to each school community.

All HVAC systems have been and continue to be checked and maintained for proper operation daily. Filters have been upgraded to MERV 13 units and are inspected/changed monthly. All HVAC systems will continue running for prolonged periods of time in order to flush/clean the air in every building after buildings are unoccupied in accordance with the EPA Tools for Schools IAQ recommendations.

All areas are cleaned and disinfected daily, including all hard surfaces, which include (but not limited to) desks, chairs, teacher workspaces, railings, door handles and all other high-touch areas. In the cafeteria, tables and chairs are cleaned and disinfected in between each lunch period, as well as all equipment, counters, and serving lines. Daily misting disinfecting takes place in classrooms and common areas. All cleaning and disinfecting products are EPA-approved and part of the EPA Tools for Schools IAQ program. Our custodial staff has been trained and certified in the Spartan Clean-Check program for proper cleaning/disinfecting procedures.

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;

Colonial School District will continue to adapt educational models to meet the needs of the students as appropriate. Multiple summer learning opportunities were offered to students at the elementary, middle and high school levels during the summer of 2022. Before and after-school programs and tutoring opportunities were offered during the 2021-22 school year. Tools such as Canvas, Google Classroom, and other online platforms will be used to help students remain connected with teachers, classmates, and assignments, should they need to stay home due to a COVID-19 diagnosis. All students also have access to a device.

The social, emotional and mental health of both staff and students will continue to be monitored by school health providers, counselors, community counselors, mental health specialists, and the home and school visitor/social worker. Professional development opportunities continue to focus on SEL/Wellness tools as well as prevention and intervention strategies used to support students and staff. Morning meetings, class meetings, bonus blocks, and activity times will provide additional ways for students and teachers to discuss challenges or concerns. Should families want information or need additional support outside of the school, the district has teams in place in each building to help connect families with existing resources within the community.

CSD offers an employer-sponsored employee assistance plan (EAP) through Penn Behavioral Health with the University of Pennsylvania. EAP is a work-based intervention program designed to identify and assist employees and their families in resolving personal problems that may be adversely affecting their performance at work, such as marital, financial or emotional problems; family issues; or substance or alcohol abuse. The EAP is free to employees and their families and strictly confidential.

In order to continue addressing food insecurity over the summer, the Food Service Department provided families the option to pick up weekly meal packs at Plymouth Whitemarsh High School. Meals were also served on-site at both Ridge Park and Plymouth Elementary School.

When students return to traditional in person instruction, meals will be served in the traditional manner. Students will use pin pads or finger scanners to obtain meals. Hand sanitizer will be present at each cashier station for student use. Pre-orders systems will be in place at the high school to help prevent crowding in lines.



Both breakfast and lunch will be served daily. The use of breakfast kiosks at the middle and high school levels will help ensure students have convenient access to breakfast each morning.

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. [Handwashing and respiratory etiquette](#);
- b. [Cleaning](#) and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving [ventilation](#);
- c. Testing will be provided for students and/or staff who exhibit symptoms while in school, provided test kits are available;
- d. Efforts to provide COVID-19 [vaccinations to school communities](#) (one has been scheduled for Sept. 23, 2022);
- e. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and
- f. 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: Colonial School District

Initial Effective Date: July 16, 2021; Revised Effective Date: Aug. 25, 2022

Dates of Last Review: Feb. 17, 2022, March 3, 2022, Aug. 22 & 25, 2022

Dates of Last Revision: Feb. 17, 2022, March 3, 2022, Aug. 25, 2022

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?
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?
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.
- 4.



ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<p>a. Wearing of masks;</p>	<p>Masking will be optional in the 2022-23 school year. However, if a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, they will need to wear a mask for five days upon their return to school, per CDC guidelines.</p> <p>CSD will notify families of students when there is a noted trend in positive cases in a particular classroom or bus. CSD will continue to consider MCOPH and CDC guidelines based on rates of COVID-19 transmission.</p>
<p>b. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</p>	<p>All individuals in school will be encouraged to sanitize/wash their hands on a frequent basis. Every school has received additional hand sanitizer stations, wipes and masks for any student or staff member who needs them. Signs to encourage healthy habits are posted in classrooms, hallways, and offices to communicate how to stop the spread as well as identify COVID-19 symptoms and preventative measures. Good hygiene and proper respiratory etiquette lessons are taught to students within the elementary health curriculum, the Science/Nutrition and Microbiology classes at the middle school, and in the Infectious Disease course at the high school.</p>
<p>c. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</p>	<p>CSD has reviewed the CDC recommendations for cleaning and maintaining facilities, including recommendations for ventilation and filters used in the HVAC operating system in each CSD school. Additionally, CSD follows recommendations by the EPA Tools for Schools program and ASHRAE.</p>

	<p>CSD has established protocols for cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces within each school on a daily basis, including playground equipment.</p> <p>Water fountains have been replaced with touchless personal bottle fillers in all schools. The majority of the restrooms have touchless fixtures.</p> <p>Hand sanitizer units have been installed in every classroom in the district, and there are also many hand sanitizing units throughout each school in common areas. Over 600 hand-sanitizing units have been installed district-wide.</p> <p>All custodial staff have been Spartan Clean-Check trained and certified to perform proper cleaning and disinfecting procedures. The training was performed via Zoom with video demonstrations shown on all procedures. The staff also received training from the Global Compliance Network on bloodborne pathogens and hand-washing.</p> <p>HVAC Filters have been upgraded to MERV 13 filters and are part of our computerized PM system with monthly scheduled checks. All HVAC systems are operating per ASHRAE ventilation recommendations and are also part of the computerized PM system. All HVAC systems have been reviewed by a mechanical engineer to ensure maximum ventilation/air exchanges are being delivered.</p>
<p>d. <u>Diagnostic</u> and screening testing;</p>	<p>Faculty/staff, students and visitors to school buildings will be encouraged to self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms on a</p>

	<p>daily basis at home before the school day begins.</p> <p>Children or staff exhibiting symptoms should stay home.</p> <p>Temperature screening will not be required upon entrance to school for students and staff.</p> <p>Students and staff will continually be made aware of the signs and symptoms of COVID-19.</p> <p>If a child or employee tests positive, the District will follow the current return-to-school guidance from the MCOPH/CDC. Testing will be provided to symptomatic students during school with parent/guardian consent and if test kits are available.</p>
<p>e. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;</p>	<p>The District will continue efforts to offer vaccination and booster clinics for the school community by partnering with area pharmacies. Two clinics were organized in May 2021 to serve the 16+ and 12+ student populations, and two clinics were also organized in November 2021 to serve the 5- to 11-year-old student populations. A booster clinic was held in January 2022 for students 12+ and another one will be held in March 2022. An additional vaccination/booster clinic is being planned for Sept. 23, 2022.</p> <p>The District will also publicize vaccination clinics organized by other agencies that are available in the community.</p>
<p>f. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<p>For students with disabilities who have conditions requiring a prescribed health and safety plan, the IEP team will reconvene to develop specially designed instruction or strategies that meet their specific needs.</p>

<p>g. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<p>District administration met with the MCOPH multiple times per month throughout the 2020-2021 school year and continues to meet regularly with MCOPH representatives during the 2021-2022 school year.</p> <p>Through February of 2022, the superintendent met with an MCOPH representative on a regular basis to review COVID-19 positivity and incidence rates in the County and to discuss specific cases within CSD for the purpose of contact tracing.</p> <p>The superintendent attends multiple Montgomery County meetings per month, organized by the MCIU, which include a county commissioner, MCOPH, and representatives from CHOP.</p>



Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for Colonial School District reviewed and approved/not approved the Health and Safety Plan on Aug. 25, 2022.

The plan was approved/not approved by a vote of:

8 Yes

0 No

Affirmed on: Aug. 25, 2022

By:


(Signature* of Board President)

Susan Moore

(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.