pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Central Columbia 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;

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 Thorough an Integrated System of Support
- PA Department of Health - COVID-19 in Pennsylvania

Health and Safety Plan Summary: CENTRAL COLUMBIA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Initial Effective Date: July 19, 2021

Date of Last Review: February 1, 2023

Date of Last Revision: February 13, 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?

   In the best interest of education, the Central Columbia School District recognizes the need to have students participating in face-to-face instruction as often as possible. The district will continue to implement prevention and mitigation efforts that are aligned with the health and safety guidance from the Centers for Disease Control, PA Department of Health, and the PA Department of Education to ensure a safe 2022-2023 school year. The district will continue to collaborate with other local school districts as well as the district's school physician. This plan outlines the district's strategy to continue to recover from and move past the pandemic. This is a fluid document based on local, state, and federal mandates, which will continue to develop over time. This plan is based on the district's capability to follow the state, local and federal mandates to the best of our ability; however, this plan is developed to reduce the level of risk but does not eliminate risks and exposure.

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?

   A successful and equitable school reopening strategy requires engaging the entire school community to establish a safe environment for all educators, school staff, and students and to promote trust and confidence. The district will utilize ESSER funds to address learning loss through well-developed programs offered K-12. Resources will be allocated to address the effects that the pandemic has had on students and staff within our district. Staff and students will be encouraged to self-monitor for any signs and symptoms of Covid-19 at home prior to attending school. If any signs or symptoms are noted at home, that staff member or student should not attend school and will be encouraged to seek further medical attention. If a staff member or student develops signs and symptoms while attending school, that staff member or student must report to the nurse immediately for assessment and evaluation. Any staff member, student, or other member of the school community who becomes ill and/or was exposed to a confirmed positive Covid-19 case will monitor for symptoms. Students and staff who are asymptomatic will no longer be required to quarantine but should monitor for symptoms. For students and staff who test positive for COVID, it is recommended they quarantine

for 5 days followed by an additional 5 days of masking, for a total of 10 days of masking following the onset of symptoms. The Central Columbia School District Nursing professionals and administrative team will work together, in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Department of Health and School District Physician to determine needs of staff and students. Our District will continue to offer mental health, student health, and food service regardless of instructional format to our students.

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
a. **Universal and correct wearing of masks;**	The District will continue to follow **mandates** set forth by the PA Department of Health and PDE related to masks in schools. Mask wearing will be optional. Nevertheless, due to an increase in COVID positive cases within the school district, number of quarantined students and/or continued substantial rate of transmission in Columbia County, the district reserves the right to mandate masks indoors during the regular school day. If this would occur, families will be notified via automated phone call and students/staff will be expected to abide by the district's health and safety measures.
b. **Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);**	Large group areas and outdoor space will be utilized to allow for physical distancing, when possible.
c. **Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;**	The Central Columbia School District will promote proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette by continuing to display educational materials in all buildings. In addition, sanitizing "buckets," wipes and hand sanitizer will continue to be available to all teachers and/or students when requested.
d. **Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;**	The Central Columbia School District installed bi-polar ionization systems in all 4 buildings in February 2021. The district will continue to follow the CDC's Guidance for Cleaning & Disinfecting Schools for cleaning high-touch and high-

	traffic areas including door handles and sink handles.
e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;	The CCSD will inform students and staff about the symptoms of COVID-19. The CCSD will maintain regular communications with its students, staff, and families to ensure consistent awareness of health and safety expectations, in conjunction with CDC. CCSD Data will be consistently evaluated to ensure that maximum in-person operations may occur for students and staff. Any staff member, student, or other member of the school community who becomes ill and/or was exposed to a confirmed positive Covid-19 case will monitor for symptoms. It is recommended that a mask be worn by students and staff for 5 days following quarantine. It is recommended that a mask be worn for 10 days following exposure for fully vaccinated, asymptomatic students and staff.
f. Diagnostic and screening testing;	The Central Columbia School District will promote diagnostic and symptom screening by parents, students, and employees who are symptomatic or have suspicion of COVID-19 exposure prior to arriving on school district campus.
g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;	The Central Columbia School District will share vaccination information to school community.
h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	The Central Columbia School District will provide reasonable accommodations, as appropriate, to students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies.
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	The Central Columbia School District will continue to follow the guidelines set forth by the PA Department of Health. Regular communication will continue by our school district, PA Department of Health staff as well as school physician, Dr. Chris O'Neil.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for the Central Columbia School District reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on February 13, 2023.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

7 **Yes**

0 **No**

Affirmed on: February 13, 2023

By:

(*Signature* of Board Vice President*)

Adam Bowman

(*Print Name of Board Vice 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.