pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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 continue, 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: MOUNT CARMEL AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Initial Effective Date: July 15, 2021

Date of Last Review: July 15, 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?

In the best interest of education, the Mount Carmel Area School District recognizes the need to have students participating in face to face instruction as often as possible. This plan outlines the District's strategy to continue to recover from the pandemic. This is a fluid document based on local, state, and federal guidelines, which will continue to develop over time. This plan is based on the District's capability to follow the state, local and federal guidelines 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?

As Mount Carmel Area School District continues to provide in person instruction staff and students' families will be provided with Pennsylvania Department of Health and CDC Covid-19 virus information for the purpose of self-monitoring. 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. Staff and students' families will self-monitor at home every day prior to attending school. 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 need to leave the school immediately. The staff member or student will be required to seek further medical attention with testing for Covid-19 as needed. The Mount Carmel Area Nursing professionals and Administrative team will work together, in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Department of Health, to determine quarantine and/or isolation 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.

The Mount Carmel Area School District will implement mandates set forth by the Pennsylvania Department of Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The District will continue to follow the guidelines set forth by the health departments. CDC & PA Department of Health recommendations will be implemented to the extent practicable for mitigation policies in line with the most up to date guidance.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
a. Universal and correct wearing of masks.`	The District will continue to follow mandated guidelines set forth by the CDC, PA Department of Health, and PDE related to masks in schools. Department of Health Acting Secretary, Alison Beam, announced the mask order will be lifted on June 28, 2021. The district will allow students and staff to voluntarily wear masks at any time.
b. **Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);**	Large group areas and outdoor space will be utilized to the greatest extent possible to allow for physical distancing. MCA will promote social distancing of students and staff to the greatest extent possible.
c. **Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;**	When possible, ensure handwashing strategies include washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not available and hands are not visibly dirty, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol
d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;	The district will follow the CDC's Guidance for Cleaning & Disinfecting Schools Increase Physical Distancing & Hygiene Practices Scheduled protocol 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 district will follow the CDC/PA Department of Health guidelines for defining "close contacts." The district will also follow CDC/DOH guidance for length of quarantine related to close contacts to a positive COVID-19 case. Accurate seating charts will be maintained by all staff in order to aid contact tracing. The Superintendent or his designee will communicate with families of students when isolation and quarantine become necessary as per Pennsylvania Department of Health guidelines.
f. Diagnostic and screening testing;	COVID symptom screening should be done by parent/guardian prior to student arrival at school or bus. The District will provide symptom screenings whenever possible.
g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;	Share vaccination information to school community through distribution of information in newsletters and letters and on the school district website.
h. **Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and**	Extra precautions will be implemented. These precautions include: If a sink is available in the classroom, staff should thoroughly wash hands immediately before and after working with a student. If a sink is not available, use hand sanitizer Avoid the use of communal objects for student reinforcement. If such objects are used with multiple students, each object should be disinfected immediately before and after student use. The district's feeding protocol should be followed when feeding students. Staff should wear gloves when feeding students.

	Bathrooms and changing tables should be disinfected before and after student use. Limit students to one at a time. Students should be assisted with hand-washing.
i. **Coordination with state and local health officials.**	The District will continue to follow the guidelines set forth by the CDC/ PA Department of Health. Regular communication will continue by our school district and PA Department of Health staff.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **MOUNT CARMEL AREA** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **JULY 15, 2021.**

The plan was approved by a vote of:

6 **Yes**

0 **No**

Affirmed on: **July 15, 2021**

By:

(*Signature* of Board President*)

William J. Brecker Jr.

(*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.