



2023-2024 Health and Safety Plan

Wallingford-Swarthmore School District

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*.

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 Delaware County Health Department for the continued 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 practices and recommendations for routine infection prevention and control established by the CDC and local health officials.

The LEA's original Health and Safety Plan had to 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.

Additional Resources

LEAs are advised to review the following resources when developing their Health and Safety Plans:

- [CDC K-12 Schools and Childcare Program Guidance](#)
- [Delaware County Health Department - Infectious Disease Prevention](#)
- [Delaware County Health Department - COVID-19](#)
- [PDE Resources for School Communities During COVID-19](#)

2023-2024 Health and Safety Plan Summary

Wallingford Swarthmore School District

Initial Effective Date: July 1, 2022

Date of Last Board Review: August 22, 2023

Date of Last Revision: August 08, 2023

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 School District has implemented a health and safety plan throughout the 2020-2021, 2021-2022, and 2022-2023 school years using mitigation strategies recommended by the CDC, PA Department of Health, CHOP Policy Lab, the Chester County Health Department, and most recently, the Delaware County Health Department. These strategies were successful in supporting the larger public health initiative to slow the spread of COVID-19 and to protect our district community, especially those at increased risk for severe illness. Further, our District facilitated multiple vaccination clinics for our teachers and school community and in 2021-2022 the district implemented COVID-19 testing programs to support identifying potential exposures to keep students and staff in school.

Our District will continue to review the latest guidance from the PA Department of Health, Delaware County Health Department, PA Department of Education and CHOP Policy Lab in case new information is provided that the district should consider. Of important note, beginning in the 2022-2023 school year, the District only implemented federal, state and county mandates from the Pennsylvania Department of Education, PA Department of Health, and guidance from the Delaware County Department of Health. The District will continue to follow federal, state and county mandates and rely on our board policy pertaining to *Immunization and Communicable Diseases* to guide responses to COVID-19. The chart below provides strategies, policies, and procedures to be used within the district.

1. 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 district will operate all programs in an in-person format. Should there be a state or federal mandate to close schools, the district will revisit past practices and the 2022-2023 *Emergency Instructional Time Plan* and make adjustments as necessary in order to provide a continuation of educational services..

2. 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. Well-fitted and correct wearing of masks;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The District will not require masking for students, staff, volunteers or visitors unless there is a mandate from the PA Department of Health, or the Delaware County Department of Health. The District will support all individuals who choose to wear a mask. ● Staff and students who travel to other locations to provide services or engage in extracurricular activities shall adhere to any Health and Safety Plans required by the destination..
<p>B. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The District will continue to provide routine maintenance and repairs of school facilities. The District will operate in-person for all educational programs. There will be no requirements for physical distancing during the 2023 – 2024 school year.
<p>C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Best practice encourages hand washing prior to meals and snacks, after meals and snacks, transition back to class from being outside, after using the bathroom, and after blowing nose, coughing, or sneezing. The District will encourage our students, staff, and contractors to implement these best practices.
<p>D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The District utilizes Environmental Protection Agency “EPA” Approved Disinfectants for use against communicable diseases, including COVID-19. There will be routine cleaning of our buildings, classrooms, common areas, and office spaces. ● WSSD maintains the ventilation systems in accordance with American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) standards. American Industrial Hygiene Association publication “Reducing the Risk of COVID-19 using Engineering Controls” indicates a relative risk reduction (in the transmission of the SARSCoV-2 virus) of 95% is achieved by establishing 6 air changes per hour (ACH). WSSD building HVAC Systems had the filtration upgraded and were tested before students returned to in person learning to ensure the systems meet or exceed the recommended air changes per hour. Our Heating Ventilating Air Conditioning (HVAC) Systems continue to run as engineered, and the district continually ensures systems operate properly. WSSD currently uses portable HEPA filters only in smaller work areas that do not have adequate ventilation. ● Increased circulation of outdoor air by opening windows and doors is also permitted within school buildings and on transportation.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<p>E. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The District will not be performing contact tracing. COVID-19 is no longer an individually reportable condition. ● The district will continue to report COVID-19 outbreaks and/or clusters of cases of concern. ● The District will follow the most updated guidance for isolation and quarantine periods, including use of masking to allow staff and students to remain in school or return to school when asymptomatic. ● If an individual cannot wear a well-fitted mask at all times during the required time period, and the exposed individual cannot use the masking strategy, reasonable accommodations will be put in place in order for the individual to receive in-person instruction. ● The District will implement the board policy for <i>Immunization and Communicable Diseases</i> in such a situation.
<p>F. Diagnostic and screening testing;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students, staff, and contractors shall report immediately to their immediate supervisor/principal and building level school nurse if they contract a communicable disease, including COVID-19 positive.
<p>G. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● COVID-19 Vaccination is currently the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. People who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are at low risk of severe infection. The District encourages all staff, students, and family members to consider vaccinations as a key strategy for COVID-19. ● Upon request, the District will provide information to families on how to get a COVID-19 vaccine for their child or family member.
<p>H. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● For students with disabilities who are eligible for an IEP or a 504 Plan including those with a medical diagnosis that requires a prescribed health and safety plan, the IEP team, 504 team, or building administration may reconvene to develop specially designed instruction or strategies to meet the needs of the student, and, if necessary, to consider reasonable accommodations to allow the student to continue in-person learning to the greatest extent possible. ● For more information on accommodations for students with disabilities, please see CDC Disabilities and Accommodations.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<p>H. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● For students with disabilities who are eligible for an IEP or a 504 Plan including those with a medical diagnosis that requires a prescribed health and safety plan, the IEP team, 504 team, or building administration may reconvene to develop specially designed instruction or strategies to meet the needs of the student, and, if necessary, to consider reasonable accommodations to allow the student to continue in-person learning to the greatest extent possible. ● For more information on accommodations for students with disabilities, please see CDC Disabilities and Accommodations.
<p>I. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The District will continue to coordinate with the Delaware County Health Department for all communicable diseases.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for the district reviewed and approved the revised Health and Safety Plan on August 22, 2023.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

_____ **Yes**

_____ **No**

Affirmed on _____
DATE

By: _____
PRINT NAME OF BOARD PRESIDENT

SIGNATURE 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.