

Health and Safety Plan Summary

Capital Area Intermediate Unit

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*.

Initial Effective Date: August 23, 2021

Date of Board Review and Approval: August 26, 2021

Date of Last Review/Revisions:

- January 4, 2022 (CRT); CAIU Board January 27, 2022
- July 29, 2022 (CRT); CAIU Board August 25, 2022

This is a fluid document, based on local, state and federal guidelines, and is intended to provide the CAIU flexibility to transition, depending on changing public health conditions.

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 Capital Area Intermediate Unit (CAIU) successfully implemented a health and safety plan throughout the 2020-2021 school year using mitigation strategies supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), PA Department of Health (DOH), and PA Department of Education (PDE). CAIU will continue to monitor the latest guidance from these sources as we review, and revise as necessary, our internal mitigation strategies for effectiveness. The guidance will also be used to revise our more general Health and Safety plan as appropriate. The chart below provides strategies, policies, and procedures to be used within our organization.

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?**
 - Prioritize student, staff, and visitor safety while minimizing educational and social disruption.
 - Enable the CAIU to continue to operate and provide services as normally and effectively as possible with minimal academic and economic losses.
 - The response of the CAIU will be influenced by the Pennsylvania Department of Health and the Pennsylvania Department of Education's direction and guidance. This plan coordinates

federal, state, and local agencies. **This is a fluid document, based on local, state and federal guidelines, and may continue to develop over time.**

- Continue the essential core operations of the CAIU in the event of increased staff/student absences.
- Establish and maintain a coordinated command system to enable effective, timely, and sensitive decision-making regarding continuity of student learning needs to remain the core value and focal point.
- Maintain effective communication to ensure that students, families, and staff receive timely and accurate information regarding health and safety mitigation strategies.
- Prepare and provide resources for mental health/crisis service needs of staff, students and families.
- At the July 22, 2021 meeting of the Board of Directors, board members approved the Emergency Instructional Time document (Section 520.1 - 2021-22 School Year), which outlines remote instruction options, should they be necessary during the 2021-2022 school year.

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 CAIU has the authority to make decisions regarding universal masking of staff, students, and visitors, taking into consideration CDC, PA Department of Health, and PDE current guidelines.
b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);	CAIU offices, classrooms, and learning spaces will reflect current CDC and PA Dept. of Health guidelines regarding social/physical distancing to the maximum extent feasible.
c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette ;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Best practice encourages hand washing prior to meals and snacks, after meals and snacks, transitioning back to class from being outside, after using the bathroom, and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. Signage indicating proper handwashing procedures will be posted in high-traffic areas throughout the buildings. Students, staff, and visitors will be encouraged to implement these best practices. ● Hand sanitizer will be provided at strategic high-traffic areas throughout the building. ● The CAIU will stock appropriate supplies (e.g. soap, paper towels, sanitizer, tissues) to support healthy hygiene practices.
d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation ;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects within facilities and on vans and buses at least daily, including door handles, sink handles, and drinking fountains. ● Building ventilation has been increased and air handlers set to run 24/7 to ensure maximum air

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p>exchange.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daytime custodial staff will prioritize frequent cleaning of high-touch surfaces to the extent possible.
<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"> CAIU will reference DoH/CDC guidelines for isolation and quarantine of students, staff, and visitors who test positive or are close contacts of positive cases, as well as their safe return. CAIU will report all confirmed cases of COVID-19 to the health department on the prescribed template for such instances. CAIU will provide the health department, when requested, with a list of close contact(s) of individuals who were in contact with the COVID-19 positive individual while at the CAIU, to the best of its ability.
<p>f. Diagnostic and screening testing;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CAIU has provided a self-monitoring checklist for families and staff. CAIU has been provided a self-reporting portal and protocol for staff experiencing Covid-19 symptoms or exposure.
<p>g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;</p>	<p>CAIU will continue to research and publicize local vaccination opportunities to our families.</p>
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extra precautions in low incidence programs (AS, MDS). Servicing students in low incidence programs can be problematic due to, but not limited to, students with medical concerns, students not understanding the importance of wearing a face covering, students unable to maintain proper social distance, students requiring hand-over-hand instruction and support, students requiring assistance with feeding or toileting. For these reasons, 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. Avoid, to the extent possible, 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. Personal student iPads/AAC devices should be disinfected each time a student enters or exits the classroom. The district's feeding protocol should be followed when feeding students. Staff should wear gloves when feeding students. Students who receive nebulizer treatments: treatments should occur in a well-ventilated, private room that is cleaned before and after the treatment.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bathrooms and changing tables should be disinfected before and after student use. ● Limit, to the extent possible, students to one at a time. Students should be assisted with hand-washing. ● Students should be encouraged not to touch walls and fixtures when in hallways.
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	The CAIU will consult with the health department and other guiding agencies on specific cases or issues as needed.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Capital Area Intermediate Unit** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on August 26, 2021.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

Yes
 No

Affirmed on: **August 26, 2021**

By:

(Signature of Board President)*

(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.