



DOWNINGTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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ROBERT J. O'DONNELL, Ed.D. SUPERINTENDENT

To: Board of Directors

From: Robert O'Donnell, Rob Reed

Re: ARP ESSER Funding - required Health and Safety Plan for 2022-2023

Date: September 13, 2022

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*.

ARP ESSER requires that LEAs review their plans at least every six months during the entire period of the LEA's ARP ESSER grant. LEAs also must review and update their plans whenever there are significant changes to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations for K-12 schools.

The attached plan has not changed since the end of the 2021-2022 school year. Key highlights include:

1. It is recommended that staff or students who test positive for COVID-19 follow the current [CDC guidance](#).
2. The district will not conduct nor report any COVID-19 tests or cases.
3. Masking is optional. DASD supports our students and staff irrespective of their mask preference.

In addition to guidance from the Chester County Department of Health, PA Department of Health, and CDC, the district administration and representatives from our nursing department will continue to monitor the status of COVID-19 in our schools.

Health and Safety Plan: Downingtown Area SD

Initial Effective Date: August 16, 2021

Date of Last Review: February 2, 2022; March 2, 2022; September 7, 2022, April 25, 2023

Date of Last Revision: September 7, 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?

The Downingtown Area School District implemented a health and safety plan throughout the 2021-2022 school year using mitigation strategies guided by the CDC, Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA DOH) and the Chester County Health Department (CCHD). These strategies were successful in supporting the larger public health initiative to slow the spread of COVID-19 and to protect our school communities, especially those at increased risk for severe illness. We communicated the various vaccination opportunities to staff and age appropriate students and their families.

Our District will continue to stay abreast of the evolving guidance from the CDC, Pennsylvania Department of Health, Chester County Health Department, and the Pennsylvania Department of Education. This information will assist us when reviewing our mitigation strategies for effectiveness. The guidance will also be used to revise our health and safety plan and protocols as necessary.

DASD will continually communicate updated mitigation strategies with all stakeholders in order to ensure the health and safety of its community.

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?

The Downingtown Area School District provides a variety of school-based programs for students kindergarten through age 21. The educational services we provide in these settings are comprehensive and are able to support the academic, social, emotional, physical, and mental health needs of our students. Our ability to provide a continuity of educational programming was proven in the 2021-2022 school year. We provided in-person instruction throughout the entire year and were able to continue uninterrupted with instruction.

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
<p>a. Universal and correct wearing of masks;</p>	<p>Individuals in all buildings and on district transportation will have the option to wear masks effective February 28, 2022.</p> <p>DASD supports our students and staff irrespective of their mask preference.</p> <p>Individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 should follow masking recommendations made by CCHD, PA DOH, PDE and/or CDC.</p> <p>DASD will re-evaluate masking guidelines as needed in consultation with CCHD, PA DOH, PDE and/or CDC.</p>
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<p>Currently, school buildings and offices allow for full occupancy with no alterations or restrictions.</p> <p>Physical distancing requirements may be implemented or adjusted in consultation with guidance from CDC, PA DOH, PDE and/or CCHD.</p>
<p>c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</p>	<p>Hand sanitizing stations will be maintained in classrooms, main entrances and large group gathering areas. Students and staff will be encouraged to use them throughout the school day.</p> <p>Best practice encourages hand washing prior to and after meals and snacks, after using the restroom and after blowing nose, coughing or sneezing. Our schools will encourage students and staff to follow these best practices.</p>
<p>d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</p>	<p>Routine cleaning of utilized spaces will be performed in the evening and when appropriate and necessary during the school day for confirmed cases of COVID-19. Routine cleaning of all occupied spaces includes disinfectant fogging and misting in every area, every day. Ventilation systems will be cleaned regularly and operating at ASHRAE standards for occupied buildings.</p>
<p>e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<p>DASD will follow CCHD guidance related to communicable diseases.</p>

ARPESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p>Nurses offices will serve as isolation rooms and PPE will be maintained and provided as necessary when individuals are ill.</p> <p>We recommend students or staff follow public health guidance on isolation and quarantine guidance.</p>
<p>f. <u>Diagnostic</u> and screening testing;</p>	<p>We will maintain adequate personal protective equipment for use when individuals become ill: gowns, face covering, eye protection, gloves.</p> <p>We will recommend staff to self-screen prior to reporting to work, programs, and schools and stay at home if experiencing any symptoms associated with COVID-19.</p> <p>Parents and guardians are recommended to self-screen their child prior to reporting to school or programs and keep their child home if experiencing any symptoms.</p> <p>Students who are ill must stay home from school.</p> <p>Students shall be sent home if they become ill at school.</p>
<p>g. Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to school communities</u></p>	<p>The district will communicate the various opportunities and locations to obtain vaccination to COVID-19 as requested.</p>
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<p>Students with IEP's or 504 Service Plans who have complex needs or are vulnerable will be provided health and safety provisions as outlined in specially-designed instruction.</p>
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<p>The district will, when necessary, collaborate and consult with the CCHD, PA DOH, and PDE for ongoing COVID-19 guidance and support.</p> <p>We will consult with the health department on specific cases or issues when needed.</p>

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Downingtown Area SD** reviewed and approved the amended Health and Safety Plan on **September 14, 2022**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

8 Yes

1 No

0 Absent

Affirmed on: **September 14, 2022**

By:



(Signature* of Board President)

Lee Ann Wisdom

(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.