

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 Revision August 25, 2022
- February 7, 2023(Cabinet); CAIU Board February 23, 2023
- August 22, 2023 (Cabinet); CAIU Board August 24, 2023
- February 7, 2024 (Cabinet); CAIU Board February 22, 2024

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). The 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 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.

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 relevant guidance.
b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);	CAIU offices, classrooms, and learning spaces will consider relevant guidance 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 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 exchange. •

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine , in collaboration with the State and local health departments;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CAIU will consider relevant guidance 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.
f. Diagnostic and screening testing;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CAIU will provide self-monitoring checklists to families and staff upon request.
g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities ;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CAIU will continue to research and publicize local vaccination opportunities to our families.
h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Special arrangements will be made for students and staff deemed to be high-risk. Accommodations will be made on a case-by-case basis and will be based on the underlying issue.
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.