



ARP ESSER Health and Safety Plan South Park 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 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.

Health and Safety Plan Summary: **SOUTH PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Initial Effective Date: August 13, 2021

Date of Last Review: August 12, 2021

Date of Last Revision: August 9, 2021

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 South Park School District will offer all families in K-12 a choice of two educational models for the 2021-2022 school year: five days of in-person learning or the South Park Cyber Academy (asynchronous learning using an online learning platform with courses administered and graded by South Park or contracted teachers).

To safely reopen and operate beginning on Wednesday, August 25, 2021, the South Park School District will carefully review all mandates, directives, and guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Pennsylvania Department of Health, the Pennsylvania Department of Education, and the Allegheny County Health Department. This Health and Safety Plan will be revised as needed, and at least every six months in compliance with the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act.

Students, families, and staff will be asked to adhere to the policies and procedures outlined in this plan and any subsequent documents provided by the South Park School District prior to and during the 2021-2022 school year. The details outlined in this Health and Safety Plan are in line with mandates, guidelines, and recommendations from federal, state, and local governing authorities as of July 22, 2021. Should additional mandates, guidelines, and recommendations be issued, the policies and procedures outlined in this plan may change. In this scenario, the Superintendent will enact the changes immediately to ensure compliance, the changes will be presented to the Board of Directors for approval/ratification, the revised Plan will be re-submitted to the appropriate governing authorities, and stakeholders will be notified of the change.

District facilities and practices will be modified, where and when possible, to enact appropriate mitigation measures, while still allowing for a full-return of K-12 students to five days of in-person learning. Preventative measures including hand-washing, respiratory etiquette, cleaning, disinfecting, and ventilation will be implemented throughout the district.

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?

When the district commences the 2021-2022 school year, academic and support programming will continue to be offered to all students, whether they are enrolled in five days of in-person learning or in the South Park Cyber Academy. Additionally, the district plans to hire up to three (3) temporary academic intervention teachers to support in the recovery of learning loss from the previous school year/years. All K-12 students will once again receive a district-issued Chromebook as part of the district's one-to-one initiative. The district will continue to utilize Canvas, an online learning management system, throughout the district. Canvas will be used in the event the district is required to temporarily and briefly transition a cohort, grade-level, building, or the district to remote learning due to a communicable disease outbreak, inclement weather, or emergency situation. District counselors will work with families who lack internet access at home. Additionally, Canvas may be used for students in isolation or quarantine to access coursework while out of the classroom.

The district's Student Assistance Program remains in place and allows administrators, counselors, and staff to provide academic, emotional, and mental support for students. The district's partnership with Allegheny Health Network provides mental health services throughout the district, the staffing of a mental health therapist in each building, Chill Rooms at the elementary center and middle school, and school-based mental health services at the high school.

The district continues to offer an Employee Assistance Program to staff. The program offers resources to help staff achieve physical, emotional, and mental wellbeing.

With an extension approved by the USDA, school meals (one breakfast meal and one lunch meal per student each day school is in session) will be free for South Park students during the 2021-2022 school year. The food services department will mobilize a grab-and-go meal distribution if it becomes 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 |
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| <p>a. Universal and correct wearing of masks;</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An order issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on January 29, 2021 mandates the wearing of masks on public transportation conveyances, including school buses operated by public and private school systems. Therefore, all individuals, regardless of vaccination status, will be required to wear a mask over their nose and mouth while on school buses or vans. • The South Park School District strongly recommends, but does not require, the use of face coverings by all individuals while in district buildings, unless the district is directed to require the use of face coverings by local, state, or federal governing/health authorities by mandate or due to significant levels of school/community transmission. This recommendation aligns with the CDC's guidance dated July 27, 2021 and guidance from the Allegheny County Health Department. • Signage reminding students and staff of the correct wearing of masks will be posted in district buildings. If needed, classroom teachers will provide an overview of how to properly wear a mask. |
| <p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Throughout the district in classrooms, learning spaces, cafeterias, and other areas, desks, tables, and chairs will be distanced to the greatest extent possible, while still allowing for a full reopening for all district students. • Excess classroom furniture will be removed, where possible, to maximize physical distancing. However, building principals may permit the use of excess classroom furniture for academic/instructional purposes. • The elementary center will use cohorting/podding when possible. • Bus arrival times will be staggered, and additional entrances/exits may be used to reduce the number of students in congregate settings. • Gathering limits for district activities and events (games, meets, concerts, etc.) are lifted unless gathering restrictions are mandated by local, state, or federal governing authorities. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Secondary dining locations in district schools will no longer be used, unless the district is required to utilize these spaces based on community transmission or local, state, or federal mandates. ● Students in grades 3-12 will be permitted to use lockers. Staff may be asked to limit the number of students using lockers at any one time outside of class changes. ● Water bottle refill stations will remain active throughout the district. Students will be encouraged to bring a refillable, reusable bottle (no plastic single use bottles) with them to school. Additionally, usage of water fountains may be permitted at the building principal's discretion. ● Most one-way hallways/stairwells return to two-directional hallways/stairwells. ● Signage throughout the district will encourage physical distancing when possible. ● Large group gatherings will be discouraged/limited, but will be at the discretion of the building principal. Virtual staff meetings will be conducted when feasible. ● Nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations will be limited and at the discretion of the building principal. ● Visitors to the school office (parents/guardians picking up/dropping off students or belongings) will continue to have limited access. Virtual meetings between staff and families will be conducted when feasible. ● Outside/external groups will be permitted to use/rent district facilities contingent on low levels of community transmission of COVID-19 and staffing availability. |
| <p>c. <u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</u></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All students and staff will be provided ample opportunities to practice good hand hygiene using soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer. ● Hand sanitizer dispensers remain prominent and stocked in high-traffic and strategic locations throughout the district. Sinks are stocked with adequate supplies of soap and paper towels. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Signs provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Pennsylvania Department of Health and created by the South Park School District will be posted throughout all district buildings and facilities and in common areas to promote proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette. Proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette will be reviewed and reinforced by teachers. ● School staff members are expected to model appropriate handwashing and respiratory etiquette for South Park students. |
| <p>d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● District facilities staff will continue to clean and disinfect all spaces including classrooms, locker rooms, band rooms, training rooms, weight rooms, gyms, large group instruction rooms (LGI room), auditoriums, outdoor spaces, etc., daily consistent with CDC guidelines and standards. ● Facilities staff will focus on high-touch surfaces throughout the day, adhering to any developed cleaning/disinfecting schedules for each district building. ● CDC guidelines for responding, cleaning, and disinfecting areas in the event of a confirmed case of COVID-19 will be followed. ● Coils inside all HVAC units will be routinely deep cleaned. Air turnover rates will be increased. More outside air will be brought in during normal operation. The district's commercial-grade HVAC units have filters with an efficiency rating of MERV 7. 100% of the air is filtered through the air handler. Filters are routinely monitored and replaced. Classroom windows will be opened if and when feasible. ● Approved cleaning supplies will be stocked and available for teachers/staff for classroom cleaning/disinfecting when needed/requested. ● Administrators will conduct regular inspections to ensure appropriate protocols are being followed. |

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| <p>e. <u>Contact tracing</u> in combination with <u>isolation</u> and <u>quarantine</u>, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The district will adhere to contact tracing/isolation/quarantine directives from the Allegheny County Health Department, the Pennsylvania Department of Health, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. ● Isolation areas identified during the 2020-2021 school year will remain available for individuals who exhibit COVID-19 symptoms while at school. ● School nurses will use transmission-based precautions when caring for sick individuals. ● Administration and school nurses will follow ACHD, DOH, and CDC guidelines and conduct contact tracing when needed, notifying identified close contacts of the exposure and the need to quarantine, generally within 24 hours of the district receiving notice of a positive COVID-19 case, per CDC recommendations. <u>Fully vaccinated</u> people who were in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 but do NOT have COVID-19 symptoms do not need to quarantine or be tested. ● Students and staff diagnosed with COVID-19 will adhere to isolation requirements set forth by the ACHD, DOH, and CDC. Individuals who are absent for illness (COVID-19 or any other illness) will be required to follow health department protocol in order to return to school. ● School community members (those not identified as close contacts) will be updated on confirmed COVID-19 cases once per week, and the district’s online COVID-19 dashboard will be updated as needed. ● Seating charts for transportation, classrooms, cafeteria and other spaces must be provided to the school principal. |
| <p>f. <u>Diagnostic</u> and <u>screening testing</u>;</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All students, families and staff will be provided with an updated symptom screening checklist prior to the start of the school year and will be required to use the checklist daily before leaving for school. ● The district will refer for diagnostic testing any individual who exhibits COVID-19 symptoms at school and any unvaccinated individual exposed to a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19 at school. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The district will work with the Pennsylvania Department of Health to coordinate, plan, and operate the DOH's no-cost, voluntary testing program for school districts in the state. |
| <p>g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since February, the district has worked to schedule vaccinations for all interested employees at local pharmacies and clinics. • The district has conducted three voluntary vaccination clinics for interested community members. The district will host additional clinics on campus should it become necessary. |
| <p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate accommodations in compliance with federal and state laws will be considered and made with respect to the district's health and safety policies and procedures as needed. These accommodations will be made with the student's healthcare provider, school nurse, and IEP/504 team. |
| <p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District administrators will continue to review updated mandates and guidance from local, state, and federal governing authorities. This health and safety plan will be revised as required. • The Superintendent or his designee will continue to attend regular, virtual meetings with the ACHD. |

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **South Park School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **Thursday, August 12, 2021**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

8 Yes

0 No

Affirmed on: **Thursday, August 12, 2021**

By:



(Signature* of Board President)

John Innocenti

(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.