



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 12, 2022**

Date of Last Review: **August 14, 2023**

Date of Last Revision: **August 14, 2023**

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 offers all families in K-12 a choice of two educational models for the 2023-2024 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).

The South Park School District continues to 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.

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 2023-2024 school year, academic and support programming will continue to be offered to all students, whether they enrolled in five days of in-person learning or in the South Park Cyber Academy. The district also added additional school counselors at the middle school and elementary center starting in the 2022-2023 school year. All K-12 students receive a district-issued Chromebook as part of the district's one-to-one initiative. The district continues to utilize Canvas, an online learning management system, throughout the district.

The district's Student Assistance Program remains in place and allows administrators, counselors, and staff to provide academic, emotional, and mental support for students. Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, the district hired a school psychologist and school social worker, in addition to its existing partnership with Allegheny Health Network to provide mental health services throughout the district.

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

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 <u>masks</u>;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Face coverings are not required in district school buildings or on transportation. ● The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends those who are immunocompromised wear face coverings when the county is in a medium level of transmission and recommends all individuals consider wearing a face covering when the county is in a high level of transmission.
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The district utilizes spacing as much as possible while still accommodating five days of in-person learning. ● Water bottle refill stations remain active throughout the district. Students are 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.
<p>c. <u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</u>;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All students and staff are 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. ● Signs provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Pennsylvania Department of Health and created by the South Park School District are posted throughout all district buildings and facilities and in common areas to promote proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette. Proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette is reviewed and reinforced by teachers. ● School staff members are expected to model appropriate handwashing and respiratory etiquette for South Park students.
<p>d. <u>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities</u>,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● District facilities staff continues 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

<p>including <u>improving ventilation</u>;</p>	<p>spaces, etc., daily consistent with CDC guidelines and standards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilities staff focuses on high-touch surfaces throughout the day, adhering to any developed cleaning/disinfecting schedules for each district building.
<p>e. <u>Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine</u>, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The South Park School District notifies identified close contacts of a potential exposure to COVID-19 when required to do so by county or state health agencies. • As of August 14, 2023, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention dropped all quarantine recommendations for those exposed to COVID-19 due to high population levels of anti-SARS-CoV-2 seroprevalence. The CDC recommends those who have been exposed to COVID-19 wear a mask for 10 days. The mask may be removed sooner if two sequential negative tests are conducted 48 hours apart. • Isolation areas identified during the 2020-2021 school year remain available for individuals who exhibit COVID-19 symptoms while at school. • School nurses use transmission-based precautions when caring for sick individuals. • Students and staff diagnosed with COVID-19 adhere to isolation requirements set forth by the ACHD, DOH, and CDC. Individuals who are absent for illness (COVID-19 or any other illness) are required to follow health department protocol in order to return to school.
<p>f. <u>Diagnostic and screening testing</u>;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The district refers to diagnostic testing any individual who exhibits COVID-19 symptoms.
<p>g. <u>Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities</u>;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since February 2021, the district has worked to schedule vaccinations for all interested employees at local pharmacies and clinics. • The district has conducted five voluntary vaccination clinics for interested community members. The district will host additional clinics on campus should it become necessary.
<p>h. <u>Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate accommodations in compliance with federal and state laws are considered and made with respect to the district's health and safety policies and procedures as needed. These accommodations are made with the

<p>respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<p>student’s healthcare provider, school nurse, and IEP/504 team.</p>
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● District administrators 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 **Monday, August 14, 2023.**

The plan was approved by a vote of:

8 Yes

0 No

Affirmed on: **Monday, August 14, 2023**

By: 

(Signature* of Board President)

(Print Name of Board President)

John Innocenti

*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.
