



Smethport Area School District ARP ESSER Health and Safety Plan

2023-24 Version 1.0

The ARP Act and U.S. Department of Education rules require Health and Safety plans include the following components:

1. How the LEA will, to the greatest extent practicable, implement prevention and mitigation policies in line with the most up-to-date guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for the reopening and operation of school facilities in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning;
2. How the LEA will 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;
3. 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:

Health and Safety Plan Summary: **Smethport Area School District**

Initial Effective Date: **July 27, 2021**

Date of Last Review: **February 12, 2024**

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?

Smethport Area School District (SASD) used CDC, PA Department of Health, and Pennsylvania Department of Education recommendations to successfully operate an in-person model of instruction for students for 97% of possible instructional days in the 2020-21 school year and 100% of possible instructional days for 2021-22 and 2022-23. By continuing to closely monitor guidance and recommendation from federal, state, and county agencies in regards to COVID-19, Smethport Area School District anticipates continued success in safely operating in-person learning in 2023-24.

Smethport Area School District (SASD) will continue monitoring and implementing, to the greatest extent feasible, mitigation and prevention strategies. These mitigation and prevention strategies will be substantially aligned, the greatest extent practical, with guidance from CDC, PA Department of Health, and PA Department of Education. This Health and Safety Plan shall be automatically amended or superseded by any applicable statute or order of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania affecting its requirements.

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?

SASD will offer after-school tutoring through the Campus Center program and elementary tutoring, as well as additional intervention supports for English Language Arts at the elementary school and high school. SASD will continue to offer summer school and credit-recovery programs.

SASD will support the emotional and mental health needs of our students through the continuation of supports such as a school-based social worker, guidance counselors, and outside agencies supported in conjunction with our Student Assistance Program, and KOOH mental health resources.

All students attending SASD will be eligible to receive free breakfast and lunch again this school year (2023-24).

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 <u>masks</u> ;	Smethport Area School District (SASD) will not require masks/facial coverings by either students or staff while in school buildings or on any District-sponsored transportation. SASD will provide masks/facial coverings upon request to students and staff and support any student or staff member who wears a mask/facial covering.
b. Modifying facilities to allow for <u>physical distancing</u> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);	Staggered transition times for groups by grade level will continue as feasible in order to limit hallway traffic. Instruction may take place in large spaces such as gyms, auditorium, outdoors, or other large spaces within the buildings.
c. <u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</u> ;	Students will be provided with education on proper hygiene practices including proper hand washing. Alcohol-based hand sanitizer (60%+) will be provided in addition to soap and water. Students and staff will be instructed to wash their hands frequently throughout the school day. Students will be instructed to practice the most appropriate methods to cover coughs and sneezes. Signage will be placed throughout the buildings to promote handwashing and respiratory etiquette. Adequate supplies will be available for everyday protective measures for hand sanitation, tissues, and paper towels.
d. <u>Cleaning</u> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <u>ventilation</u> ;	Bi-Polar ionization filtering of air in each classroom which houses a UniVent. Student desks, office counters, cafeteria tables, interior handrails, sink handles, door handles and other high-touch surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected regularly. Shared equipment such as keyboards, computers, art supplies, playground equipment, and gym equipment shall be disinfected regularly.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p>All SASD students and staff will be instructed to wash and/or sanitize hands after use of shared equipment.</p> <p>Cleaning and custodial staff will follow CDC cleaning and disinfecting guidelines, including the use of electrostatic sprayers. Bi-weekly inventory checks of necessary classroom and building cleaning materials will be conducted.</p> <p>Additional ventilation with outside air will be maximized through the HVAC systems to increase fresh air flow to the greatest extent feasible.</p>
<p>e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<p>SASD will collaborate with local health and State health entities as necessary. Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 should consult with their health care provider.</p>
<p>f. Diagnostic and screening testing;</p>	<p>Parents and caregivers are expected to screen their children for symptoms of illness prior to sending their children to school each day. Children who feel ill while at school will be evaluated for symptoms by the school nurse.</p> <p>All SASD staff will perform a symptom screen on themselves prior to leaving for work and will stay home if ill.</p> <p>Students and staff will be monitored via general observations for signs and symptoms of illness. Any student or staff member should not return to school when ill until individual is fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications.</p>
<p>g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;</p>	<p>In June and July 2021, SASD hosted a vaccine clinic at the elementary school. The vaccine clinic was a partnership between Bradford Regional Medical Center, McKean County, and SASD. SASD is willing to offer additional clinics upon request.</p>
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<p>All reasonable and appropriate accommodations will be implemented based on the recommendations of the student's physician/medical provider for students at high risk for severe illness from COVID-19. Parents or caregivers are expected to inform the building</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	principal and school nurse if their child is at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19. Parents may elect a cyber option through a third-party partner of SASD.
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	SASD will reference and update Health and Safety Plan to reflect newest guidance from CDC and PA DOH as necessary. SASD will communicate and assist PA DOH with providing updated guidance and information regarding the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **SMETHPORT AREA SD** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on February 12, 2024.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

9 Yes

0 No

Affirmed on: February 12, 2024

By:



(Signature* of Board President)

Mr. Daniel Wertz , Board President, Smethport Area School District

(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.