



NORTH EAST SCHOOL DISTRICT

North East School District - 2021-2022 Health and Safety Plan

Initial Effective Date: July 26, 2021

Date of Last Review: November 16, 2021, January, 25, 2022, February 16, 2022, February 25, 2022

Date of Last Revision: March 3, 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*.

Based on ARP requirements, 90 percent of ARP ESSER funds will be distributed to school districts and charter schools based on their relative share of Title I-A funding in FY 2020-2021. Given Federally required timelines, LEAs eligible to apply for and receive this portion of the ARP ESSER funding must submit a Health and Safety Plan that meets ARP Act requirements to the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) by Friday, July 30, 2021, regardless of when the LEA submits its ARP ESSER application.

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.

*Please note that we continue to receive updates from Intermediate Unit 5, the Erie County Department of Health, the Pennsylvania Department of Health, the CDC, and the Pennsylvania Department of Education. This is a fluid plan and will be updated as needed in order to comply with the most recent guidelines.

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?

North East School District will continue to work closely with the IU5 to ensure the safe reopening and operation of our district. We will also continue to make decisions based on guidance from the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PADOH), the Erie County Department of Health (ECDH), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Practices and procedures will align with these entities to the greatest extent practicable in order to support prevention and mitigations efforts in response to the fluid conditions that may arise as we start the next school year during a pandemic.

The CDC recommends the integration of various prevention and control components, which we will ensure is reflected in our mitigation efforts. Such components will include the consistent



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implementation of layered prevention strategies, consideration of indicators of community transmission, and phased prevention strategies based on levels of community transmission.

Prevention strategies will include the correct use of PPE as ordered or recommended by the PADOH and PDE, physical distancing when appropriate and possible, continued handwashing and respiratory etiquette, cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, and contact tracing in conjunction with the ECDH.

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?**

North East School District will continue to follow the school or agency needs in regard to the continuity of services. When necessary, the district will transition between face-to-face instruction, blended, or livestreaming environments based on the student needs. Our administration, supervisors, and teachers will work together to ensure that not just academic needs of students are met, but all of the needs of our students are met. A variety of digital tools and resources will be implemented to ensure effective and meaningful supports are in place. Such digital tools may include Google Meets, livestreaming, Google Classroom as delivery methods as well as our Social-Emotional platform RethinkEd. Communication tools may include Sapphire Notification System, Google, Remind, or any of a variety of other methods of communication. We will continue to provide devices to every student in the district. Given the restricted access to high speed internet that some of our family's face, printed materials and packets will be made available as necessary.

We will also continue to require an individualized approach for students with disabilities consistent with the student's IEP or 504 plan. We will consider adaptations and alternatives to COVID mitigation strategies while continuing all efforts to protect students, teachers, and staff to the greatest extent possible.

Breakfast and lunch are free to all students during the 2021-2022 school year. If you have any questions regarding meals, please contact Mrs. Robin Hedlund @ rhedlund@nesd1.org.

The decision to close a school or all schools and move to livestream instruction will be made by the Superintendent in consultation with the Pandemic Coordinators and Board of Directors based on any one or combination of the following:

1. An inability to complete contact tracing in a timely manner.
2. An inability to adequately staff a building or buildings based on absenteeism among faculty and/or staff due to an increase in COVID-19 cases.
3. An inability to accurately track the source of infections.
4. An increase in the number of county and local community cases.

It is essential that ALL parents/guardians have a plan in place in the event there is a need to transition to livestream instruction. Students would then follow the district's livestream schedules which will be posted on the website.



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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;	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• When CDC COVID-19 community level and indicator transmission rates are in low or medium, face coverings will be highly recommended and strongly encouraged for all students, staff, visitors, and spectators while indoors. When community level and indicator transmission rates are high, face coverings will be mandatory for all students, staff, visitors, and spectators while indoors at the discretion of the Superintendent in conjunction with the Pandemic Coordinator and the Department of Health (see CDC chart page 3).• The pandemic coordinator(s) will continue to monitor community and school transmission levels. In the event of increased spread in classroom(s)/building(s) or cluster COVID-19 cases, the district may move to remote learning for classrooms/buildings and/or move to universal masking at the discretion of the Superintendent in conjunction with the Pandemic Coordinator and the Department of Health. These decisions will also be made in collaboration with the Erie County Department of Health.• Masking will be required for students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 and return to school with a negative test prior to completing a 10-day isolation (see Chart page 9).• Masking will be required for students and staff who are identified as a close contact to a positive COVID-19 case for 10 days after the exposure (see Chart page 9).• Spectators are strongly encouraged and it is recommended to wear a mask and spectators should social distance six feet or to the greatest extent feasible.• Outdoors - masks are not required; however, in large gatherings it is recommended that students, staff, visitors, and spectators wear a face covering and should follow social distance protocols of six feet.• P/E classes will go outside as much as possible; however, in P/E students still need to social distance to maintain a physical distance of six feet from all other individuals to the greatest extent feasible• A face shield or a mesh covering will count as being "not masked."



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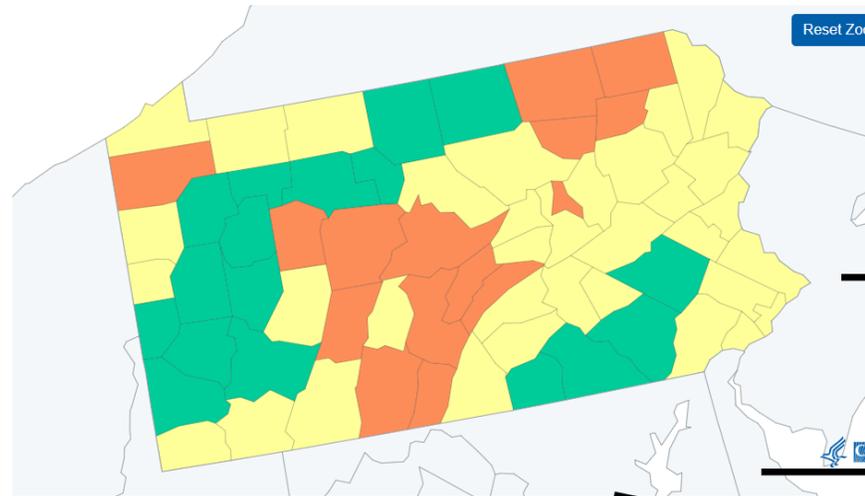
CDC's COVID-19 Community Levels and Indicators

New Cases (per 100,000 population in the last 7 days)	Indicators	Low	Medium	High
Fewer than 200	New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total)	<10.0	10.0-19.9	≥20.0
	Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average)	<10.0%	10.0-14.9%	≥15.0%
200 or more	New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total)	NA	<10.0	≥10.0
	Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average)	NA	<10.0%	≥10.0%

The COVID-19 community level is determined by the higher of the inpatient beds and new admissions indicators, based on the current level of new cases per 100,000 population in the past 7 days

U.S. COVID-19 Community Levels by County

Data provided by CDC
Updated: Feb. 24, 2022



Legend

- High
- Low

- Medium
- N/A



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COVID-19 Community level	Individual- and household-level prevention behaviors	Community-level prevention strategies (as recommended by state or local authorities)
Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines and boosters • Maintain improved ventilation throughout indoor spaces when possible • Follow CDC recommendations for isolation and quarantine, including getting tested if you are exposed to COVID-19 or have symptoms of COVID-19 • If you are immunocompromised or high risk for severe disease <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Have a plan for rapid testing if needed (e.g., having home tests or access to testing) – Talk to your healthcare provider about whether you are a candidate for treatments like oral antivirals, PrEP, and monoclonal antibodies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute and administer vaccines to achieve high community vaccination coverage and ensure health equity • Maintain improved ventilation in public indoor spaces • Ensure access to testing, including through point-of-care and at-home tests for all people <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Communicate with organizations and places that serve people who are immunocompromised or at high risk for severe disease to ensure they know how to get rapid testing • Ensure access and equity in vaccination, testing, treatment, community outreach, support services for disproportionately affected populations
Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you are immunocompromised or high risk for severe disease <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Talk to your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautions (e.g., testing) – Have a plan for rapid testing if needed (e.g., having home tests or access to testing) – Talk to your healthcare provider about whether you are a candidate for treatments like oral antivirals, PrEP, and monoclonal antibodies • If you have household or social contact with someone at high risk for severe disease <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – consider self-testing to detect infection before contact – consider wearing a mask when indoors with them • Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines and boosters • Maintain improved ventilation throughout indoor spaces when possible • Follow CDC recommendations for isolation and quarantine, including getting tested if you are exposed to COVID-19 or have symptoms of COVID-19 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect people at high risk for severe illness or death by ensuring equitable access to vaccination, testing, treatment, support services, and information • Consider implementing screening testing or other testing strategies for people who are exposed to COVID-19 in workplaces, schools, or other community settings as appropriate • Implement enhanced prevention measures in high-risk congregate settings (see guidance for correctional facilities and homeless shelters) • Distribute and administer vaccines to achieve high community vaccination coverage and ensure health equity • Maintain improved ventilation in public indoor spaces • Ensure access to testing, including through point-of-care and at-home tests for all people <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Communicate with organizations and places that serve people who are immunocompromised or at high risk for severe disease to ensure they know how to get rapid testing • Ensure access and equity in vaccination, testing, treatment, community outreach, support services for disproportionately affected populations



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	<p>High</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear a well-fitting mask¹ indoors in public, regardless of vaccination status (including in K-12 schools and other indoor community settings) • If you are immunocompromised or high risk for severe disease <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wear a mask or respirator that provides you with greater protection - Consider avoiding non-essential indoor activities in public where you could be exposed - Talk to your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautions (e.g., testing) - Have a plan for rapid testing if needed (e.g., having home tests or access to testing) - Talk to your healthcare provider about whether you are a candidate for treatments like oral antivirals, PrEP, and monoclonal antibodies • If you have household or social contact with someone at high risk for severe disease <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - consider self-testing to detect infection before contact - consider wearing a mask when indoors with them • Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines and boosters • Maintain improved ventilation throughout indoor spaces when possible • Follow CDC recommendations for isolation and quarantine, including getting tested if you are exposed to COVID-19 or have symptoms of COVID-19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider setting-specific recommendations for prevention strategies based on local factors • Implement healthcare surge support as needed • Protect people at high risk for severe illness or death by ensuring equitable access to vaccination, testing, treatment, support services, and information • Consider implementing screening testing or other testing strategies for people who are exposed to COVID-19 in workplaces, schools, or other community settings as appropriate • Implement enhanced prevention measures in high-risk congregate settings (see guidance for correctional facilities and homeless shelters) • Distribute and administer vaccines to achieve high community vaccination coverage and ensure health equity • Maintain improved ventilation in public indoor spaces • Ensure access to testing, including through point-of-care and at-home tests for all people <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Communicate with organizations and places that serve people who are immunocompromised or at high risk for severe disease to ensure they know how to get rapid testing • Ensure access and equity in vaccination, testing, treatment, community outreach, support services for disproportionately affected populations <p>¹ At all levels, people can wear a mask based on personal preference, informed by personal level of risk. People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All mask requirements will comply with a student’s IEP or 504 plan. • <i>“Any legal Order under the Disease Prevention and Control Law are expected to be enforced by school entities as they do other state laws. Failure to implement and follow the control measures under the Order also subjects a person to the penalty provisions of the Disease Prevention and Control Law of 1955.”</i>
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The North East School District will follow current CDC, PADOH, and PDE guidance in relation to physical distancing to the maximum extent feasible. • Classrooms will follow the guidance established by agencies in order to ensure the greatest level of health and safety and protection against COVID-19.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● We encourage employees to refrain from physical contact with peers and attempt to maintain social distancing strategies whenever practicable.● Any physical distancing modifications will comply with a student’s IEP or 504 plan.● Teachers must utilize and maintain seating charts. Those seating charts will be utilized when contact tracing is necessary. To the extent possible, teachers will be encouraged to use mirrored seating charts wherein students are seated next to as many of the same students as possible.● Teachers are encouraged to take students outside to the extent feasible.● Students may eat in the cafeteria, outdoor spaces, and classrooms. They will be given an assigned seat in order to assist with the process of contact tracing should a positive case occur in the district.● For the safety of our students and staff, the district will continue to make efforts to minimize the number of visitors in the school buildings. To the extent practicable, visitors should be limited to people required to provide services for students.
c. <u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● We will follow the current CDC, PADOH, or PDE guidelines for handwashing and respiratory etiquette to include:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Frequent handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.○ Hand sanitizer is available in each classroom and stations are available throughout each building.○ Avoidance of touching the eyes, nose, and mouth.○ The covering of coughs and sneezes with a tissue or cough or sneeze into your elbow.● Signage will continue to be posted to remind students and staff of proper handwashing techniques.
d. <u>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● We will follow the current CDC, PADOH, or PDE guidelines for cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation to include:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Refrain from sharing items that are difficult to clean, sanitize, or disinfect.



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<p><u>ventilation</u>;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Clean your telephone, computer keyboard, and other high-touch items at the end of each workday.○ Share in the cleaning and disinfecting of communal equipment such as printers throughout the building.● Classroom and site-based programs will follow the guidance established by those districts and sites or the NESD's, whichever ensures the greatest level of health and safety and protection against COVID-19.● When a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, a SchoolDude will be placed to mist spaces in which that individual was present during his or her infectious period.
<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 District will follow most of the current ECDOH, PADOH, and CDC guidelines for contact tracing, in combination with isolation and quarantine procedures, and Test to Stay programs.● Isolation and quarantine procedures will be done with support and guidance from the ECDOH, CDC, and PADOH.● If exposed to a positive COVID-19 case, an antigen test is highly recommended from the CDC and Health Department. This can be done by your family physician or with the Pennsylvania Department of Health Test to Stay program offered by the school district. (vaccinated vs unvaccinated)● Students and staff will not be required to provide proof of vaccination; however, it is greatly appreciated to help facilitate contact tracing. Failure to do so will require the pandemic coordinators to follow the protocols in place for unvaccinated individuals.● An individual who tests positive, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated, will be required to quarantine for five days from the onset of symptoms and will be able to return on day six IF symptom free and with a **negative antigen test from a physician or by participating in the Department of Health Test to Stay program in the district. Masking will be required through day ten; therefore, students will not be able to participate in extra-curricular activities until day eleven (11).



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- Students required to isolate/quarantine will be permitted to livestream instruction from home. Livestream will be available within 48 hours after notification to the school.
- Any student or staff member may voluntarily participate in the Test to Stay program provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Health.
- Please check the CDC website for any additional recommendations for COVID-19

COVID-19 ISOLATION AND QUARANTINE GUIDANCE



IF YOU TEST POSITIVE FOR COVID-19 REGARDLESS OF VACCINATION STATUS

Isolate at home for 10 days. May leave isolation on day 6 if symptoms have improved and you have tested negative with the school test to stay program (or with your family physician) and must strictly wear a mask from day 6 through day 10.

IF YOU WERE EXPOSED TO SOMEONE WITH COVID-19 AND ARE UNVACCINATED

Quarantine for 5 days. After 5 days, you may return to school or work as long as you are not experiencing any symptoms and must wear a mask from day 6 through day 10. Notify Pandemic Coordinator if you have any symptoms.

Note: If the close contact does not agree to wear a mask, they must quarantine at home for 10 days.

IF YOU WERE EXPOSED TO SOMEONE WITH COVID-19 AND ARE VACCINATED

You must wear a mask for 10 days and monitor for symptoms. Notify Pandemic Coordinator if you have symptoms.

Note: If the close contact does not agree to wear a mask, they must quarantine at home for 10 days.

IF YOU ARE A HOUSEHOLD CONTACT OF A POSITIVE CASE OF COVID-19

Fully vaccinated household contacts: May remain in school or work as long as they are not experiencing any symptoms and must wear a mask for 10 days following exposure. Monitor for symptoms for 10 days.

Option 1 for unvaccinated household contacts: Quarantine for 10 days at home.

Option 2 for unvaccinated household contacts: Quarantine for 10 days at home. May leave quarantine after day 6 if you have tested negative with the school test to stay program (or with your family physician) and must wear a mask between day 6 through day 10.

Note: If the close contact does not agree to wear a mask, they must quarantine at home for 10 days.



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<p>f. <u>Diagnostic and screening testing;</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Staff will monitor their health prior to reporting to and while at the workplace / school.● Students in NESD classrooms will follow NESD guidance in relation to screening and testing.● If any staff or NESD student does not feel well, exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, or are taking fever reducing medication, they are asked to stay home and / or seek medical guidance following the usual procedures for reporting off of work or school.● If a staff member or student tests positive for COVID-19 or has been exposed to individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19, the employee is to notify the Co-Pandemic Coordinators immediately to discuss isolation or quarantine procedures.● Parents of students who test positive are to notify the Pandemic Coordinator or the Assistant Pandemic Coordinator of the positive case.● We will work closely with the ECDOH in regard to screening staff and students.● The district will continue to work with IU5 and local agencies to support and expedite COVID-19 testing for faculty and students on-site when it becomes available. A permission form will be required for all minor children for on-site testing.
<p>g. <u>Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● We will continue to coordinate with the ECDH and local agencies to share and provide information regarding vaccination opportunities in the area.● *FULLY Vaccinated is defined by CDC as:● Have been boosted OR Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last 5 months <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p style="text-align: center;">J&J vaccine within the last 2 months</p> <p>*please note that any NESD STUDENT who was vaccinated September 2021 through June 9, 2022, with a two-dose vaccine will be considered fully vaccinated</p>



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<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● We will follow all IEP and 504 accommodations with respect to health and safety policies as documented.
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● We will maintain existing partnerships with IU5, ECDOH, PADOH, and PDE through emails, phone calls, and meetings. More correspondence and coordination will occur as needed and situations arise throughout the year.

Expectations are based on mandates and guidance provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Erie County Department of Health (ECDH), and the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE). All expectations are subject to change based on local and state trends as well as updated mandates and recommendations.

The LEA’s Health and Safety Plan must be approved by its governing body and posted on the LEA’s publicly available website by July 30, 2021.* The ARP Act requires LEAs to post their Health and Safety Plans online in a language that parents/caregivers can understand, or, if it is not practicable to provide written translations to an individual with limited English proficiency, be orally translated. The plan also must be provided in an alternative format accessible, upon request, by a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Each LEA will upload in the eGrants system its updated Health and Safety Plan and webpage URL where the plan is located on the LEA’s publicly available website.

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.

LEAs may use the template to revise their current Health and Safety Plans to meet ARP requirements and ensure all stakeholders are fully informed of the LEA’s plan to safely resume instructional and non-instructional school activities, including in-person learning, for the current school year. An LEA may use a different plan template or format provided it includes all the elements required by the ARP Act, as listed above.

* The July 30 deadline applies only to school districts and charter schools that received federal Title I-A funds in FY 2020-2021 and intend to apply for and receive ARP ESSER funding.



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Additional Resources

LEAs are advised to review the following resources when developing their Health and Safety Plans:

- [CDC K-12 School Operational Strategy](#)
- [PDE Resources for School Communities During COVID-19](#)
- [PDE Roadmap for Education Leaders](#)
- [PDE Accelerated Learning Through an Integrated System of Support](#)
- [PA Department of Health - COVID-19 in Pennsylvania](#)

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors for **North East School District** approved the revisions to the Health and Safety Plan on March 3, 2022

The plan was approved by a vote of:

 6 Yes

 1 No

Affirmed on: March 3 , 2022

By:

(Signature of Board President)*

Mr. Nicholas Mobilia, Board President

(Signature of Superintendent)*

Dr. Michele S. Hartzell, Superintendent