



NORTH EAST SCHOOL DISTRICT

2023-2024 Health and Safety Plan

Initial Effective Date: July 26, 2021

Date of Last Revision: September 13, 2023

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.

*Please note that we continue to receive updates from Intermediate Unit 5, the Erie County Department of Health, the Pennsylvania Department of Health, and the CDC. 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 operation of our district. We will also continue to make decisions based on guidance from the Erie County Department of Health (ECDH), the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PADOH), 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.

- 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. Our administration, supervisors, and teachers will work together to ensure that not just academic needs of students are met, but the social, mental, and emotional needs of our students are met.

We will 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-19 mitigation strategies while continuing all efforts to protect students, teachers, and staff to the greatest extent possible.



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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 adequately staff a building or buildings based on absenteeism among faculty and/or staff due to an increase in COVID-19 cases; and/or,
2. An increase in the number of student absenteeism due to COVID-19 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.

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 masks;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Face coverings will be optional for all students, staff, and visitors. ● ● The pandemic leadership team will continue to monitor community and school transmission levels and make decisions in collaboration with the Erie County Department of Health. ● Any mask recommendations will comply with a student's IEP or 504 plan.
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Teachers are encouraged to take students outside to the extent feasible. ● Students may eat in the cafeteria and outdoor spaces. ● 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 during the instructional day to the extent practicable.
<p>c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We will follow the current ECDOH, CDC, or PADOH 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.



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<p>d. <u>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</u></p>	<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.○ 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 the spread of viruses.● 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. Isolation in collaboration with the State and local health departments; <u>Diagnostic and screening testing;</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● The District will follow the current ECDOH and CDC guidelines for isolation which is the recommendation to stay home for five days with a positive COVID-19 test.● Students and staff in NESD will follow district guidelines and must be fever/symptom free for 24 hours to return to school or with physician note.● CDC 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 seek medical guidance from their family physician.● If a staff member or student tests positive for COVID-19, please notify the Pandemic Coordinators immediately to discuss isolation procedures.● The district will continue to work to provide voluntary COVID-19 testing for faculty and students on site, if requested. A permission form will be required for all minor children for on-site testing.
<p>f. <u>Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● We will continue to coordinate with the ECDOH and local agencies to share and provide information regarding vaccination opportunities in the area for students and staff.
<p>g. 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>h. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● We will maintain existing partnerships with IU5, ECDOH, and PADOH through emails, phone calls, and meetings. More correspondence and coordination will occur as needed and situations arise throughout the year.



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

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 September 21, 2023. The plan was approved by a vote of:

 9 Yes

 No

Affirmed on: September 21, 2023

By:

(Signature* of Board President)

Mr. Nicholas Mobilia, Board President

(Signature* of Superintendent)

Dr. Michele S. Hartzell, Superintendent