



Health and Safety Plan Summary: School District of Philadelphia

Initial Effective Date: August 19, 2021

Date of Last Review: May 1, 2024

Date of Last Revision: May 2, 2024

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 School District of Philadelphia's ("SDP") goal for the 2024-2025 school year is to continue to keep all students safely in school for full in-person learning five days a week. This plan is designed to prioritize student learning recovery and acceleration; attend to the social, emotional, and mental health needs of students and staff; and provide safe and healthy schools that support high-quality teaching and learning and equitable outcomes for all students.

Overall student and staff health and wellness, and protecting staff and students from COVID-19 in particular, is a priority for SDP. SDP has used the most up-to-date guidance, recommendations, and guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC"), the Pennsylvania Department of Education ("PDE"), the Philadelphia Department of Public Health ("PDPH"), and Children's Hospital of Philadelphia ("CHOP") as well as input and feedback received from families, students, staff, and community members in response to two surveys and multiple community forums to create a plan that considers local context and uses evidence-based prevention and mitigation strategies to keep students and staff healthy and safe.

SDP will use a combination of as needed mask requirements for staff and students based on public health recommendations, daily cleaning, continued promotion of vaccinations, and additional prevention and mitigation strategies described below in order to create and maintain safe and healthy learning environments. As recommended by the CDC, SDP layers multiple prevention strategies.

SDP will continue to consult with local public health experts from CHOP and PDPH throughout the 24-25 school year and make adjustments to this plan based on their recommendations as necessary.

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?

Instructional design: SDP is fully open for five-day-a-week, in-person learning for all students in fall 2024. The School District of Philadelphia's "Accelerate Philly" strategic plan, priority area three is to accelerate academic achievement to meet our Board Goals. There are several evidence based strategies designed to accelerate student achievement. One of our evidence based strategies is to implement standards aligned core instructional resources. Our instructional design model focuses on standards-aligned instruction to facilitate student mastery of grade level content. There will be an intentional focus on this priority to accelerate students' achievement across content areas. As student achievement is a fundamental priority, we promote equity and access to quality grade level instruction for all students with accommodations and/or modifications provided to students with diverse learning needs. We engage students to apply key learning concepts to reach a deeper understanding of content and regularly monitor student progress to offer targeted intervention tailored to students' needs.

Virtual option and staff accommodations: Students in isolation are able to participate in virtual school during their quarantine/isolation period through the Academy of Continued Education (A.C.E.) program.

Staff can inquire about accommodations for remote work, which are reviewed on a case by case basis.

Families will be notified when changes are made to the Health and Safety Plan via SDP's website and town halls.

Technology: At the end of the 2019-2020 school year and the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year, SDP distributed chromebooks to all students. SDP will continue to operate as a 1:1 district through the upcoming school year and to offer technology support and repair services through its three Parent and Family Technology Support Centers, as well as offer support through a telephone hotline and through email.

Student social, emotional, and mental health supports: Supporting the social-emotional well-being of students and staff alike is a priority for 2024-25. SDP has developed a robust set of resources and programming in this area, and principals and school staff will be trained for implementation. Specifically, SDP provides schools with extensive, flexible content and allocated time in the school day for classroom-based community meetings, which focus on building relationships and social-emotional learning. In addition, all staff will be trained and receive support for implementing SDP's Three Signature SEL Practices: Inclusive Welcomes, Engaging Strategies, and Optimistic Closings. SEL learning goals and activities will also be

embedded in academic lesson plans. In addition, all K-8 schools will benefit from coaching, resources, and professional development designed to improve the quality of recess and lunchtime experiences for all students, with the goal of building all schools' capacity for fun, engaging, socially positive recess and lunch. Finally, each school will focus on creating a welcoming climate by implementing an evidence-based school-wide climate program (e.g. restorative practices or PBIS) in alignment with their PDE school plans.

Staff social, emotional, and mental health supports: SDP's Employee Assistance Program ("EAP") provides every employee and members of their household 24/7 access to assistance connecting with licensed counselors for emotional/mental health support. All SDP employees have free access to Headspace, an app that supports mindfulness and mental health through guided meditations. SDP also planned a larger focus in the school year on mental health, including through holding information sessions for staff with a goal of removing the stigma of therapy. Schools can also opt to receive support and resources for a focus on adult wellness tailored to their individual needs, with the goal of helping them plan intentional support for all adult staff members.

Food services: Schools will continue with regular meal service during SY 24-25.

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><u>a. Correct wearing of masks:</u></p> | <p>Indoor mask requirements for employees, students and visitors will be dependent upon recommendations from PDPH and CDC. Required indoor masking may be necessary for employees and students with recent COVID infection.</p> <p>Students receiving transportation will be required to adhere to SDP's health and safety rules including mask wearing.</p> <p>Accommodations are available for students</p> |

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| | <p>unable to mask. Students who are unable to wear a mask due to medical or other conditions may wear a face shield. Certain students may not be able to wear a mask or face shield based on individual circumstances. All other mitigation strategies will be employed including frequent hand washing, social distancing, and wearing of masks by those interacting with these students.</p> |
| <p>ARP ESSER Requirement</p> | <p>Strategies, Policies, and Procedures</p> |
| <p><u>b. Modifying facilities for social distancing</u></p> | <p>At this time social distancing is not required, per CDC and PDPH guidance.</p> |
| <p><u>c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette:</u></p> | <p>SDP has installed hand sanitizing stations in every school. Soap and/or hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol will be available in every classroom, restroom, and throughout the school facilities to encourage good hand hygiene.</p> <p>All staff will model healthy hygiene practices for students. There will be a system for routine use of handwashing stations and/or hand sanitizer applications for students that ensures handwashing strategies include washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating, and after blowing the nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not available and hands are not visibly dirty, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.</p> |
| <p>ARP ESSER Requirement</p> | <p>Strategies, Policies, and Procedures</p> |

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| <p>d. <u>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation:</u></p> | <p>SDP has installed an air and surface purifier in every instructional space in every school. We are also cleaning in accordance with CDC guidelines & APPA 2 standards cleaning and sanitizing every school, including all walls, floors, furniture, doors, windows, restrooms, railings, and more.</p> <p>SDP has installed 1,750 hydration stations with a touchless bottle fill feature to comply with safe drinking water regulations.</p> <p>SDP is refilling touchless hand sanitizer stations in every school and ensuring all schools have the supplies they need to support frequent hand washing by students and staff.</p> <p>When school begins, SDP will follow the CDC Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Schools. Crews will clean schools during the school day and after the school day ends, using EPA registered cleaning supplies.</p> |
| <p>e. <u>Isolation and mask to stay, in collaboration with the State and local health departments:</u></p> | <p>School communities should monitor themselves for COVID-19 symptoms.</p> <p>Children with symptoms will not report to school and will follow up with a healthcare provider. Staff with symptoms will not report to work that day and will follow up with the healthcare provider.</p> <p>Students who become ill during the school day will report to the health room for assessment. All schools have established Medical Waiting Rooms where school nurses can isolate a sick student, if necessary.</p> <p>Consistent with PA regulations for communicable diseases, if there is concern for an outbreak in a school or office, SDP's point of contact will notify</p> |

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| | <p>PDPH and receive direction on next steps that could include, but are not limited to, whether to mask to stay the class or school; providing necessary information for PDPH to conduct contact tracing; and when individuals can resume school or work. Positive cases can return to school/work within 24 hours if asymptomatic or improving symptoms.</p> <p>Isolation models and schedules are subject to change with updated guidance from CDC and PDPH.</p> <p>The school community will be frequently updated on COVID-19 related issues including changes in symptom presentation, mask to stay and isolation requirements.</p> |
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| <p>ARP ESSER Requirement</p> | <p>Strategies, Policies, and Procedures</p> |
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| <p>f. <u>Diagnostic and screening testing:</u></p> | <p>Testing for students and staff will be available at PDPH locations across the city.</p> <p>Testing models and schedules are subject to change with updated guidance from CDC and PDPH.</p> |
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| <p>g. <u>Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities:</u></p> | <p>All SDP staff became eligible for COVID vaccination in March 2021. SDP partnered with Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and the University of Pennsylvania Medical Center to offer vaccination to every SDP employee, including through appointments and through one-time clinics. SDP also worked with CHOP and Penn Medicine to host webinars for SDP staff about the safety and efficacy of the vaccine in an effort to encourage more staff members to</p> |
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| | <p>get vaccinated.</p> <p>SDP is currently partnering with medical providers to provide COVID and school-mandated vaccination events for youth 12 and up. Mobile vaccine events in partnership with PDPH and other medical providers will occur in targeted areas based on vaccine access and uptake.</p> <p>Vaccination status of students will be tracked and documented by Student Health Services. The COVID-19 vaccine is not required for students.</p> |
| <p><u>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</u></p> | <p>An individualized approach for COVID-19 may be needed for individuals who have difficulty accessing information, require close contact with direct service providers, have trouble understanding information, have difficulties with changes in routines, or have other concerns related to their disability. This approach will account for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Social distancing and isolating may be difficult for many people with disabilities.● Wearing face coverings may be difficult for people with sensory, cognitive, medical, or behavioral issues.● Face coverings are not recommended for children under 2 or anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the covering without assistance. <p>Extra precautions will be taken for students with needs including but not limited to low incidence Autism Support, Multi-Disabilities Support, Life Skills, Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and Visually Impaired programs.</p> |

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| | <p>If a student is unable to wear a mask as a result of their disability, or a health or medical condition, the EP team will re-evaluate the type and method of face covering for the student. Mask/Face Covering accommodations are available for students.</p> <p>Staff will clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces (e.g., counters, tabletops, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, phones, keyboards, tablets); and equipment such as wheelchairs, scooters, walkers, canes, oxygen tanks, and tubing; communication boards; and other assistive devices before and after student use.</p> <p>If there is potential that staff may be splashed or sprayed by bodily fluids during the course of the workday, they will use standard precautions and personal protective equipment (PPE) including facemask, eye protection, disposable gloves, and a gown.</p> <p>Staff will wash their hands with soap and water: when entering and leaving the home or community setting; when adjusting or putting on or off face masks or cloth face coverings; or before putting on and after taking off disposable gloves. If soap and water are not readily available, staff will use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.</p> |
| <p>i. <u>Coordination with state and local health officials</u></p> | <p>SDP will continue to be in regular communication and consult with the PDPH in regards to all COVID-19 health, prevention, and response policies and actions.</p> <p>SDP's website will be updated frequently with changes in protocols related to COVID-19 mitigation strategies.</p> |

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **the School District of Philadelphia** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on August 19, 2021.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

7 **Yes**

0 No

Affirmed on: August 20, 2021

By:

JOYCE S. WILKERSON

(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.