



Southern Lehigh School District

2023- 2024 Health and Safety Plan

Health and Safety Plan Summary

Initial Effective Date: June 29, 2021

Date Approved by the SLSD Board of School Directors: June 28, 2021

Date of Most Recent Revision: September 25, 2023

Submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Education: July 22, 2021

Posted on the SLSD Website: September 26, 2023

Southern Lehigh School District Health and Safety Plan Review Team

American Rescue Plan (ARP) Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief ESSER Requirements

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 Health and Safety Plan will be monitored and updated as required based on guidance from the CDC, Pennsylvania Department of Health, other organizations such as the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and local conditions.

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?

- Education will be provided in-person utilizing traditional schedules and district calendars.
- The following options are available under defined periods of need:
 - ◆ On-line option (Spartan Academy) with in-person instruction strongly encouraged.
 - ◆ Combination of in-person and cyber instruction for students excluded from school under [policy #203](#). This option is subject to ongoing review. Students excluded from school will have access to online learning resources provided by district staff. Prolonged absences for all reasons will be addressed on an individual basis in consultation with families, guidance counselors, and district administration and the IEP team if applicable.
 - ◆ Homebound instruction for students with time-limited medical excuses (this option has long been available to students)
- The Southern Lehigh School District will continue to operate a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) for students throughout the 2023-2024 School Year. Through the continued use of the MTSS system, the SLSD will complete interventions in English/Language Arts and Mathematics.
- The Southern Lehigh School District will provide the following behavioral health supports and social emotional learning opportunities for students and staff during the 2023-2024 school year;
 - ◆ **Students** - Students in the SLSD will continue to have access to the following behavioral health supports and social emotional learning opportunities;
 - Access to School Counselors in each School Building
 - SLSD School Counseling [Request for Support](#) Tool
 - Access to School Psychologists in each School Building
 - Positive Behavior Support Programs
 - The Caron Foundation Programing (PATHS Program and Group Counseling)
 - St. Luke's University and Health Network-School Based Behavioral Health (Individual Counseling and Group Counseling)
 - K-12 Student Assistance Program
 - K-12 Child Study Team
 - [Safe2Say Something](#)
 - [Mental Health Resources and Behavioral Health Supports](#)

◆ **Staff** - Employees of the Southern Lehigh School District continue to have access to the following Behavioral Health Supports through the Southern Lehigh School District;

- [SLSD Employee Assistance Program: Preferred EAP](#)
- [SLSD Employee Benefit Plan Behavioral Health Supports: Highmark](#)
- Regional Crisis Intervention Resources

→ The Southern Lehigh School District will offer free and reduced lunch to students who qualify via the Federal feeding programs in place as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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 Component	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
Universal and correct wearing of masks ;	<p>Southern Lehigh School District will have masks available for student use in all district schools.</p> <p>Facemasks may be worn by individual choice only, by anyone on the grounds or within the authority of the Southern Lehigh School District. No personnel or representative of the Southern Lehigh School District may, at any time, for any reason, force, coerce, request, discourage or encourage anyone to wear a facemask against that person's expressed or implied will. Nor may any personnel or representative of the Southern Lehigh School District impose any extra requirement or disallow anyone from participation in any district-related activity for choosing to wear or not wear a facemask.</p>
Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);	Classrooms and other instructional spaces will be configured to promote learning. Physical distancing will be maximized as feasible.
Transportation	Southern Lehigh School District will provide student transportation in accord with state and federal mandates.
Handwashing and respiratory etiquette ;	<p>The SLSD will encourage frequent hand washing with students and employees in all school district buildings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CDC Handwashing In Community Settings ● CDC Handwashing Poster ● CDC Stop the Spread of COVID-19 Poster <p>The SLSD will continue to provide hand sanitizer in all District classrooms and strategically placed in high traffic areas throughout school buildings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CDC Hand Sanitizer Use

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FDA Hand Sanitizer Guidelines <p>The SLSD will continue ongoing communication with District stakeholders regarding ways that students, families, and staff can practice safe hygiene at home.</p>
<p>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</p>	<p>Cleaning, Disinfection, and Sanitization The Southern Lehigh School District Support Services Staff will clean, disinfect, and/or sanitize each classroom, restroom, hallway, and touch points per existing CDC Recommendations on Cleaning Public Facilities.</p> <p>Ventilation All Southern Lehigh school buildings have been designed to meet ASHRAE standards for continuous air filtration and the introduction of filtered outside air.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School building ventilation and filtration should continuously operate during occupied times. • MERV 13 filters will be used during the pandemic. Filtration of no less than MERV 8 will be used if MERV 13 filters are not compatible. • Outdoor air circulation should exchange indoor air multiple times per day. At no time should it fall below ASHRAE levels for occupied buildings.
<p>Contact tracing in combination with isolation and modified quarantine in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<p>Southern Lehigh School District will utilize its Immunization and Communicable Disease Policy (203) for infectious disease strategies. The district will not perform contract tracing or quarantine students who are not infected unless mandated to do so by governing authorities.</p> <p>Students and staff are encouraged to report positive cases to the school nurse or other district staff.</p> <p>The Southern Lehigh School District will continue to update the digital reference tool that will denote positive cases on the SLSD COVID-19 Resources Website. The Southern Lehigh School District continues to monitor this internally.</p>
<p>Diagnostic and screening testing;</p>	<p>The Southern Lehigh School District will continue to educate Southern Lehigh School District families on the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 while encouraging families that they should refrain from sending their</p>

	<p>student(s) to school if he/she is displaying symptoms related to COVID-19.</p> <p>The Southern Lehigh School District will continue to educate Southern Lehigh School District staff on the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 while encouraging staff that they should stay home if they are displaying symptoms related to COVID-19.</p> <p>Parents are required encouraged to report a positive diagnosis of a student case of COVID-19 to the appropriate SLSD School Nurse. Employees are required encouraged to report a positive diagnosis of COVID-19 to the Director of Human Resources.</p>
Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities ;	The Southern Lehigh School District will continue to collaborate with regional healthcare partners and or other regional providers to advertise additional COVID-19 vaccination opportunities available in the school community.
Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	Southern Lehigh School District students with disabilities will receive accommodations as written in their IEP or 504 plans.
Coordination with state and local health officials.	The Southern Lehigh School District will continue to complete regular communication and collaboration with state, local, and community health partners.
Volunteers and Visitors to the Southern Lehigh School District	Volunteers or visitors to the Southern Lehigh School District for activities occurring either indoors or outdoors must follow the established Health and Safety Plan procedures.
Community Facility Use	The Southern Lehigh School District will permit the school district facilities use per Policy 707 Use of School Facilities .

Resources

- [PA Department of Health COVID-19 Website](#)
- [CDC K-12 School Operational Strategy](#)
- [PDE Resources for School Communities During COVID-19](#)
- [Roadmap for Education Leaders](#)
- [Accelerated Learning Through an Integrated System of Support](#)
- [Policy 203 Immunization and Communicable Disease](#)