



STATE COLLEGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT Proposed 2021-2022

Pandemic Health and Safety Plan

[ARP ESSER Health and Safety Plan Guidance & Template](#)

Health and Safety Plan Summary: State College Area School District

Initial Effective Date: August 16, 2021

Date of Last Review: July 19, 2021

Date of Last Revision: July 19, 2021

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?
 - a. District leadership, with input from the Health and Safety Team (physicians, CSNs, epidemiologists, district administrators), will continue to meet regularly throughout the pandemic to evaluate the status of the restriction. From assessing CDC and PDE guidance, community transmission, vaccination coverage, and occurrence of district outbreaks, the district will consider making changes to protocol in response to the status of COVID-19 within our school, and larger community.
 - b. At the school level, principals, faculty and staff will collaborate to ensure practices align with the district's protocols.
2. How will the LEA ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address the students' academic needs, and students' and employees members' social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services?
 - a. **Elementary Specific Focus:**
 - i. Social Emotional for Students: In K-5, SCASD will continue our focus on the responsive classroom where teachers take time every day to build and maintain classroom community and relationships with and between students. Additional time will be provided to focus on SEL at the start of the school year in our pacing plans. In addition, the district will continue to use the Second Step curriculum as

a way to support a continued focus on SEL. Each school will continue to use its Multi Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) team to monitor students and provide support for students who are referred for additional support who come to the team's attention through our screen efforts. Principals will provide time during our pre-service days to plan with their faculties about welcoming our students back to school that is more typical than they experienced this year and providing support for students who may struggle with this transition. SCASD will also monitor students' SEL through the use of the Review 360 screener. Teams at each school review the results of the Review 360 screener and follow up with students and families of those students who score in the at-risk area.

- ii. Health Services for Students: SCASD health curriculum is taught by the health and physical education teachers and focuses on student emotional, social and physical health across grades.
- iii. Academic needs: SCASD will administer the beginning of the year benchmark assessments in reading, writing, and math as well as unit pre-assessments where appropriate. The students will be assessed three times a year to continue to monitor their progress. Each school will continue to use its MTSS team to monitor students and provide support for students who are referred for additional support who come to the team's attention through our screen efforts. In addition, SCASD instructional coaches will work with school, grade level, and individual teachers to support them in meeting students' needs.

b. Secondary Specific Focus:

- i. Social Emotional Support for Students: SCASD has increased support for students during the school day as well as after school hours. Students SEL will be monitored through the use of the Review 360 screener. School counselors and administrators will review the results of the Review 360 screener and follow up with students and families of those students who score in the at risk range.
- ii. Health Services for Students: SCASD health curriculum is taught by the health and physical education teachers and focuses on student emotional, social and physical health across grades.
- iii. Academic Needs: SCASD will increase the capacity of ACE (academic support centers), after school tutoring centers that will be staffed by teachers and volunteers and provide time for clubs and groups to meet. Each middle school is adding an MTSS Interventionist — full-time positions to provide support for students specifically in math and ELA. SCASD gives MAP (math and reading) in grades 6-9 to assess the skills of students 3 times per year (early fall, winter, spring). Virtual Academy (VA) students have the ability to meet with a teacher (video call or phone call) for help in addition to using email. SCASD uses Canvas Learning Management System- students and families have one consistent place to find all of their work and grades. Teachers have pre-assessments built into courses to determine students readiness and skills. Teachers work in PLCs every other day to collaborate about student learning and share strategies that are effective. Grades 6 and up- each department created "hand-off" documents to help the teachers to plan the next course in the sequence.

c. K-12 Social Emotional Needs for Students and Employees:

- i. SCASD has developed a wellness team that will develop a social emotional framework for students and employees to return to school that will incorporate restorative practices and a trauma-informed approach.
- ii. SCASD has hired a full-time mental health clinician and has signed written agreements with the following providers:
 1. PSU Psychological Clinic provides an Employee Assistance Program, a 20-hour assistantship employed by a master's student clinician from PSU Psychological Clinic's doctoral training program. This clinician will support students and provide professional development to employees. PSU will also make available a service provider team of licensed psychologists to provide direct support to the district' educators, administrators and parents regarding child development, academic performance, social/behavioral challenges of students, assessment of social/emotional development and learning elanned, drug and alcohol problems etc.
 2. PSU Herr Clinic provides a staff member to supervise a group of master's level interns to work with our school teams to conduct crisis assessments, individual counseling and small group counseling otherwise not available in a timely manner to our students because of long waitlists in our community.
 3. Centre County Youth Service Borough (CCYSB) received a PCCD Grant in partnership with PSU and SCASD to provide trauma informed training, and to increase access to crisis intervention and mental health services for students and their families.

d. Food Services:

- i. Breakfast and lunch will be available each school day to students attending school in-person. With funding provided through the National School Lunch and Breakfast programs, meals will be free of charge to students.
 - ii. Parents/guardians of students who are learning at home can make arrangements through the food service office to pick meals up for their child(ren) on a daily basis. Weekly meals will not be provided unless circumstances change that result in a large number of students learning from home and subsequent reapproval of that program by USDA.
3. Use the table below to explain how the LEA will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other employees 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>Universal and correct wearing of masks;</p> | <p>Following CDC guidance, SCASD has developed a “layered prevention plan” to provide multiple safety measures and flexibility. The objective is to maximize in-person learning opportunities for all students in the most supportive environment possible. This approach will provide district leaders, in continued collaboration with the Health and Safety Team, the opportunity to monitor community transmission, vaccination coverage, screening testing, and occurrence of district outbreaks to guide our decisions.</p> <p>Layered Prevention Strategies</p> <p>Masking</p> <p>Outdoors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masks optional for all K-12 students with no physical distancing restrictions. <p>Indoors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masks optional for vaccinated individuals with proof of vaccination. • Mask mandatory for unvaccinated individuals. • Masks will be required for all K-12 students and drivers during district transports regardless of vaccination status (drivers can be unmasked if in the vehicle alone). • Masking exception requests should be directed to the building principal. <p>Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as masks, shields, gowns, gloves and plexiglass shields will be provided to employees upon request and assessed needs.</p> |
| <p>Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p> | <p>As stated above, SCASD has developed a “layered prevention plan” to provide multiple safety measures and flexibility. The objective is to maximize in-person learning opportunities for all students in the most supportive environment possible. This approach will provide district leaders, in continued collaboration with the Health and Safety Team, the opportunity to monitor community transmission, vaccination coverage, screening testing, and occurrence of district outbreaks to guide our decisions.</p> <p>Physical Distancing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3-feet minimum distancing requirements for K-12. <p>Food Service and School Meals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximize physical distance as much as possible when moving through the food service line and while eating (especially indoors). Using additional spaces outside of the cafeteria for mealtime seating such as the gymnasium or outdoor seating can help facilitate distancing. Note: students, teachers, and staff who are fully vaccinated do not need to distance while eating. • Given very low risk of transmission from surfaces and shared objects, there is no need to limit food service approaches to single use items and packaged meals. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Clean frequently touched surfaces. ● Promote hand washing before, after, and during shifts, before and after eating, after using the toilet, and after handling garbage, dirty dishes, or removing gloves. ● Improve ventilation in food preparation, service, and seating areas. <p>District Transportation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Masks will be required for all K-12 students and drivers during district transports regardless of vaccination status. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Bus and van drivers do not need to wear a mask if alone in the vehicle. |
| <u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</u> | <p>Teach and reinforce hygiene practices to students and employees.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Soap and water for at least 20 seconds ● If handwashing is not possible, use hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol. <p>Develop a schedule for student and employees handwashing as recommended by PA DOH; at minimum require:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● before/after eating ● after bathroom use <p>Encourage use of tissues for blowing nose, sneezes and coughs followed by hand washing or cleaning with hand sanitizer.</p> <p>The use of indoor and outdoor facilities by outside entities will be allowed as long as the groups adhere to the protocols in the Health and Safety Plan. Requests will be approved based upon the district's facility use policy.</p> |
| <u>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</u> | <p>Routine cleaning will be performed nightly. Sanitization will be performed in the event of a potential COVID-19 exposure or other extenuating circumstance.</p> <p>During warmer weather, SCASD will encourage opening windows to increase air circulation.</p> <p>In occupied areas of buildings, SCASD will maximize fresh air intake through HVAC systems.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Adjust settings on the building automation systems to maximum outside air setting. ● Use operable windows when outdoor humidity, temperature and allergen levels allow. <p>Place or install stand-alone HEPA filtration units in areas of high need (isolation rooms, band and choir rooms, rooms without windows, rooms with HVAC limitations, etc.)</p> <p>Communal water fountains will be closed, and the use of personal water bottles and/or bottled water will be promoted. Each school has water bottle refill stations.</p> |

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| | <p>Adequate supplies will be provided to support healthy hygiene behaviors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water, soap, hand sanitizer • Paper towels, tissue paper • Gloves (non-latex), masks (PPE that prevents or minimizes viral transmission), face shields or goggles • EPA cleaning supplies that minimize asthmatic reactions • Open-faced trash cans or no-touch trash cans • Safe and correct storage of cleaning and disinfecting products. |
| <p><u>Contact tracing</u> in combination with <u>isolation</u> and <u>quarantine</u>, in collaboration with the state and local health departments;</p> | <p>SCASD created reporting forms for student and employee positive COVID-19 cases. When a COVID-19 positive case is reported, DOH will be notified and conduct contact tracing.</p> <p>Individuals will be required to stay home and follow isolation or quarantine protocols if they have tested positive for COVID-19, have COVID-19 symptoms, or are a close contact.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDC's Exception: In the K–12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition <i>excludes</i> students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student when: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ both students were engaged in consistent and correct use of well-fitting face masks; and ○ other K–12 school prevention strategies (such as universal and correct mask use, physical distancing, increased ventilation) were in place in the K–12 school setting. <p>Note: This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.</p> <p>All visitors, family members, and spectators will be required to follow the district health and safety plan protocols.</p> <p>The district will update the district's COVID-19 dashboard when there is a case of COVID-19 within the district.</p> <p>If COVID-19 positive individuals are in any SCASD building during their infectious period, a notification will be sent to building employees and families if students were in the building.</p> |
| <p><u>Diagnostic</u> and <u>screening testing</u>;</p> <p><u>Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools through Phased Prevention CDC</u></p> <p><u>Open and Safe Schools</u></p> <p><u>COVID-19 Educational Testing – Shah Family</u></p> | <p>Anyone who shows COVID-19 symptoms of illness will be required to stay home.</p> <p>Individuals will be asked to screen themselves for COVID-19 symptoms prior to attending school or any related school activity. The purpose is to check for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 before arriving. (see Center for Disease Control: Symptoms of Coronavirus for more information)</p> |

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| <u>Foundation</u> | |
| Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to school communities</u>; | SCASD will continue to work closely with local medical providers to provide space, personnel and easy access for students, families, and community members to receive their vaccinations. |
| Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and | <p>The needs of all students with documented complex needs or other vulnerable individuals will be addressed through their school team.</p> <p>Physical Distancing (specific to students who require unique accommodations)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faculty and staff will be provided with appropriate PPE when within 3-6 feet for longer than 15 minutes of an individual who is not vaccinated. <p>Alternative face covering options will be provided for special populations as needed and tolerated (consideration for students, faculty/employees related to individual needs)</p> <p>Self-care/hygiene/toileting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPE (mask, gloves) • frequent hand-washing <p>Students with agency nurses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agency nurses will develop Individualized Health Plans and share with the building team for implementation purposes |
| Coordination with state and local health officials. | The Health and Safety Planning Team (including pediatricians, epidemiologist, and infectious disease specialist), IHPG with PSU health, emergency management representatives and DOH. |

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **State College Area School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **(INSERT DATE: MONTH, DAY, YEAR)**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

_____ **Yes**

_____ **No**

Affirmed on: **(INSERT DATE: MONTH, DAY, YEAR)**

By:

(Signature of Board President)*

(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.