

Panther Valley



***Health and Safety Plan
2023-2024 School Year***

Reviews and Submissions

Initial Effective Date: 02/21/2024

Date Approved by the Panther Valley School District Board of Directors: 02/21/2024

Date of Last Revision: 09/20/2023

Submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Education: 6/8/2023

Posted on Panther Valley School District website: 02/22/2024

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?

According to the CDC, the federal COVID-19 Public Health Emergency declaration ended on May 11, 2023. If needed in the future, the District will review the guidelines and recommendations from the CDC, PA Department of Health, local health officials and PDE to keep our schools open for in person learning.

The Panther Valley School District Board of Directors grants the superintendent the authority to alter this plan without Board approval to adhere to released orders of guidance of federal, state, and local authorities and in consideration of the number of cases in the district and overall community spread.

This plan was developed in consultation with local health agencies and is unique to the needs of the Panther Valley School District. This plan will be monitored, revised, and updated as Federal, State and local orders and health data evolve.

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?

The Panther Valley School District will operate a summer program for students in K-12 through ESSER funds during the summer of 2023 for students identified with potential learning loss. Additionally, we will also operate Extended School Year (ESY) for students with special education needs.

Students and families will have access to behavioral health supports including school counselors, school psychologists, and third party providers to assist students. Additionally, students may access the [Safe2Say reporting tool](#) and Student Assistance Program when needed.

Employees can contact their Supervisor or Human Resources for mental health support.

The District will continue to operate Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) for students throughout the 2023-2024 school year with interventions in English/Language Arts and Mathematics, positive behavior support programs, special education programs and services, and programs specialized to meet the needs of students with social, emotional, or mental health needs.

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
(a) Universal and correct wearing of masks ;	At this time, masks will be optional in the district. If necessary, the Panther Valley School District will consider recommendations from the CDC/PA Department of Health (DOH) regarding masking requirements.
(b) Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);	Students and employees will be encouraged to maintain physical distance to the maximum extent feasible and appropriate.
(c) Handwashing and respiratory etiquette ;	<p>All Panther Valley School District employees will be/have been trained on proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette. Teachers will teach and reinforce proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette to their students. Additionally, the District will ensure access to adequate supplies including soap and hand sanitizer.</p> <p>Hand sanitizer readily available and/or children may bring individual bottles of hand sanitizer to keep on desk or in a backpack.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FDA hand sanitizers
(d) Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation ;	Panther Valley School District will follow standard practices and appropriate regulations for cleaning and disinfection. Cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting will be performed in accordance with current CDC and DOH guidelines. Additionally, EPA approved products will be used in accordance with labeling requirements. Furthermore, the District will routinely clean high touch surfaces and objects.
(e) Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine , in collaboration with the State and local health departments;	The Panther Valley School District recommends following guidance from the CDC/PA DOH regarding quarantine/isolation guidelines and contact tracing. With proper medical documentation, the District will defer to the guidance of the health care provided for recommendations of isolation and quarantine.
(f) Diagnostic and screening testing;	<p>All individuals should still closely monitor their own symptoms and should stay home if symptomatic.</p> <p>It is critically important for employees and students to consult</p>

	<p>with their health professionals if their symptoms are indicative of COVID, influenza, or other infections that are more commonly transmitted through close personal contact.</p> <p>School nurses will advise students, teachers, and staff to stay home if they have been exposed to COVID-19. Additionally, school nurses will encourage these individuals to talk to their healthcare provider about getting a COVID-19 test.</p>
(g) Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities ;	The District will collaborate with their health partner, St Luke's University Health Network, or other providers to provide vaccination opportunities to the school community.
(h) Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	Students with disabilities will have access to the same programs and opportunities as non-disabled peers, as well as accommodations detailed within their IEP or 504 plan based on their individual needs.
(i) Coordination with state and local health officials.	The District will collaborate with state and local health officials by the means of (1) directly contacting them as needed or directly through known contacts; or (2) through our continued participation in the established Emergency Preparedness Council through the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit.

Additional Resources

- [CDC K-12 School Operational Strategy](#)
- [PDE Resources for School Communities During COVID-19](#)
- [PDE Roadmap for Education Leaders](#)
- [PDE Accelerated Learning Thorough 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 **Panther Valley School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on February 21, 2024.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

Yes ☒

No ☐

Affirmed on: February 21, 2024

By:



(Signature of Board President)

Daniel Matika

(Print Name of Board President)