

# Gateway School District

## Health and Safety Plan

2023 - 2024

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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*.

### **Health and Safety Plan Summary: Gateway School District**

**Initial Effective Date: August 23, 2021**

**Date of Last Review: August 1, 2023**

**Date of Last Revision: August 1, 2023**

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 to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning?

The Gateway School District will continue to work in concert with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Pennsylvania Department of Health, Allegheny County Health Department, and the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) when opening our school facilities for the 2023 - 2024 school year. All health and safety planning for our district will be informed by guidance from each respective government agency.

The Gateway School District will continue prevention and mitigation efforts that were implemented the previous school year. The following mitigation and prevention efforts will be maintained:

- High traffic touch points will be disinfected and sanitized throughout each school day.
- Disinfecting fog machines will be utilized as needed to ensure that all areas within the school are cleaned and sanitized.
- Sanitation stations will continue to be present within each classroom. The sanitation stations will include hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, masks, gloves, etc.
- Disinfectant wipes and hand sanitizer stations will be available throughout each building for all students and staff.

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?

The Gateway School District will continue to ensure that all students are appropriately challenged and attain high levels of academic success. Additional positions to support student success have been retained for the 2023 – 2024 school year. Specifically, a third social worker has been retained to support students’ needs within our district.

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 <a href="#">masks</a>;</p>	<p>The Gateway School District will institute a mask optional protocol. The wearing of face covering will be optional, absent any legal mandates from the Pennsylvania Department of Health, state, or federal government regarding the use of face coverings for students, employees, and visitors.</p> <p>If COVID-19 cases reach a substantially high level of community transmission, a building specific mask mandate may be instituted at the discretion of the Superintendent and Central Administration.</p> <p>Substantial transmission is 50 to 100 cases per 100,000, or a positivity rate between 8% and 10%. High transmission is 100 or more cases per 100,000 people or a positivity rate of 10%.</p>
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for <a href="#">physical distancing</a> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)</p>	<p>Gateway School District will continue standard operating procedures for all activities during the school day, evenings, and athletic events. Any potential changes will be informed by guidance from each respective</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	government agency.
c. <a href="#">Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</a> ;	The district-wide handwashing campaign will continue. Procedures for effective handwashing from the CDC will be shared regularly with all members of the school community.
d. <a href="#">Cleaning</a> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <a href="#">ventilation</a> ;	Mitigation efforts that include regularly sanitizing and disinfecting high traffic areas within facilities and utilization of disinfectant fog machines will continue as needed. Every effort will be made to increase ventilation within the district's facilities.
e. <a href="#">Contact tracing</a> in combination with <a href="#">isolation</a> and <a href="#">quarantine</a> , in collaboration with the State and local health departments;	<p>The Gateway School District will not contact trace or identify close contacts of positive covid cases and will not require healthy students and staff to isolate or quarantine due to close contact of a Covid-19 case. Students and staff that are Covid-19 positive will isolate for 5 days.</p> <p>After returning from isolation, it is recommended that a mask be worn through day 10.</p> <p>All recommendations for isolation and quarantine will be determined through guidance from the PA Department of Health, Centers for Disease Control, and Allegheny County Health Department.</p>
f. <a href="#">Diagnostic</a> and screening testing;	Formal diagnostic and screen testing of students for Covid-19 will not be administered within the district. All members of the school community will be reminded to screen signs and symptoms of Covid-19 prior to arriving at any school activity or event.
g. Efforts to provide <a href="#">vaccinations to school communities</a> ;	The Gateway School District's proximity to Forbes Regional Hospital and UPMC

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	East has provided many opportunities for all members of the school community to access the vaccine. The district will continue to refer individuals to the local vaccination clinics.
h. Appropriate accommodation for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	If a student requires a specific health plan, the health plan will be incorporated into the student's 504 Plan or IEP as appropriate.
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	The Gateway School District will continue to work in concert with all state and local health officials.