



Health and Safety Plan Summary: [Northern Lehigh School District \(NLSD\)](#)

Initial Effective Date: July 13, 2021

Date of Last Review: August 14, 2023 (Monthly School Board Meeting)

Date of Last Revision: September 12, 2022 - based on most recent CDC, PDE, & PADOH guidance

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 [Pennsylvania Department of Health \(PA DOH\)](#) and [Pennsylvania Department of Education \(PDE\)](#) for the reopening and operation of school facilities in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning?

As decision makers, we are mindful that as long as there are cases of COVID-19 in our region we must be responsive and flexible to ensure the health and safety of our students and employees. The goal is to keep transmission as low as possible to safely continue school activities. The Northern Lehigh School District Board of Directors grants the superintendent the authority to alter this plan without Board approval to adhere to released orders or guidance of federal, state, and local authorities and in consideration of number of cases in the district and overall community spread. This plan was developed in consultation with local stakeholders and is unique to the needs of the Northern Lehigh School District. This plan will be monitored, revised, and updated as Federal, State, and local orders and health data evolve throughout the summer and school year until such time that normal operations resume.

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?

Through the use of ESSR funds, NLSD is operating summer programming for all students interested and able to participate, including those especially at risk (i.e. English Language Learners, Children in Foster Placements and Children who are Experiencing Homelessness or who are Unaccompanied Youth). This summer programming is designed to address learning gaps caused by the pandemic as well as provide SEL education and supports. Attendees will be provided breakfast and lunch in coordination with our Seamless Summer Option (SSO) program. In addition, we will also operate Extended School Year (ESY) and provide COVID Compensatory Services (CCS) throughout the summer to qualifying students of special needs.

Students and families will have access to behavioral health supports including school counselors, school psychologists, behavior interventionists, and third-party providers to assist students. Additionally, students may access the [Safe2Say reporting tool](#) and Student Assistance Program when needed. [Mental Health Resources and Behavioral Health Supports Resource for Students](#).

Employees have access to a variety of Behavioral Health Supports that may include: [EAP Program 1-610-433-8550 Preferred EAP](#) and [Community resources](#).

The District will continue to operate Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) for students throughout the 2021-2022 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, as well as SSO Program throughout the 2021-2022 school year. These programs are also available for English Language Learners, Children in Foster Placements, and Children Experiencing Homelessness or

who are deemed Unaccompanied Youth, and any other students who are at-risk. Additionally, although NLSD is prepared to offer five-day a week in-person instruction for all students to start the 2021-2022 school year, we will also be prepared to offer online synchronous/asynchronous learning due to the technology devices/platforms already purchased using ESSER funds if we are mandated by PDE or another state or federal level agency, or we choose locally, to switch to fully online instruction for a temporary amount of time. NLSD will also continue to provide its cyber program, Bulldog Academy, for interested K-12 students. Bulldog Academy will utilize a curriculum different from the traditional NLSD curriculum, however each student will be assigned an NLSD staff facilitator. Students in Bulldog Academy remain NLSD students and are encouraged to participate in NLSD extra-curricular activities.

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
a. Universal and correct wearing of masks ;	<p>On December 11, 2021, NLSD returned to a mask/face covering optional model for students, employees, contractors, and visitors within our buildings. On February 28, 2022, masks/face coverings became optional on all NLSD buses and vans. Masks/face coverings are encouraged and are available at each main office upon request.</p> <p>State orders and/or school district and local data may result in modifications to the district’s face covering practices.</p>
b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);	<p>Students and employees will be encouraged to maintain physical distance, including when eating and drinking.</p> <p>To the greatest extent possible, instruction and activities will occur outside weather permitting.</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<p>c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</p>	<p>Parents and guardians are encouraged to drive their children to and from school.</p> <p>NLSD will display and encourage Guidelines for hand-washing and other best practices.</p> <p>Posting of signs in highly visible locations that promote everyday proactive practices.</p> <p>Frequent hand washing with students and employees will be encouraged throughout all schools.</p> <p>All schools and the stadium will have multiple hand sanitation stations for students, employees, and community members.</p>
<p>d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</p>	<p><u>Sanitization Requirements</u> Clean and sanitize each classroom, restroom, hallway, and touch points. The use of Halo machines to proactively “fog” rooms and offices to kill viruses in the air and surfaces. Halo machines will be deployed to specific rooms if an infected person was in the room.</p> <p><u>Classrooms</u> Nightly cleaning including sanitizing and disinfecting.</p> <p><u>Ventilation</u> Windows will be open on buses when feasible. The district will continue to utilize and maintain its bipolar ionization units. Instruction and activities will occur outside as often as possible, weather permitting.</p> <p><u>Water Bottle Filling Stations</u> All NLSD schools and the field house have been equipped with water bottle filling stations, all employees and students have received bottles.</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<p>e. Isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<p>1. For isolation of positive cases, the student or employee is strongly encouraged to isolate for five (5) days or until they are fever free without fever reducing medicine and other symptoms have improved. Day zero (0) remains the first day of symptoms or day the positive test was collected if the person is asymptomatic. NLSD strongly encourages the student or employee to wear a mask for five (5) consecutive days after ending isolation.</p> <p>2. All household members of positive cases are strongly encouraged to quarantine whether they have symptoms or not, unless they are fully vaccinated or had COVID-19 within the last 90 days AND remain symptom free. Both the positive person and the close-contact are strongly encouraged to wear a mask for five (5) consecutive days after ending isolation or quarantine.</p>
<p>f. Diagnostic and screening testing;</p>	<p>All parents/guardians should closely monitor their children and keep them home if symptomatic.</p> <p>All employees should closely monitor their symptoms and remain home if symptomatic.</p> <p>Employees are strongly encouraged to report positive diagnosis of COVID-19 to Human Resource Administrator.</p> <p>Parents/Guardians of students are strongly encouraged to report positive diagnosis of COVID-19 to their child’s school nurse.</p>
<p>g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;</p>	<p>Community Vaccination Clinics held at the District to date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 25, 2021 – NLMS • June 15, 2021 – NLMS • November 16, 2021 – NLMS • December 7, 2021 - NLMS <p>If any NLSD student or community member would like to receive a vaccination or</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	booster, please contact one of the following community providers: Bechtel's Pharmacy Newhard's Pharmacy St. Luke's University Health Network Lehigh Valley Health Network
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. Parents, guardians, or students with questions or concerns should contact their case manager, principal, or the director of special education.
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	NLSD will collaborate with state and local health officials by the means of (1) directly contacting them as needed through known contacts; or (2) through our continued participation in the established Emergency Preparedness Council through the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit and participation in information sessions with PDE, PaDOH, and state level education networks such as PASA.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

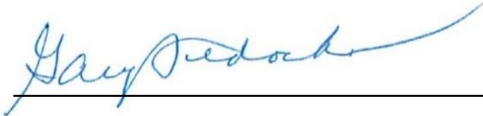
The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Northern Lehigh School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **July 12, 2021 at publicly advertised school board meeting.**

The plan was approved by a vote of:

- 7 Yes
- 0 No
- 2 Absent

Affirmed on: **July 12, 2021**

By:



(Signature* of Board President)

Gary S. Fedorcha

(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.