

General Uses of ESSER III Funds

**Smyrna School District (952400) Public District - FY 2022 - ESSER III (ARP) - Rev 0 - ESSER III (ARP)**

**Notice: LEAs must complete all budget entries and details for approval before the remaining one-third of funds allocation will be released.**

**Purpose 1: This section is to document the LEA's required Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan due by June 23,2021.**

1. Please describe the extent to which the LEA has adopted policies on each of the following health and safety strategies:

\* A. Universal and correct wearing of masks

Our district's position has been, and remains, consistent with that prescribed by the State of Delaware Division of Public Health (DPH).

We used posters and other visual strategies placed throughout the buildings to provide visual cues and reminders to staff and students to wear masks and to wear them appropriately. We also routinely remind our district staff to wear masks per DPH guidance via regular email messaging, as well as our messaging any time we announce a confirmed positive test.

Our district website contains videos and other instructional materials related to mask education.

We provide disposable adult and youth sized masks to all staff, students and visitors.

All of our practices were discussed, reviewed and planned during our returning-to-school committee meetings. The committees included teachers, paraprofessionals, custodians, administrators, parents, and community members.

\* B. Physical Distancing (e.g. use of cohorts/podding)

Our district's position has been, and remains, consistent with that prescribed by the State of Delaware Division of Public Health (DPH).

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Our district website contains videos and other instructional materials related to mask education.

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All of our practices were discussed, reviewed and planned during our returning-to-school committee meetings. The committees included teachers, paraprofessionals, custodians, administrators, parents, and community members.

#### \* C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

We used posters and other visual strategies placed throughout the buildings to provide visual cues and reminders to staff and students to wash or sanitize their hands frequently.

Teachers and our nursing staff have taught lessons on the duration of hand washing with soap and water and to utilize hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.

In addition to hand washing, students learned the importance of covering their mouth and nose when coughing and sneezing through demonstration, visual and verbal cues.

Our district website contains videos and other instructional materials related to personal hygiene, specifically, handwashing.

All of our practices were discussed, reviewed and planned during our returning-to-school committee meetings. The committees included teachers, paraprofessionals, custodians, administrators, parents, and community members.

\* D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

Our district's facilities maintenance team has implemented cleaning procedures consistent with those prescribed by the State of Delaware Division of Public Health. The district HVAC systems have received enhanced preventative maintenance and monitoring to ensure functionality and enhanced fresh air introduction into the systems throughout each building in the district. The district has also purchased additional maintenance equipment that will support our team in maintaining our HVAC systems.

All of our practices were discussed, reviewed and planned during our returning to school committee meetings. The committees included teachers, paraprofessionals, custodians, administrators, parents, and community members.

\* E. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine in collaboration with the state, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments

Our school and lead nurses work with the Division of Public Health to identify, communicate and track COVID-19 infections throughout the Smyrna School District. All school nurses have been trained in contact tracing and the "red cap" form through numerous learning opportunities provided by DPH, weekly/bi-weekly virtual office hour meetings and continuous communication on a daily basis with epidemiologists. All protocols and guidance are followed. Continuous care and follow-up with families and staff occur throughout the infectious period.

[https://www.smyrna.k12.de.us/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC\\_ID=438752&type=d](https://www.smyrna.k12.de.us/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=438752&type=d)

The Smyrna School District created and presented a COVID "101" presentation to provide families with an overview of how the school handles infections, quarantining and communication with the school community. That presentation can be found here:

[https://www.smyrna.k12.de.us/apps/news/show\\_news.jsp?REC\\_ID=695695&id=0](https://www.smyrna.k12.de.us/apps/news/show_news.jsp?REC_ID=695695&id=0)

\* F. Diagnostic and screening testing

We do not currently, nor do we plan to require testing of staff or students. The latest DPH self-assessment tool has been distributed to families and staff multiple times over the school year. In addition, the checklist is posted on the COVID information portion of our website. Testing opportunities around the state are, likewise, posted for families and staff.

\* G. Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible

The Smyrna School District has participated with the Delaware Department of Education and the Division of Public Health to provide four (4) vaccination clinics at Smyrna High School for our own staff, as well as the staff of other school districts. These clinics provided both the first and second doses for those individuals. Through our partnership with BayHealth and the Wellness Center at Smyrna High School, we have provided four (4) vaccination clinics for staff and students aged 12 and older, also at Smyrna High School. These clinics provided the first and second doses for those individuals, as well. Information provided by DPH and the CDC is disseminated to our school community with FAQs on vaccines. We also publish locations, dates and times of clinics as they are announced.

\* H. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies.

Our practice is to continue to work with students with disabilities to be as healthy and safe as possible with consideration of their disabilities and physical limitations. Students who struggled to wear a mask were taught this skill in a similar manner as other functional skills. Those students whose health needs kept them from attending in person were provided instruction and accommodations through a virtual platform. We educate and provide families with health information frequently. Masks with a clear shield are provided to students and staff who require lip reading or visual cues on how to form sounds with their lips. When contact tracing infections, these limitations are considered and accounted for as circumstances are reviewed with the epidemiology team.

\* 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?

We are working closely with families to determine their needs for the upcoming school year. We have sent out several surveys and called individuals who have not responded to determine plans for the 2021/2022 school year. While most students will return to school for a five-day, in-person school week, we do have some students who will remain virtual.

The plan for summer 2021 is to reconvene our return-to-school committees to review all of our practices, ensure alignment with the State of Delaware Division of Public Health and CDC guidance documents, and make any necessary enhancements for the 2021/22 school year. Our committees will continue to include teachers, paraprofessionals, custodians, administrators, parents, and community members.

The Smyrna School District Child Nutrition Team has provided continuous opportunities for all of our students to access high quality breakfast and lunch meals since March 18, 2020. Since March 18, 2020, the Child Nutrition Team has provided 1,192,132 meals to our students outside of our cafeterias/schools. The Child Nutrition Team, in addition to serving students in our cafeteria, served curbside meals, delivered meals into various neighborhoods throughout the district, collaborated with the Smyrna Middle School staff to support the operational needs of our District's Harry K Foundation Food Pantry, and partnered with various organizations to provide USDA Farm-to-Family meal boxes to our community. The Child Nutrition Team will continue to support the nutritional needs of our students (including those who remain virtual learners throughout the school year 2021/2022).

The Smyrna School District through the School Climate and Safety Office has provided weekly virtual field trips, virtual yoga sessions, parent check-in surveys, mental health and crisis response resources, and social and emotional learning (SEL) activities and lessons for the community on our district website, Facebook, and YouTube pages. The School Climate and Safety Office has provided monthly calendars with SEL lessons for staff to utilize either virtually or through hybrid instruction. In addition, the District has partnerships with a number of community mental health providers to further ensure continuity in education and mental health supports.

**Purpose 2. This section is to document the LEA's required ARP ESSER Plan due by August 23, 2021, which at a minimum must describe:**

1. The extent to which and how ARP ESSER Funds will be used by the LEA to implement prevention and mitigation strategies that are, to the greatest extent practicable, in line with the most recent guidance

The district will use ARP ESSER Funds to support needed upgrades to our existing heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems at select locations.

- Our Central Plant is a building that houses HVAC equipment that is responsible for controlling the environment at our middle and high schools. This equipment has the capability to impact greater than 2,900 staff and

students and is currently in need of refurbishment to operate at 100% efficiency.

- The design and operation of our high school fresh air system is antiquated. This system has the capability to impact over 1,800 students and staff. It is also in need of refurbishment to operate at 100% efficacy

It is essential for HVAC systems to operate as expected in order to mitigate the risks associated with the spread of COVID-19 in buildings (schools).

2. How the LEA will use the mandatory 20% set-aside to address the academic impact of lost instruction time through the implementation of evidence based interventions

The Smyrna School District is providing a wraparound program for students in grades kindergarten to sixth grades. The district has partnered with the Boys and Girls Club of Delaware to provide the staff and program framework for learning recovery before and after school in our six schools housing kindergarten to sixth grades. The district is hiring Wraparound Curriculum Coaches to provide high quality instructional materials, training and support to the Boys and Girls Club staff for the site based model housed in our schools and the club located in our community. In addition, the coaches are committed to providing curriculum, support and materials to local daycare centers where our students attend. This program is a yearlong attempt to extend the school day and increase the capacity for learning of our students who lost in person instructional time during the pandemic.

3. How the LEA will use the remaining ARP ESSER funds consistent with the statutory requirements

The Smyrna School District will use funding to complete several key initiatives started as part of the ESSER II grant. The One:One Technology initiative for students and staff will be complete. This initiative will allow both students and teachers to be prepared for any unplanned short or long-term closure of the District buildings. In addition, funds will be used to upgrade HVAC and fresh air systems on the SHS/SMS campus. Improvements will also continue in outdoor spaces such as playgrounds and athletics facilities. The enhancements will provide opportunities for students to use during the instructional day as well as other times.

4. How the LEA will ensure that the ARP ESSER funded interventions, including but not limited to the 20% set-aside, will respond to the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of all students, and particularly those

students disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic including students from low-income families, students of color, English Learners, children with disabilities, students experiencing homelessness, children and youth in foster care, and migratory students

We are working closely with families to determine their needs for the upcoming school year. We have sent out several surveys and called individuals who have not responded to determine plans for the 2021/2022 school year. While most students (~95%) will return to school for a five-day, in-person school week, we do have some students who will remain virtual. The Smyrna School District is launching a One:One Initiative for the 21/22 school year. Every student (in-person and virtual) will receive a chromebook that will support their connection to high quality instruction.

The Smyrna School District Child Nutrition Team continues to provide opportunities for all of our students to access high quality breakfast and lunch meals. Since March 18, 2020, the Child Nutrition Team has provided >1,200,000 meals to our students outside of our cafeterias/schools. The Child Nutrition Team will continue to support the nutritional needs of our students (including those who remain virtual learners throughout the school year 2021/2022).

Our School Climate & Safety team is preparing a teacher resource guide that offers evidence-based strategies for both staff and students to use this upcoming school year. This guide outlines proactive tips and strategies regarding engagement and self-regulation. The guide was a companion to a sensory tool kit purchased for all students in the district. The sensory tool kit provides each classroom with a dry erase lapboard, stress ball, sensory gel pack, and Velcro strip for every student. K-6 classrooms were provided with bouncy bands and secondary classrooms were provided sensory stones. These tools will be used to help with stamina, engagement, and self-regulation for successful acclimation to full schedule instruction.

For students participating in our wrap around program our coaches will identify specific student needs and work directly with district staff to ensure that the Boys and Girls Club staff have the appropriate resources, materials and training to support our students.

Upload data sheet that illustrates the LEA's most pressing needs by subgroup

## Documents

**Type****Document Template/Example****Document/Link**

Q4A Data Sheet [Upload between 1 and 2 document(s)]

 [Q4A Data Sheet](#)

 [Q4A Data Sheet](#)

5. Describe the promising practices the LEA has implemented to accelerate learning.

This past year we added transportation to our after school academic support. This afforded more students the opportunity to attend. We are continuing this in our secondary schools. In our elementary and intermediate schools we targeted are interventions to specific skills. We will continue this practice when working with our Boys/Girls Club wrap around.