

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan



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Introduction

On March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plans (ARP) Act was signed into law. In it, the U.S. Department of Education is providing an additional \$121.9 billion for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER III Fund). This legislation will award grants to state educational agencies (SEAs) for providing local educational agencies (LEAs) with emergency relief funds to address the impact that COVID-19 has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools across the nation.

Wisconsin will receive \$1,540,784,854 in ESSER III funds from the act, with 90 percent being awarded to school districts with amounts determined in proportion to the amount of Title I, Part A funds they received in Summer 2020 from funds under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The remaining funds will be used for state-level activities to address issues caused by COVID-19.

This plan describes how the LEA or district will provide a safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services for all schools, including those that have already returned to in-person instruction.

Maintaining Health and Safety

Overview

A district's plan must include how it will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other school and LEA staff, and the extent to which it has adopted policies or practices and a description of any such policies or practices on each of the CDC's safety recommendations including the universal and correct wearing of masks; modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding); hand washing and respiratory etiquette; cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation; contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the state, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments; diagnostic and screening testing; efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible; appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies or practices; and coordination with state and local health officials.

Description on maintaining the safety of staff and students

The Three Lakes School District enters into the 2022-23 school year with a five-day per week, face-to-face instructional model and will adhere to the following health protocols. Accordingly, the District:

- Posted the Fall 2022 Three Lakes School District Bluejay Return Plan outlining our procedures and protocols to provide a safe and healthy environment for all district students and staff.
- Based on the recommendations of the CDC, WIAA and local health officials, encouraged the following preventative measures:
 - Full vaccination of those who are eligible
 - Masking based on community risk levels
 - Appropriate hygiene practices including proper and frequent handwashing
 - Providing sanitizing stations in multiple locations throughout the buildings
 - Stay home when exhibiting symptoms of illness
 - Stay home if running a fever (100.4 or above)
 - Testing if COVID symptoms are present
- Posted the Winter 2023 Three Lakes School District Bluejay Return Plan updating procedures and protocols to provide a safe and healthy environment for all students and staff.

Description to continue to provide services regardless of the mode of instruction (for example, health and food services if the LEA must pivot to virtual or hybrid instruction)

The Three Lakes School District will offer in-person learning five days a week according to the Board-adopted 2022-2023 Academic Year Calendar. The school district has also provided families with the option to enroll their students in virtual learning through our partnership with Rural Virtual Academy and through our Personal Education Plan of blended learning. In the event of a school closure due to the pandemic, all students in grades 2-12 have chromebooks to continue virtual learning. In addition, all students in grades 4K-12 have access to student learning platforms where parents and teachers can access and interact through web-based programs, including Seesaw and Canvas.

Meal service is provided and will continue regardless of the mode of instruction under the Seamless Summer Option (open site) as long as the USDA continues the allowance.

The Three Lakes School District works closely with Oneida County and Vilas County health departments. In addition, the District is cohorted with other schools in the county region and meets regularly to review COVID-19 data and discuss mitigation and safety plans.

Mitigation Measures

Universal and correct wearing of masks

The Three Lakes School District acknowledges that face coverings and masks are optional and will be an individual decision. All staff and students will be supported, regardless of their decisions to wear or not wear masks. The previous federal order requiring face coverings on public transportation has ended. Therefore, students and staff traveling on a school bus or van, including for athletic events or other school-sponsored activities, have the option, but are not required, to use face coverings.

Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (for example, the use of cohorts and podding)

Mitigation measures such as proper signage, water bottle filling stations, and the promotion of social distancing are in place at each facility. Adequate spacing is provided at lunch tables to support social distancing. Time is permitted for students to eat their meals. Cafeterias and/or classrooms may be used as settings for student meals.

Three Lakes School District is a small rural school and properly spacing students is available in the classrooms. Assigned seats and activity groups are in place to help monitor contact tracing in the

event of positive cases. As much as possible, students are spaced apart when lining up and moving about the school.

Non-essential classroom furniture has been removed for maximum spacing between students. Furniture items must be cleanable, wiped down and disinfected daily.

The large 4K class has been split into two classes to reduce the number of students in one classroom space. This is for the purpose of increasing educational effectiveness and maintaining a safe and healthy environment.

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette is taught to students with high emphasis in the primary grade levels. Signage is posted throughout buildings as reminders of handwashing and respiratory etiquette.

In addition, hand sanitizing stations/liquids are available in all classrooms.

Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

Enhanced sanitation procedures have been implemented and continue at all schools focusing on high-touch surfaces. The District uses cleaning solutions that are rated to kill the SARS virus. In addition to daily cleaning, all rooms and surfaces are treated with a nano-technology barrier solution on a biweekly basis.

The District has installed ionization air cleaning units on all air-intake ventilation units in all buildings. These units function at all times that ventilation units operate and are monitored electronically through HVAC computer systems. In addition, the District has placed air purifiers in the classrooms where there are students and staff with known health concerns.

Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments

The Three Lakes School District will provide updates to the public of active COVID-19 cases and staff quarantines within the District. This will be noted in the weekly school newsletters.

The Three Lakes School District will continue to provide current health information to staff, students and families about the signs and symptoms of COVID-19, when they should stay home, and when they can return to school. This information is featured in our newsletters, social media posts and district administrator video talks with the public. Procedures for isolation and quarantining can be found in the Fall 2021, Winter 2022, Fall 2022 and current Winter 2023 Bluejay Return Plans on the district website.

Diagnostic and screening testing

The Three Lakes School District recommends students and staff get tested for COVID through at-home tests or by their medical provider, local pharmacy or health department clinics.

Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible

All eligible staff employed in 2020-2021 were provided the opportunity to be vaccinated. Students ages 16 and older were provided access to information on vaccination clinics in Spring 2021. Students ages 12 and older were provided access to information on vaccination clinics in Summer 2021. Students and their families are provided information on accessibility to vaccinations. New staff will be given access to vaccinations by working with local healthcare partners including Three Lakes Pharmacy and local county public health departments. The district allows staff to access the pharmacy for vaccinations during school day hours.

Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies and practices

When circumstances require specific policies or procedures designed to protect the health and safety of students, 504 and IEP teams will determine if modifications and/or reasonable accommodations are needed for individual students with disability-related issues.

Coordination with state and local health officials

The CDC recommends that all decisions about implementing school-based strategies should be made locally, collaborating with local health officials who can help determine the level of transmission in the community. The Three Lakes School District continues to work with county public health to implement mitigating strategies for the safety of students and staff.

Continuity of Services

Overview

Districts must describe how the LEA will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address students' academic needs and students' and staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services.

District response on continuity of services

The District will provide for continuity of services as follows:

Student Academic Needs

The District has continued full-time, in-person instruction since Fall 2020 with limited exceptions. Additional instructional personnel have been added to staffing to implement further academic recovery efforts in core curriculum areas. These specialists will be available during the instructional day and/or during before- and after-school tutoring programs throughout the year.

Student Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs

Additional counseling staff hours and a partnership with Wausau Behavioral Health have been added to address our students' social and emotional learning needs.

Other Student Needs (which may include student health and food services)

Food services will continue to provide meals under the Seamless Summer Option (open site) as long as USDA continues the allowance.

Staff Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs

The District has provided staff with opportunities for social and emotional support through post-school hour meetings with the counseling staff and administration. The staff's social, emotional and mental health needs may also be addressed through the Employee Assistance Program provided through the District insurance program.

Other Staff Needs

The District will follow national, state and local governing agencies' laws and directives concerning staff employment and benefits.

Periodic Review

Overview

Districts are required to review and, as appropriate, revise their Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan at least every six months through September 30, 2023, including seeking public input and taking such input into account in determining whether to revise the plan and, if revisions are determined necessary, on the revisions it makes to its plan.

District response on ensuring periodic updates to its plan

The Three Lakes School District will periodically review and, as needed, revise the plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services. The plan will be reviewed at least every six months, and the school system will seek and take into account public input during the review process. Plan revisions will address updated CDC and County Public Health guidance on safely reopening schools if any are issued.

[Bluejay Return Plan Fall 2021](#)

[Bluejay Return Plan Winter 2022](#)

[Bluejay Return Plan Fall 2022](#)

[Bluejay Return Plan Winter 2023](#)

Public Input

Overview

The ARP Act requires that school districts make their Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan available to the public online and that the plans be in an understandable and uniform format; to the extent practicable, are written in a language that parents can understand or, if not practicable, orally translated; and upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability, provided in an alternative format accessible to that parent. Before making its plan publicly available, school districts must seek public comment on the plan and develop the plan after taking into account public comment.

District response on public input in the development of its plan

The Three Lakes School District has taken the following steps to make its plan available to the public:

- The plan is posted on our [district website](#).
- The plan is available in multiple languages through the use of our web provider powered by Google Translate.
- The plan was sent to parents, students and employees via our messaging systems.
- The Three Lakes School District Return Plan was shared at the Three Lakes School District Board of Education meeting on Aug. 18, 2021.
- The ESSER III public survey was reported to the Board of Education on Nov. 17, 2021.
- Upon request, a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA may be provided with the plan in an alternative format accessible by contacting our district office.

[Access ESSER III Public Survey here.](#)