

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

Stockbridge School District

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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 Stockbridge School District will begin the 2021-22 school year with a five-day per week, face-to-face instructional model and adhere to the following health protocols. Accordingly, the District will:

- Provide link to the COVID-19 pre-screening checklist and encourage students and staff members to utilize the checklist before entering a school facility
- encourage staff members and students to stay home or go home if they are showing COVID-19 symptoms or if they have tested positive for COVID-19
- limit visitors and activities for non-essential purposes
- provide sanitizing stations throughout the building
- More information can be found in our Supporting Success Plan at www.stockbridge.k12.wi.us

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 Stockbridge School District will offer in-person learning five days a week according to the Board adopted 2021-2022 Academic Year Calendar. The school district has also provided families the option to enroll their students in virtual learning. In the event of school closure due to the pandemic, the district purchased Chromebooks for all students to continue virtual learning.

Regardless of the mode of instruction, the District will continue to provide meals under the community provision as long as USDA continues the allowance. Meals will be provided for all eligible youth during the school year. If school is closed due to a pandemic, the district will assess its ability to distribute meals utilizing the same process it used during the spring of 2020.

The District will continue to offer health services in-person or virtually. The school district also partners with school-based Samaritan Counseling services to provide mental health support for families.

Mitigation Measures

Universal and correct wearing of masks

The Stockbridge School Board adopted a mask-wearing optional guideline for students, staff, and visitors. This guideline may be altered based on COVID activity in individual classrooms or schools, the level of COVID transmission within the district's geographic boundaries, and in Calumet County.

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

Mitigation measures such as proper signage in multiple languages, the installation of floor decals and water bottle filling stations, and the promotion of social distancing have been implemented at our school. Extended and/or staggered meal service will be implemented to support social distancing while ensuring adequate time for students to consume their meals. Individual teachers will determine the cafeteria service that best suits the needs of their students. The cafeteria and/or classrooms may be used as settings for student meals.

Students will be in cohorts in the Infinite Campus student management system if public health conditions warrant the use of hybrid or distance instructional models. Transportation will comply with CDC guidelines regarding capacity that are in effect during the 2021-22 school year.

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette is taught to students with high emphasis in the primary grade levels. CDC recommended signage is posted throughout the building as reminders of handwashing and respiratory etiquette.

In addition, hand sanitizing stations/liquids are available in all classrooms and in common areas/hallways throughout the school.

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 deep cleaning from our maintenance department on an as needed basis when sickness levels are increased in certain grades or classrooms. Our district also purchased an electrostatic sanitizing sprayer to aid in sanitizing large, high contact areas.

The District will be installing upgraded MERV pleated filters on air intake ventilation units and plenum return areas. These units function at all times that ventilation units operate and are monitored electronically through HVAC computer systems.

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

The District will continue contact tracing and transparent reporting to the public of COVID-19 cases and staff quarantines within the District. To provide transparent reporting for our stakeholders, the District maintained a COVID-19 case dashboard throughout the 2020-21 school year and will continue to do so for the 2021-22 school year.

In consultation with our local health department, the Stockbridge 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. Procedures for recommended isolation and quarantine guidelines can be found on the district or WI DHS websites.

Diagnostic and screening testing

The Stockbridge School District recommends students and staff get tested for COVID by their medical provider or a local pharmacy. The District is also working with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services to coordinate possible COVID testing at our schools. Should the District see the need for on-site testing, students could have the option to be tested with parent permission when they are identified as close contacts or become symptomatic.

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 information about the Calumet County vaccination clinic in the spring of 2021. Students ages 12 and older were provided information about the Calumet County vaccination clinic in the summer of 2021. New staff will be given an opportunity for access to vaccinations by working with local healthcare partners and County Public Health.

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. The Stockbridge School District continues to collaborate 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 Stockbridge School District has implemented a summer school program to assist all K-12 students with academic recovery. The District plans to continue full-time, in-person instruction beginning the fall of 2021, with limited exception. Additional instructional online options have been added to implement further academic recovery efforts in core curriculum areas. These options 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 opportunities have been added to the mental health team 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 community provision 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 supports through on-site professional services with Samaritan Counseling. 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 Stockbridge 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.

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 Stockbridge School District has taken the following steps to make its plan available to the public:

- The plan is posted at <http://www.stockbridge.k12.wi.us>
- The plan is available in multiple languages through the use of our web provider powered by Google Translate. The plan is available in more than ten languages.
- The plan was shared at the Stockbridge School District Board of Education meetings on January 26, 2022. An opportunity for public comment was available during the January 26, 2022, Board meeting.
- 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.