



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 North Cape School District will begin the 2023-24 school year with a five-day per week, face-to-face instructional model and adhere to the following health protocols. Accordingly, the District will:

- publish the COVID-19 pre-screening checklist from CDC and strongly 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,
- may limit visitors and activities for non-essential purposes,
- provide sanitizing stations throughout the building.

The North Cape School District will offer in-person learning five days a week according to the Board adopted 2023-2024 Academic Year Calendar. In the event of school closure due to the pandemic, the district purchased Chromebooks for all students to continue virtual learning.

The North Cape School District shares in the employment of one full-time school nurse with the Waterford Area Schools. The nurse will continue to offer health services in-person or virtually. The school district also partners with AdvocateAuroraHealth to provide mental health support for families.

Mitigation Measures

Universal and correct wearing of masks

The North Cape School Board adopted thresholds to determine when students, staff, and visitors may be required to wear masks and when mask-wearing will be optional. These thresholds are based on COVID activity in individual classrooms or schools, the level of COVID transmission within the district's geographic boundaries, and in Racine County. Details about these thresholds can be found on the district website (ie. mitigation guidelines).

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

Mitigation measures such as proper signage, the installation of floor decals and water bottle filling stations, and the promotion of social distancing have been implemented at our facility. Specified seating may be implemented to support social distancing while ensuring adequate time for students to consume their meals.

Transportation will comply with CDC guidelines regarding capacity that are in effect during the 2023-24 school year.

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 the school focusing on high-touch surfaces. The District uses cleaning solutions that are rated to kill the SARS virus. The district has already made many upgrades to the HVAC and ventilation system, as well as purchasing electrostatic disinfection equipment.

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

To provide transparent reporting for our stakeholders, the District maintained a COVID-19 case dashboard throughout the 2020-21 school year. As we move forward and COVID evolves, so will our protocols. The dashboard is not active starting 2022-2023 school year; however, may be if it is warranted.

The North Cape 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 contact tracing, quarantine and isolation can be found on the district website (ie. mitigation guidelines and protocols).

Diagnostic and screening testing

The North Cape School District recommends students and staff get tested for COVID by their medical provider or a local pharmacy.

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 12 and older were provided access to an on-site vaccination clinic in September of 2021. On Tuesday, December 14, 2021, the COVID vaccine was available to 5 years old and up in the Waterford Area with vaccination clinics. Most recently in June of 2022, all children ages 6 months through 5 years old were eligible for COVID vaccine. New staff will be given access to vaccinations by working with local healthcare partners and Central Racine County Health Department.

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 North Cape School District continues to work with the Central Racine County Health Department 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.

The District will provide for continuity of services as follows:

Student Academic Needs

The North Cape School District has implemented a summer school program to assist all K-8 students with academic recovery. The District plans to continue full-time, in-person instruction in the fall of 2023, with limited exception. We will continue to provide intervention services to ensure academic achievement for all students.

Staff Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs

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 North Cape 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 Central Racine County Health Department 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 North Cape School District has taken the following steps to make its plan available to the public:

- The plan is posted at <https://www.northcape.k12.wi.us>
- The original plan was shared at the North Cape School District Board of Education meeting in February, 2022. The plan was updated and reviewed by the North Cape School Board on July 18, 2022, February 27, 2023 and again on August 28, 2023. Stakeholders can contact our district administrator, Dr. John C. Lehnert with feedback on the plan.
- 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.

[North Cape ESSER Funding, Planning and Public Input](#)