

Huntington Local School District – IRN 049502

Safe Return of In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan 2021-2024

Huntington Local School District is committed to educating all students. The Board of Education, administration, and staff believes that the best place for children to learn is in-person while in a safe and conducive environment. With this belief in mind and in collaboration with the Ross County Health Department and other county schools, students returned to full in-person instruction on August 24, 2020. With a few exceptions, the district remained open for the duration of the 2020-2021 school year. This enabled students and families to return to a normal mental and emotionally healthy routine. In addition, all students including those with special needs, received all of their services in accordance with local, state, and federal laws.

The district fully complied with state and local health orders until the Ohio health orders ended on June 2, 2021. School officials will continue to communicate with the Ross County Health Department to implement safety protocols.

Facial Coverings:

The wearing of facial coverings (masks) for students, staff, and the public is voluntary, but is recommended for those who have elevated health risks or have not been vaccinated. If state or local health orders change during a time of elevated communicable disease community spread, the superintendent may require the correct use of facial coverings in accordance with Board Policy.

Physical Distancing:

The district will continue to utilize a 3-6 feet physical distance protocol in classrooms and in lunch rooms, when practical. Signage also reminds people of the importance of physical distancing.

Handwashing:

In accordance with CDC guidelines <https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html>, staff, students, and visitors are encouraged to frequently wash hands for 20 seconds with soap and water or use a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Hand sanitizer is provided in every classroom, office, and common areas and handwashing signs are placed throughout the facilities.

Cleaning & Maintaining Healthy Facilities:

- 1.) The district utilizes electrostatic disinfectant sprayers throughout the facilities and on buses. Common areas such, as the lunch rooms, are also disinfected between groups.
- 2.) Staff and student training is provided to ensure adherence to the safety protocols. Signage and public announcements are used to inform the community of the expectations.
- 3.) The district is in the process of installing an HVAC control system to monitor airflow throughout the facilities and installed new filters to improve air quality. District administrators will continue to monitor and upgrade the HVAC system.

- 4.) When practical, buses will open vents or open windows to increase outside air flow.
- 6.) The district will make repairs to the roofing and building enclosures to stop environmental hazards caused by leaks.
- 7.) In the summer of 2021, outdoor classrooms were built along the elementary "58" wing, in front of & behind the high school as well as along the rear entrance of the middle school.
- 8.) The district will consider replacing carpet in the Elementary & Middle School.
- 9.) The district is also analyzing the cost to replace air conditioning units in the elementary & high school.

Contact Tracing, Isolation, and Quarantine:

- 1.) Visitor access to the campus will continue to be limited. Any visitor who is experiencing 2 or more COVID-19 symptoms is not permitted on school grounds. All visitors must enter through a buzzer door system at the main office of the building where they will verify that they are not experiencing illness symptoms.
- 2.) In accordance with the protocols established by the Ross County Health Department for the 2020-21 school year, the district nurse will monitor absences and conduct contact tracing for staff and students, if required.
- 3.) If required, the nurse will report weekly positive cases to the Ross County Health Department.
- 4.) The district will follow Ross County Health Department protocols for the quarantine and isolation of staff and students, if required.

Vaccination Efforts:

- 1.) The district collaborated with the Ross County Health Department and Ross Pike Educational Service District during the 2020-21 school year to make vaccinations available and convenient for staff and eligible students.
- 2.) The district will continue to partner with local health officials to provide vaccination opportunities for staff, students, and the community.

Accommodations:

- 1.) The district will provide health and safety accommodations in accordance with students' Individual Education Plans.
- 2.) The district will make every effort to collaborate with families regarding individual special needs. Various forms of communication are available to facilitate this process, including, but not limited to:

email, U.S. mail, text messaging, Remind App, Google Classroom, phone calls, virtual meetings, and physically distanced face-to-face meetings.

Continuity of Services:

- 1.) The district plans to continue full in-person learning.
- 2.) In the event of school closure due to the pandemic, the district has purchased Chromebooks for all students. Staff has received extensive training to deliver content virtually.
- 3.) The district also utilizes a fully online Google Classroom program to provide instruction to students who have health conditions that could prevent their regular attendance in-person.
- 4.) The district will continue to use MAPS testing to assess students in grades K-12 to ensure that students are progressing as expected and interventions are made as needed through the Response to Intervention protocol.
- 5.) The district will continue to offer before and after school learning opportunities as funding allows.
- 6.) School officials will continue to support and facilitate after-school and summer learning opportunities.
- 7.) The high school utilizes a Google classroom credit recovery lab.
- 8.) A summer reading plan was implemented in 2021 at the elementary for grades K-4.
- 10.) Summer credit recovery is offered for grades 9-12.

Social and Emotional and Mental Health Needs:

- 1.) The district utilizes Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) K-12.
- 2.) All staff and students will receive training in the R-Factor “Green Book” framework. The district continues to use this SEL program.
- 3.) All staff receive SafeSchools training annually.
- 4.) Grades K-4 use homeroom and grades 5-12 use Flex periods to provide additional one-on-one support for student academic, social, and emotional well-being.
- 5.) Teacher-based-Teams discuss students that are showing signs of social-emotional needs.
- 6.) Building counselors will be working with Nationwide Children’s Hospital to provide a suicide prevention program to all students.
- 7.) Emotional and physical health screenings are in place for the school year. District will analyze and examine results and student’s needs to plan programming accordingly.
- 8.) The district participates in a Handle With Care program that facilitates communication between first responders and school officials when students have experienced trauma outside of school.

9.) In addition to employing three full-time guidance counselors, the district has a partnership with Integrated Services to provide a licensed mental health counselor.

10.) All students participate in a Social Emotional Class via Google Classroom.

Student Health:

1.) The district employs a full-time nurse. The district will use ARP ESSA funds to employ an additional nurse to help with Covid related screenings and concerns

2.) The district is entering into a partnership with Adena Hospital to provide all staff and students full-access to a mobile health clinic during school hours. Virtual visits are facilitated by the district nurse and patients see a licensed physician Certified Nurse Practitioner.

3.) Adena Hospital also provides a full-time athletic trainer to support student health during extracurricular activities. The trainer assists in the assessment, identification, and assessment of illness.

3.) All students will receive free breakfast and lunch for the 2021-22 school year through the USDA. If school is closed due to a pandemic, the district will assess its ability to deliver meals directly to student homes utilizing the same process it used during the 2020/2021 school year.

This plan was created in June of 2021. The district will continue to assess and adjust procedures in accordance with state and local guidelines. The plan will be reviewed at least semi-annually. This document was presented to the public at the July 22nd, 2021 Huntington Board of Education meeting and is posted on the district website at huntsmen.org