



“West Liberty-Salem is an educational partnership dedicated to helping students reach their full potential.”

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

2021-2022

District IRN: 046219

Face-to-Face Instruction

The West Liberty-Salem Local School District remains committed to the positive experience’s students can have with in-person instruction. West Liberty-Salem Local Schools returned to in-person instruction at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year and the district will begin the 2021-2022 academic year with 100% in-person instruction for all students five days a week. In the 2020-2021 school year the Ohio legislature provided schools with the flexibility implement remote instruction and learning through Remote Learning Plans. As a result, the district was able to offer two options for families, one included in-person learning for 5 days a week, and the other was remote learning. These options aligned with the Ohio Department of Education’s remote learning plan criteria. For the 2021-2022 school year, the Ohio Department of Education notified districts that they have not extended remote learning flexibilities granted for the 2020-2021 school year, therefore, the district plans to return to in-person learning for all students during the 2021-2022 school year. The COVID landscape in Ohio has improved significantly and the transmission of COVID-19 in our schools was extremely low last school year, with no confirmed spread of COVID-19 from student to student while on our campus, based on results of contact tracing.

Health & Safety Guidelines

Our approach to health and safety for the 2021-2022 school year will be accomplished through the review of the health and safety guidelines established by the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Ohio Department of Health, and our local health departments. Health orders from the Champaign County Health Department may impact our plans as the response to COVID-19 changes in the future based on the impact of spread throughout our community.

Optional Wearing of Masks

Staff and students will be permitted to wear a mask if they deem it appropriate. As of now, the CDC and State and Local Health Departments have lifted all mask and social distancing requirements that impact school districts. Staff and students not vaccinated will be informed of the current CDC recommendations to wear a mask, but they will not be required to wear a mask.

Physical distancing

Social distancing requirements and the functioning of a classroom will return to a similar function and fashion as they were prior to the pandemic. Where it makes sense or has improved conditions for learning, teachers may space students 3-feet apart, but there are no expectations to limit instructional opportunities to social distance. Students will be in pairs, small groups, assemblies, etc. just as they were prior to the pandemic.

Handwashing and sanitizing

School nurses will provide teachers with the proper tools (Videos/Flyers/Posters) to train students on proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette. These procedures will be reviewed at the beginning of the school year and after winter break. Posters will also be posted throughout the building to remind staff and students of this

and other ways to prevent the spread of germs. Hand sanitation stations will continue to be provided throughout the building and grounds as they were during the 2020-2021 school year. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities will continue as it occurred during 2020-2021 school year. Improved indoor air quality, provided by a cold plasma whole building air purification system in the Spring of 2020, will continue to prevent the recyclozation of harmful germs, viruses and bacteria. Cleaning of common surfaces will continue by staff of each building and classrooms will be cleaned daily. Hand sanitizer will be available in every classroom and in hallways. Hand sanitizer will also be available on school buses.

Diagnostic Testing and Contact Tracing

The district will promote the availability of COVID-19, flu, and strep testing utilizing our school-based health clinic that began in January of 2021. This clinic is available as a resource to families to assist in diagnosing, testing, and treatment of common illnesses found in children and schools. The clinic is voluntary for families, and it will continue to provide traditional school nursing services along with the new paid services the clinic has to offer. COVID-19 testing is available to staff or students that are suspected of having symptoms that indicate they may have COVID-19 (symptomatic or quarantined staff/students). For the 2021-2022 school year, the district will follow all protocols required by local and state health departments concern quarantining, isolation, and contact tracing related to COVID-19.

Vaccinations for Educators, Staff, and Students

The district will continue to provide information to parents about vaccination opportunities and will work with local providers to offer vaccination clinics. As of now, a COVID-19 vaccination is not required for students or staff to attend school in our district.

Appropriate Health Accommodations for Children with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who have health related concerns will have their IEP reviewed by an intervention specialist prior to the start of the school year to determine if amendments are needed to modifications and/or accommodations to address the educational concerns as it relates to health and safety. If a parent, teacher, or intervention specialist has a concern related to the health and safety of a student with a disability, an IEP team meeting will take place to review the IEP and make changes as necessary.

Continuity of Services and Academic Recovery

West Liberty-Salem now can provide a 1:1 device for each student in grades 3-12 in the district. All students will have an iPad that can be assigned directly to them for teaching and learning. During the 2021-2022 school year, if a student is quarantined or unable to attend classes at school, the district will be able to provide that child an iPad to take home as needed. This will also be available to families if we would be required to do blended or hybrid learning models. Assignments and academic support will be available through classroom teachers/tutors or online classrooms will be provided to students in case they cannot attend school. iPads will also be available for k-2 students at home; however, classroom teachers will work with students/families individually to determine how best to meet the needs of a student's learning plan.

Internet and Connectivity

The district will not assist families with internet connection for the 2021-2022 school year. We continue to request that parents explore what options you have, to provide basic internet connectivity for your child(ren). In some cases, internet connectivity may be necessary to complete assignments. If you do not have internet connectivity, please be sure to contact the school or your teacher to discuss alternative options.

Monitoring of Student Growth and Achievement

The district will utilize multiple assessments to monitor student achievement and growth. Students in grades K-8 will be assessed using STAR math and English/Language Arts assessments. In addition to these universal

screeners and diagnostic assessments, teachers will utilize classroom and vendor assessments designed to provide High Quality Student Data (HQSD) in all subject areas to measure student progress. Students that are determined to be at risk, may participate in district provided interventions. This would include intervention periods during the school day, after school, and during the summer. High School students that are credit deficient will have the opportunity to take summer school credit recovery courses and credit recovery courses throughout the year based on their needs.

Student Social, Emotional, and Mental Health

WLS has implemented a Social Emotional Learning Curriculum K-12. All students receive SEL instruction. Beginning in the 2020-2021 school year, students in grades k-8 will be administered a universal screener which will allow our school counselors to assess the social emotional needs of students. Student support is provided through school counselors and outside agencies through partnership with the district.

Food service

The Ohio Department of Education has granted West Liberty-Salem Local Schools a waiver that allows all students (regardless of their free and reduced meal application status) a free school lunch for the 2021-2022 school year.

Bi-Annual Review and Public Input

This plan will be available on the district website at <https://www.wlstigers.org/browse/110741> . Public input into the development of the plan, and any revisions can be made through email to Kraig Hissong, Superintendent (khissong@wlstigers.org). At a minimum this plan will be reviewed bi-annually (December and June of each school year)