

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



Winter School District

District Contact: Andrew Grimm

Website: <https://www.winter.k12.wi.us/>

Phone: 715-266-3301

Address: 6585 W. Grove Street Winter, WI. 54896

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Table of Contents

Introduction	1
Maintaining Health and Safety	2
Overview	2
Description on maintaining the safety of staff and students	2
Description to continue to provide services regardless of the mode of instruction	3
Mitigation Measures	4
Universal and correct wearing of masks	4
Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing	4
Handwashing and respiratory etiquette	4
Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation	5
Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments	5
Diagnostic and screening testing	5
Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible	5
Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies and practices	6
Coordination with state and local health officials	6
Continuity of Services	7
Overview	7
District response on continuity of services	7
Periodic Review	8
Overview	8
District response on ensuring periodic updates to its plan	8
Public Input	9
Overview	9
District response on public input in the development of its plan	9

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 Winter 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:

- Maintain and promote our COVID testing plan
- 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 and masks throughout the building.

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 Winter School District will offer in-person learning five days a week according to the Board adopted 2021-2022 Academic Year Calendar. 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 Winter School District will continue to provide meals under the community provision as long as USDA continues the allowance. Meals will be provided for summer school attendees as well as 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 last school year.

The Winter School District employs one full-time school nurse who will continue to offer health services in-person or virtually. The school district will also continue to offer COVID testing to limit the amount of time a student has to be out due to COVID.

Mitigation Measures

Universal and correct wearing of masks

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

The Winter School Board will address COVID concerns at every Board meeting or hold special meetings as needed to discuss the implementation of our COVID protocols which include but are not limited to when mandatory mask wearing will be required or when optional masking wearing will take place. The District Administrator has weekly meetings with Sawyer County Public Health for recommendations from these professionals that are brought back to the Board for consideration in a weekly update.

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

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

Mitigation measures such as proper signage in multiple languages, water bottle filling stations, and the promotion of social distancing have been implemented throughout the facility. Extended and/or staggered meal service will be implemented to support social distancing while ensuring adequate time for students to consume their meals. The Principal and District administrator will determine the cafeteria service that best suits the needs of their students. Cafeterias and/or classrooms may be used as settings for student meals. Cohorts will be used to limit exposure to a positive case. The school has also implemented an outdoor dining area.

Transportation will comply with CDC guidelines regarding capacity that are in effect during the 2021-22 school year.

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

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 and masks are available in all classrooms and throughout the building.

Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

Enhanced sanitation procedures have been implemented and continue, focusing on high-touch surfaces. The District uses cleaning solutions that are rated to kill the SARS virus.

The District has implemented the use of a portable ozone machine to be used throughout the building on a schedule. Additional vapor disinfection machines have been purchased and used in all classrooms and high traffic areas. Teaching staff have been supplied and trained in the use of additional disinfecting chemicals and they are used in between classes.

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

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

The Winter School District will continue contact tracing and transparent reporting to the public of COVID-19 cases. The District keeps a spreadsheet on all cases and testing that is shared with Sawyer County public Health. To provide transparent reporting for our stakeholders, the District maintains a COVID-19 case dashboard for the 2021-22 school year on our website.

The Winter School District uses Sawyer County Public Health to provide documentation and protocol flow sheets to parents and stakeholders. This documentation provides information which contains DHS and Sawyer County Public Health guidelines. The Winter School District provides a letter to every student with dates for isolation.

Diagnostic and screening testing

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

The Winter School District was one of the first districts to provide on site COVID-19 testing. The District continues to provide Antigen rapid tests in an effort to limit the amount of time a student is quarantined for exposure. The district also uses the testing to identify those that have allergy symptoms and other non- COVID related illness.

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

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

The Winter School District has partnered with the Sawyer County Public health to provide all eligible staff and students an opportunity to receive their vaccination for COVID -19 on site. We have also been able to offer those that clarify a booster shot.

Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies and practices*Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable*

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*Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable*

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 Winter School District continues to work with SawyerCounty Public Health to implement mitigation strategies for the safety of students and staff. The District and Public Health meet weekly with the District Administrator, Principal, and School Nurse.

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 Winter School District has implemented an extra session of 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. The Winter School District has implemented an after school and before school program to assist with academic recovery. We are limiting barriers to this program by providing additional transportation in addition to our normal bus transportation.

Student Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs

The District tried to hire additional counseling staff to provide mental health services. Due to our geographical area we were unable to obtain this needed personnel. We do have a MOU with Northlake Clinic to provide mental health services on site one day a week.

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. Meals will be provided for summer school attendees as well as all eligible youth during the school year. Summer meals will be provided for summer school and all children age 18 and under throughout our summer school programming.

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 Winter 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. Please use the following link to voice your opinion on this plan

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdZB24ZRTglyURNPQxlbF_LCewncMZUrKPmTekAHXnGoJTpOQ/viewform

District response on public input in the development of its plan

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

- The plan is posted at <https://www.winter.k12.wi.us/>.
- The plan was sent to parents, students, and employees.
- The plan was shared at the Winter School District Board of Education meetings on November 16, 2021. An opportunity for public comment was available during the December 21, 2021, 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.

[District survey for public comment](#)