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

District Name: Osseo-Fairchild School District

District Contact: Lori Whelan, Superintendent
Website: www.ofsd.k12.wi.us
Phone: (715) 597-3141
Address: 50851 East Street Osseo, WI 54758

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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 Osseo-Fairchild 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:

- publish the COVID-19 pre-screening checklist 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,
- limit visitors and activities for non-essential purposes,
- provide sanitizing stations 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 Osseo-Fairchild 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 (deadline to enroll 08/14/2021). In the event of school closure due to the pandemic, the district purchased Chromebooks for all students in grades 3-12 and Ipads for all students in grades PreK-2 to continue virtual learning.

Regardless of the mode of instruction, the Osseo-Fairchild 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 the spring of 2020.
The Osseo-Fairchild School District employs one full-time school nurse and one full-time nursing assistant who will continue to offer health services in-person or virtually. The school district also employs one part-time social worker and a social work intern who assist school families in finding resources. The school district partners with local agencies to provide mental health support for families.

Mitigation Measures

Universal and correct wearing of masks

_Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable_

The Osseo-Fairchild School Board adopted thresholds to determine when students, staff, and visitors will 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 Trempealeau County. Details about these thresholds can be found on the district website.

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, the installation of floor decals and water bottle filling stations, and the promotion of social distancing have been implemented at each facility. Extended and/or staggered meal service will be implemented to support social distancing while ensuring adequate time for students to consume their meals. Individual schools 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.

Additional classrooms were added onto the Technical Education Learning Center to promote physical distancing for overflow of classes. Offices were remodeled to provide additional space for the interventionists working with small groups.

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 are 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, in hallways, and in every entryway.

Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

*Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable*

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, custodians will conduct specialized cleanings if there are any outbreaks of illnesses in a school. The Building and Grounds Department will consult with the District Nurse, Trempealeau County Public Health, and the Wisconsin Department of Public Health and Environment (WIDHS) to ensure appropriate and timely measures are taken to preserve the health and safety of our students, staff, and community.

The Osseo-Fairchild School District has updated and installed the elementary and middle/high school HVAC controller units to ensure precise monitoring of the proper air ventilation and function of the HVAC systems. The annual service of the HVAC systems identified areas that needed to be repaired immediately. These repairs were completed and higher level efficient air filters (Merv 13) were installed in order to improve indoor air quality. The district also increased the circulation of airflow to bring in as much outdoor air as possible based on recommendations from the HVAC Contractors. A new and bigger HVAC system was installed in the Technical Education Learning Center during the 2021-22 school year.

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 Osseo-Fairchild School 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.

The Osseo-Fairchild School District will guide parents/students, employees, and contractors on screening protocols for the daily pre-screening process, which all parties should complete before entering the campus/building. Each school 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. The current COVID-19 data and procedures for contact tracing can be found on the district website.

**Diagnostic and screening testing**

*Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable*
The Osseo-Fairchild School District recommends students and staff get tested for COVID by their medical provider or at a local testing site. The turnaround time for results at the Mayo Clinic and local testing sites has been reduced to within 24 hours. The District is also working with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services to coordinate COVID testing at our schools. The vendor that the school district is working with will be set up to conduct on-site testing for the 2021-22 school year. 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

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

All eligible staff employed in 2020-2021 were provided the opportunity to be vaccinated. Students ages 16 and older were provided information for accessing local vaccination clinics in the spring of 2021. Students ages 12 and older were provided information for accessing local vaccination clinics in the summer of 2021. Students ages 5 and older were provided information for accessing local vaccination clinics in the fall of 2021. New staff will be given access to vaccinations by working with local healthcare partners and Trempealeau County Public Health.

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 Osseo-Fairchild School District continues to work with Trempealeau 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 Osseo-Fairchild District will provide for continuity of services as follows:

**Student Academic Needs**
The Osseo-Fairchild 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 personnel has been added to staffing to implement further academic recovery efforts in core curriculum areas. These specialists 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/social work staff has been added to the mental health staff to address our students’ social and emotional learning needs. In the Fall of 2021, the Osseo-Fairchild School District provided Basic Mental Health First Aid training to all staff members.

**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 through August 31, 2021. It is assumed that the USDA will continue community eligibility provision under the new school meal application.

**Staff Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs**
The District has provided staff with opportunities for social and emotional supports through post-school hour meetings with the counseling staff and nursing staff. 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 Osseo-Fairchild 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 Osseo-Fairchild School District has taken the following steps to make its plan available to the public:

- The plan is posted at [http://www.ofsd.k12.wi.us](http://www.ofsd.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 sent to parents, students, and employees via our messaging systems.
- The plan was shared at the Osseo-Fairchild School District Board of Education meetings on August 4, 2021. An opportunity for public comment was available during the August 4, 2021, Board meeting.
- The school district gather input and data from district committees that included teachers, parents, specialists, pupil services, and administrators.
- 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.

WI DPI ESSER III Stakeholder Engagement presentation