



Geneva Area City Schools

ARP ESSER - American Recovery Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund

SAFE RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION AND CONTINUITY OF SERVICES PLAN 2021 – 2024

Please Note: This plan is subject to change based on Federal, State and local requirements along with community input.

As part of the ARP ESSER plan, each LEA needs to show continuity of services including but not limited to services to address academic needs for students; social, emotional and mental health needs for students and staff; and health and food service needs in the school community.

Geneva Area City School District is required to submit and publicly post a *Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Plan* to our school community and to the Ohio Department of Education for the 2021-2022 school year.

At this time, as has been the case since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in March of 2020, it is challenging for the district to know what the future holds in terms of guidelines and restrictions that will be in place as the school year begins. As with all of our plans, this plan could change based on recommendations and guidelines we receive from the Ashtabula County Health Department and the impact the coronavirus or other variants are having on our district. As we have stated since the beginning, our concern is not only for the safety of our students and staff but our Geneva community as well.

Return to In-Person Learning: Geneva Area City Schools will have our students return to our physical school buildings on a regular five-day a week schedule beginning August 30, 2021. We recognize that some families may still have a desire to have some students learn in a remote setting. We will do our best as a district to provide some options which would include in-person and remote opportunities.

Social-Emotional Learning/Mental Health Needs: Some of our students have not been in a school building since March 2020 when the initial closure began. Even those who attended school on the hybrid model or 4 days a week have not had a normal school experience. The pandemic has created a new level of stress and anxiety for our students and our staff. Geneva Schools will continue to partner with local counseling agencies such as Community Counseling Center of Ashtabula County to help our students navigate the return to school. Also, we will continue to use Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS) and help our students and staff reconnect with each other in a positive and beneficial way.

Face Masks: Geneva Schools will follow the recommendations regarding facial coverings in the school district. At this time, face masks are not required and are only optional during the summer months. The Board will make a determination on face coverings at the August Board meeting upon consulting with the Ashtabula County Health Department. Should face coverings not be required, we will support students and staff who wish to wear face masks or shields during the school day.

Physical Distancing: As with face masks, Geneva Schools will follow distancing guidelines for schools and other activities. It can be a challenging issue to keep students and staff apart but we will do our best to keep social distancing in place while keeping students and staff in school.

Hand washing and sanitizing: Even before COVID, proper hand washing was vital to fight germs and stay healthy. Hand washing is encouraged for all staff and students throughout the school day. Geneva Schools will continue to provide hand sanitizer in the buildings and on school transportation.

Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities: Geneva Schools will continue to keep our buildings cleaned regularly. During the school year, classrooms, school vehicles and bathrooms will be sanitized and cleaned numerous times throughout the day. During the 2020-21 school year, upgraded filters and cleaning were conducted on all HVAC equipment in the district. In addition, UV light units were purchased and installed on all air handlers to clean the air that was circulated throughout the buildings.

Health Protocols: Geneva Schools will provide the most up to date criteria on health protocols that we receive in partnership with the Ashtabula County Health Department. Staff and students should continue to conduct health assessments at home prior to coming into the school buildings or boarding any school transportation. We encourage students and staff who have Coronavirus symptoms or do not feel well to stay home.

Contract tracing: Geneva Schools will continue to work with the Ashtabula County Health Department to investigate COVID cases to determine close contacts and determine if a quarantine period is necessary.

Vaccinations: Geneva staff were provided two vaccination clinics in 2021, as well as a vaccination clinic for our age appropriate students. Understanding vaccinations are not required, we do encourage all eligible students and staff to receive a vaccination prior to returning to school. This should assist in containing the spread of the virus, and any new variants, while keeping our district and community safe.

School Meals: As we were able to do last year, the USDA will continue to support free breakfast and lunch meals in the 2021-22 school year. We will encourage all students (K-12) to eat breakfast and lunch at school.

Accommodations: Geneva Schools will continue to provide accommodations for students with disabilities or those on documented health plans. Additionally, Geneva Schools provided Recovery Wednesdays during the months of April 2021 and May 2021 to provide additional support to identified students. Summer Recovery programs were held to provide support for all grade levels (K-12). In 2021-22, before and after school in-person tutoring will be provided as a support service for our students' academic, social, emotional and mental health needs.

Periodic Review: Geneva Schools will review and revise this plan on a regular basis (at minimum quarterly) as the district adapts to new guidelines and recommendations provided by community members, agencies, or other officials.

Public Input: School community stakeholders are welcome to call or email Dr. Terri Hrinatreharn, Superintendent (terri.hrinatreharn@genevaschools.org / 440 466-4831). Feedback will be shared with the Geneva Board of Education as decisions are made regarding the health and safety of our students, staff and community. For specific building questions, families should contact the building administrators.

Geneva Area City Schools Local Use of Funds

- ARP ESSER funds will be used to ensure all building are as safe as possible for the return to in-person learning. This will include added hand sanitizer, thermometers, PPE, cleaning supplies and air quality systems and supplies to ensure all students, parents and staff members are safe to return to our buildings.
- The LEA will use these funds to directly impact student academic success through evidenced based interventions (both within the school day and after school hours), before and after school programs and comprehensive after school gap closure programs for our most vulnerable youth. GACS will continue to offer summer intervention programs to address learning loss.
- The district will continue to provide educational resources for all students and staff, software programs, technology integration in classrooms, professional development, and offset operational costs with the remaining ESSER funds.
- The district will utilize progress monitoring tools to gain valuable insights into academic learning loss of all students. The LEA will carefully monitor our most vulnerable populations and apply critical evidence based strategies and interventions to address learning loss. Provide, to the best of our ability, creative pathways for professional development to help teachers understand the breadth and scope of the issues our most vulnerable youth are experiencing.
- The district intends to develop a more comprehensive learning platform should remote learning become necessary this school year. This includes updated infrastructure, updated student devices, more effective and standards aligned educational software to help deliver instruction, more effective monitoring system, integrated effective online assessments, and PD for instructional staff. The LEA intends to remove any barriers to education that may

exist our community.

- The district's plan for addressing learning loss is multi-faceted and does include the use of high quality assessments to progress monitor students to gain data points that will determine individual, comprehensive academic needs of students. The district will ensure that all teachers are differentiating instruction and implementing evidenced-based strategies through formal and informal observations, walkthroughs and data collection. The district will maintain consistent contact with families through normal channels such as all-call systems, website, building newsletters and email as well as through social media platforms created to increase public participation and dissemination of information.
- The district ensures that all protocols of the CDC and/or local health authorities will be followed to the best extent possible. It is the intent of the district to utilize ARP ESSER funds to continue to maintain the health and safety of all of our educational community.
- The district understands that sustaining cost effective measures when using these funds is the primary focus, the funds may have been and/or will be used to fund existing staff or hire new staff in order to maintain the continuity of services in the district. The district will also use these funds to help maintain current levels of operations in departments such as maintenance, custodial/housekeeping, bus garage and food services.

Resources:

[Learning Recovery and Extended Learning Plan](https://www.genevaschools.org/learning-recovery-and-extended-learning-plan) – located on the Geneva Schools' website at [genevaschools.org](https://www.genevaschools.org).