

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

**District Name: Kickapoo Area School District**

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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 Kickapoo School 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 Kickapoo School District began the 2021-22 school year with a five-day per week, face-to-face instructional model and will 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.
- Offer Covid at home PCR tests and a drop box at school in partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services testing program and vendors.

### 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 Kickapoo 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 Kickapoo School District will continue to provide meals under the seamless summer 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 Kickapoo School District employs one part-time school nurse who will continue to offer health services in-person or virtually. The school district also partners with Scenic Bluffs Counseling and Stonehouse counseling to provide mental health support for families. The district has also added a half time guidance position to support student social and emotional learning.

## Mitigation Measures

### Universal and correct wearing of masks

#### *Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable*

The Kickapoo 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 the level of COVID transmission within Vernon and Richland Counties. Details about these thresholds can be found on the district website. 02/9/22 the board of education changed the thresholds to an internal metric of 3% of student/staff infection rate per building.

### 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 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 in times of high Covid transmission, while ensuring adequate time for students to consume their meals. Individual building levels 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.

Students may be assigned to cohorts if public health conditions warrant the use of hybrid or distance instructional models. It is hoped that this will not be necessary for the 21-22 school year. Transportation capacity will also be utilized as a mitigation measure if needed in the event that local cases rise to the point that reducing capacity and adding routes is necessary during the 2021-22 school year. All of this will also depend on the availability of drivers to implement these changes.

### 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 are available in all classrooms.

## **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. The District has installed ionization air cleaning units on all air intake ventilation units in all buildings. These units function at all times that ventilation units operate and are monitored electronically through HVAC computer control systems. The air exchanges in the building have been set to exchange air at maximum rates of exchange at least 5-6 times per hour, and the filters in the HVAC system have been upgraded. Additionally in some spaces within the building, offices, sick rooms, staff or students with pre existing conditions we have added HEPA filtration classroom units to additionally clean the air.

## **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 Kickapoo 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 Kickapoo School District will guide parents/students, employees, and contractors on screening protocols for the daily pre-screening process. 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 district cooperates with the Richland and Vernon County Health Departments for contact tracing.

## **Diagnostic testing**

### *Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable*

The Kickapoo School District recommends students and staff get tested for COVID by their medical provider or a local pharmacy if they have the opportunity. The District is also working with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services to coordinate COVID testing at our schools. The District has test kits available for parents to take swabs and deposit at the school receptacle for pick up. The turnaround time for test results is between 48-72 hours.

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

All eligible staff employed in 2020-2021 were provided the opportunity to be vaccinated. Students ages 16 and older were provided access to an on-site vaccination clinic in the spring of 2021. New staff will be given access to vaccinations by working with local healthcare partners and County Public

Health. Coordination of booster shots for eligible employees will also take place and coverage will be provided if a staff member so chooses. Vaccination clinic was offered to parents for students aged 5-12 in January and February of 2022.

### **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 Kickapoo School District continues to work with County Public Health to implement mitigating strategies for the safety of students and staff.

# Continuity of Services

## Overview

It is the responsibility of the Kickapoo Area School District to ensure the continuity of services to our students to address student: academic, social, emotional, mental health, health and nutrition needs.

The District will provide for continuity of services as follows:

### **Student Academic Needs**

The Kickapoo School District 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 have been added to staffing to implement further academic recovery efforts in core curriculum areas. These specialists will be available during the instructional day, before school starts and immediately after school ends.

### **Student Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs**

Additional counseling staff has been added to the mental health staff to address our students' social and emotional learning needs. We have also partnered with Scenic Bluffs and Stonehouse counseling to provide services to students when families choose to do so.

### **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 to all children age 18 and under.

### **Staff Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs**

The District will provide staff with professional development in this area to help meet the needs of students and to help them with best practice. The administration will support the staff with flexible leave policies as we navigate the pandemic. For example the district continued Covid leave through September 30, 2021. 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 Kickapoo 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.

### District response on public input in the development of its plan

**Example response:** The Kickapoo School District has taken the following steps to make its plan available to the public:

- The plan is posted at <http://www.kickapoo.k12.wi.us>
- The plan is available in other languages upon request
- The plan was shared at the Kickapoo School District Board of Education meetings on August 11th. An opportunity for public comment is made available every month as the board reviews the plan monthly.
- 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.

## COVID-19 Isolation/Quarantine Guidelines

	Day 0	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8	Day 9	Day 10	Athletics
Positive – No Symptoms	Test Date	Stay home for 5 days, wearing a mask around others at home, if you develop symptoms continue to stay home until symptoms resolve						Can return to school if you still have no symptoms and are fever free for more than 24 hours. Continue to wear a mask around others for the full ten days. Practice social distancing when not wearing mask (ie. eating).  Note: families may opt for longer quarantine, but returning on Day 6 requires absolute compliance with proper wearing of masks.			May return to sports on day 6 with masking in indoor spaces until day 10.	
Positive – With Symptoms	Start of Symptoms	Stay home for 5 days, wearing a mask around others at home						You can return to school if symptoms have resolved and are fever free for more than 24 hours (without fever reducing medication). Continue to wear a mask around others for the full ten days and at school. Practice social distancing when you are not able to wear a mask (ie. eating). If you are severely ill, isolate for the full 10 days.  Note: Families may opt for longer quarantine, but returning on Day 6 requires absolute compliance with proper wearing of masks.			May return to sports on day 6 with masking in indoor spaces until day 10.	
Symptomatic without testing	Start of Symptoms	If choosing to not test, stay home for 10 days from onset of symptoms. Returning on day 11.										
Identified as close contact	Last date of exposure	Do not need to stay home from school unless experiencing symptoms, recommend wearing a mask around others for 10 days, test on at least day 5 if possible, if symptoms start get a test immediately and isolate										

<p>Close contact in household</p>	<p><b>Follow Health Department recommendations (below are the current county recommendations):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fully Vaccinated individuals<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Do not need to stay home from school unless experiencing symptoms, wear a mask around others for 10 days, test on at least day 5 if possible, if symptoms start get a test immediately and isolate</li></ul></li><li>• Not Fully vaccinated individuals<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Stay home for 5 days from last contact with an infected person, wearing a mask around others at home, test on day 5 if possible, if you develop symptoms test immediately and isolate. Must wear a mask days 6-10.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ If unable to quarantine away from the infected person, you must wait out their 5-10 days of infection, then your 5 days start.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If the infected person cannot or does not mask while around others in the home, those who are not fully vaccinated must wait the infected person's 10 days of infection before their 5 days of quarantine start. When they return to school they must mask days 6-10.</li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul>
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As of 2/17/22