

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

UpGrade Media Arts Schools, Inc.



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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 UpGrade Media Arts Schools, Inc. will provide a safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services.

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

UpGrade Media Arts Schools (UMA) will begin the 2023-24 school year with a five-day per week, face to-face instructional model and adhere to the following health protocols. Accordingly, UMA will:

- 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, and
- limit visitors and activities for non-essential purposes.

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)

UpGrade Media Arts Schools will offer in-person learning five days a week according to the Board adopted 2023-2024 Academic Year Calendar. UMA has also provided families the option to have students attend virtually in the event of a positive COVID-19 test or when related safety concerns arise. In the event of school closures due to the pandemic, UMA purchased Chromebooks for all students to continue virtual learning.

Mitigation Measures

Universal and correct wearing of masks

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

While the UMA School Board has not adopted any policy for this safety recommendation, we have followed guidance from our local health department and the CDC. Practices for universal and correct wearing of masks is communicated to students, staff, and visitors based on COVID activity in individual classrooms, the level of COVID transmission within UMA, and in the communities where our students reside.

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

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

Seating arrangements for students are created to provide ample distancing according to guidance from the local health department and the CDC. Students will be assigned to classrooms or virtual instruction based on cohorts if public health conditions warrant the use of hybrid or distance instructional models.

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette is taught to students. In addition, hand sanitization 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 UMA. UMA uses cleaning solutions that are rated to kill the SARS virus.

UMA high-touch areas are cleaned by approved cleaning service contractors who use industry-grade products that are also rated to kill the SARS virus.

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

UpGrade Media Arts 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. Information about COVID-19 testing is provided using one or more of the following communication methods: email, text messaging, weekly newsletter or phone call.

Diagnostic and screening testing

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

UpGrade Media Arts recommends students and staff get tested for COVID by their medical provider, a local pharmacy or via an approved self-test kit at home. Should UMA see the need for on-site testing, 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

Information about vaccination sites is made available to all staff, students and families. Staff, students and families are encouraged to access vaccinations by working with local healthcare partners and County Public Health facilities.

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. UMA continues to follow guidance from the local health department and the CDC 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

UpGrade Media Arts will provide for continuity of services as follows:

Student Academic Needs

UpGrade Media Arts plans to continue full-time, in-person instruction beginning the fall of 2023, without exception. Instructional personnel are prepared to provide virtual instruction in the event of a need to switch to hybrid or virtual learning. Students will continue to have access to a personalized instructional coach twice each week to address specific areas of academic and social, emotional and mental health focus. The personalized instructional coach will be available during the instructional day throughout the year.

Student Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs

Students will continue to have access to a personalized instructional coach twice each week to address specific social, emotional and mental health needs. The personalized instructional coach will be available during the instructional day throughout the year.

Other Student Needs (which may include student health and food services)

UpGrade Media Arts will work with local organizations as deemed necessary to provide meals to students with an identified need. Information about selected local organizations is available in the UMA office.

Staff Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs

UpGrade Media Arts, through a partnership with identified CESAs, has provided staff with opportunities for social, emotional and mental health supports through the Employee Assistance Program.

Other Staff Needs

UpGrade Media Arts 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

UpGrade Media Arts 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 UMA will seek and take into account public input during the review process. Plan revisions will address updated CDC and local 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

UpGrade Media Arts has taken the following steps to make its plan available to the public:

- The plan is posted at <http://www.upgradeschools.org/>
- The plan is available in all of the languages and accessible formats needed by the families served by UMA.
- The plan was sent to parents, students, and employees via our messaging systems.
- Mitigation strategies included in the plan were created following input from parents during in-person visits.
- 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 main office.

[UMA survey for public comment](#)