

# Schoolcraft Community Schools



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

**2022-2023**

The Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief 3.0 (ESSER 3.0) Fund under the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2, enacted on March 11, 2021. ARP ESSER Funding provides a total of nearly \$122 billion to states and local educational agencies (LEAs) to help safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the nation's students. In addition to ARP ESSER Funding, ARP includes \$3 billion for special education, \$850 million for the Outlying Areas, \$2.75 billion to support non-public schools, and additional funding for homeless children and youth, Tribal educational agencies, Native Hawaiians, and Alaska Natives.

LEAs must develop and make publicly available a Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan that meets the following requirements within 30 days of receiving ARP ESSER allocation. If an LEA developed a plan before ARP was enacted that does not address the requirements, the LEA must revise its plan no later than six months after it last reviewed its plan. All plans must be developed with meaningful public consultation with stakeholder groups (i.e., families, students, teachers, principals, school and district administrators, school leaders, other educators, school staff, advocacy organizations representing student groups). The consultation process must include an opportunity for input and meaning consideration of that input. ARP ESSER plans need to be published in an understandable and uniform format; to the extent practicable, 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.

ESSER III (ARP) requires Schoolcraft Community Schools to update its Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan every six months. through the life of the grant.

## Part One: Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Plan

**1. Describe how the LEA will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff and the extent to which it has adopted policies, and a description of any such policies, on each of the prevention and mitigation strategies recommended by the CDC.**

1. Schoolcraft Community Schools (SCS) will fulfill our goal of academic success for all students by providing an equitable, safe, and engaging learning environment, mindful of social and emotional well-being for the entire school community. We will continue to consult the Kalamazoo County Health Department for protocols and guidance. As we enter the 2022-2023 school year, we are committed to keeping our students and staff safe, while continuing to support student learning. The Kalamazoo Health and Community Services has informed us that the management of COVID-19 has transitioned from a pandemic emergency response model toward a more standard approach used in the management and control of other respiratory viral diseases, such as influenza.
2. SCS determines that it is safe to provide in-person instruction to pupils and the District will prioritize providing in-person instruction to all pupils enrolled in grades K to 12.
3. All facilities will continue to be cleaned and disinfected in accordance with DPH and CDC guidelines. Sanitizer is available throughout our buildings. Custodians clean each building every night. Throughout the day, teachers may sanitize their classroom during class transitions, if desired.
4. SCS will not require universal indoor masking by students, staff, teachers, & visitors to K-12 schools regardless of vaccination status. SCS will follow current ACHD guidance released on 8/26/2022 which allows staff and students to choose to wear a mask at any time. Anyone who chooses to wear a mask will be supported in their decision to do so. It is still recommended, but not required that staff and students wear a mask when they have an exposure with someone who tests positive, they have tested positive and are returning to school during the remaining 5 days of isolation, or if they are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms but tested negative. Masks are no longer required on buses.
5. Classroom groups at the Y5-5 level continue to serve as natural cohorts. Students at this level will travel to and from specials, lunch and recess as they had prior to COVID. Following current CDC guidelines, students in grades 6-12 will continue in non-cohorted classes, including lunch. Physical distancing is not required at SCS, since the CDC has removed all recommendations regarding cohorting students in schools.
6. SCS will continue to encourage students to appropriately and frequently wash their hands with soap and hot water, including prior to eating breakfast or lunch. Signs are posted in our buildings asking all to cover their mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing to limit droplets. Tissues are provided in buildings, and masks are available for students and staff members who are showing symptoms and waiting to go home.
7. SCS will continue to encourage students and staff to stay home if sick or having COVID- 19 symptoms. SCS will encourage students and staff to get tested if having symptoms or if they have been exposed to someone with COVID-19. SCS will not require a negative test for students to return to school.
8. Students with disabilities receiving in-person instruction are afforded individualized accommodations that have been identified through the IEP team process. Students are provided both the learning accommodations and the health and safety accommodations that have been agreed upon and developed

by the entire IEP team. Students with disabilities who are receiving instruction from home isolation will be provided the same required accommodations. These will be provided in a way that best meets the needs of the students, including, but not limited to, in person homebound visits for instruction and related services.

**2. Describe how the LEA will ensure continuity of services, which must address students' academic needs and students' and staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, and which may include student health and food services.**

**Ensuring Students' Academic Needs:**

As in previous years, Schoolcraft Community Schools will continue its use of the NWEA assessments in reading and mathematics for 22-23 for students in grades K-12. SCS will report benchmark assessment data to parents and legal guardians within 30 days of students completing the assessment. The assessment will be administered three times a year: the first during the first six weeks of the school year, the second during the month of January, and the third during the spring prior to the last day of school in June. SCS will also continue to use extensive assessments in grades K-5 to determine interventions and supports to better meet the needs of its learners in both reading and mathematics. Progress reports will be available on the SCS website in February and June indicating NWEA results. Using the district's continuous improvement process, SCS will continue to engage stakeholders in the district's assessment system, including publicly sharing aggregate and student subgroup performance reports on NWEA results. Following the pandemic, SCS will provide a continuity of services, as well as implementing new research-based programs and digital resources to support, enrich and accelerate student learning.

**Ensuring Students' Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs:**

Schoolcraft Community Schools believes the mental health of students continues to be a top priority. In addition to providing a traditional guidance counseling department and school social worker, we have a fully staffed student support team. This team continuously monitors the mental health of our students and provides resources to families and students in need. Meetings to discuss high needs students take place on a regular basis to ensure our students have personal safety plans, access to therapeutic services, as well as ensuring they have safety and stability at home.

## **Part Two: Opportunity for Public Input**

**3. Describe how the LEA will ensure opportunity for public input and consider that input when developing the plan.**

Stakeholders have been given opportunities to voice their opinions, provide perspectives, and offer feedback regarding plans for pandemic learning. SCS continues to utilize Board of Education meetings as a conduit to the general public, but also provided other opportunities for stakeholders to share input.

Before an LEA Plan of Use was developed for the expenditures of ESSER III funds, input was solicited in a couple of different venues. In November 2021, a survey was sent out to community members for their

input regarding how the funds should be allocated. Responses were received asking the community to prioritize funding around student learning and COVID-19 recovery. Through the regular district improvement process more stakeholder input was gathered to help make decisions around spending.

#### 4. Periodic Review Process

Districts are required to periodically 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. Each review must include seeking public input on the plan and revising the plan after considering public input.

The review dates are as follows:

October 2022

April 2023

October 2023

Schoolcraft Community Schools will use the current template and make it accessible to the public. The plan will be posted publicly on the school transparency site, and accommodations can be made for those who require formats related to language or disabilities.