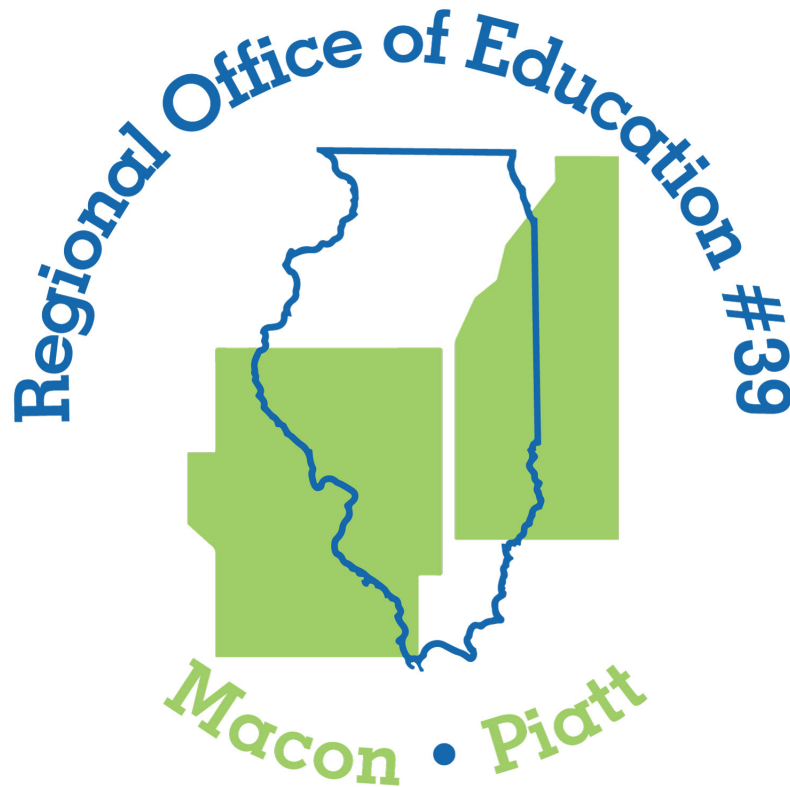


Futures Unlimited/Milligan Academy



Safe Return to In-Person Instruction & Continuity of Services Plan 2022-2023

Introduction

Sweeping through the world in early 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in major upheaval to all aspects of life, including unprecedented school closures in the spring and fall of 2020. To open schools for in-person instruction required strict health and safety protocols which created barriers and limitations to teaching and learning. Recognizing that students across remote and in-person settings faced significant academic, social, emotional, and mental health challenges as a result of the interrupted education and the trauma caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the U.S. Congress made emergency funds available to local school districts to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19. Most recently, funds available through the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act require that school districts develop a *Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services*. As such, this plan has been developed in accordance with the ARP Act and the Illinois State Superintendent of Education and is aligned with joint guidance provided by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE).

Instructional Schedule

- We will implement full in-person instruction Monday-Friday
- School will be in session from 8:00 AM - 3:01 PM
- Every Wednesday will be an early dismissal at 2:00 PM for students. This time will be utilized for continual professional development and collaboration for staff in relation to meeting the various needs of students (ie. academic, social emotional), technology-enhanced instruction, legal updates, and other topics
- Students will be allowed to enter the buildings beginning at 7:50 AM; only students eating breakfast may enter at 7:30 AM

Prevention Strategies

Updated February 23, 2022 - Due to changes in mandates and legal requirements in relation to COVID-19 mitigation measures and the ability of districts to make local decisions, adjustments within the recommended ESSER APR federal grant categories to be contained within the district plan have been made.

These COVID-19 prevention strategies remain critical to protect people, including students, teachers, and staff, especially in areas of moderate-to-high community transmission levels.

- Consistent & correct mask use
- Social distancing
- Providing vaccination information & resources
- Cleaning & disinfection
- Hand & respiratory hygiene
- Encouraging sick individuals to stay home
- Contact tracing in combination with isolation & quarantine
- Improved ventilation
- Illness testing
- Surveillance testing & screening

We will utilize layers of prevention and make data-based decisions when considering the removal or addition of any prevention strategy as mandates at the state level change. Specific details about the layers of prevention used in our district are explained throughout this plan.

Mask Wearing

- Masks are recommended to be worn indoors by all individuals at all schools in areas of high transmission per the CDC – the decision to mask is left up to the individual or family. Masks are welcomed to be worn by anyone who chooses to do so. Personal decisions on masking must be respected by all.
- The staff will utilize mask breaks as needed throughout the day for those that choose to wear a mask as preferred
- There is no requirement currently in place mandating masks in schools or on school buses

Physical Distancing

- The CDC recommends schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms; three feet is defined as “mouth to mouth” rather than between furniture (ie. desk to desk)
- To the extent possible within school and classroom structures so that it does not exclude students from full day in-person learning, school staff are to help students commit to physical distancing as much as possible by:
 - arranging furniture, play spaces and naptime materials to model and reinforce physical distancing of at least 3 feet
 - providing assigned seating for students in various settings
 - developing marked paths of travel in classrooms and corridors
- Physical distancing measures are to be done in an equitable manner that does not perpetuate academic, racial, or other tracking (e.g., separating people into fully vaccinated and non-fully vaccinated cohorts)
- Cohorting of classes and grade levels (e.g. 1st grade class stays together throughout the day, MS students are cohorted within grade level and have a common core group of teachers) will be utilized as much as possible without limiting courses and services offered to students

Transportation

- Masks are recommended to be worn by all individuals on buses in areas of high transmission per the [CDC](#) – the decision to mask is left up to the individual or family.
- The school buses will no longer have a 50 person capacity restriction

Recess & Physical Education

- School staff are encouraged to hold these activities outdoors weather permitting
- If indoors, school staff will maximize physical distance or alter the physical activity as much as possible to promote prevention
- Staff & students should abstain from physical contact, including, but not limited to handshakes and high fives in times of high transmission

Visitors

- Nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations are discouraged from visiting schools at times of high transmission
- The use of virtual meetings will continue to be an option to decrease the amount of visitors and for participants convenience

Handwashing & Respiratory Etiquette

- School staff will monitor and reinforce frequent handwashing and respiratory etiquette by
 - continuing to teach handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
 - assisting young children with handwashing
 - reminding everyone in the facility to wash hands frequently
 - using hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol (for teachers, staff, and older students who can safely use hand sanitizer) when handwashing is not possible
 - continuing to teach respiratory etiquette (e.g., covering coughs and sneezes)
 - providing adequate handwashing and hand sanitizer supplies that are safely stored (up, away, and out of sight of young children and used only with adult supervision for children under 6 years of age)

Cleaning, Disinfecting & Increased Ventilation

- School custodial staff and transportation staff clean surfaces daily. To further reduce the risk of spreading infection, these staff use disinfectants on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency COVID-19 “List N” to disinfect spaces occupied by someone who tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 24 hours.
- School staff have access to child-safe disinfectant during the school day as needed.
- Maintenance staff regularly replace school ventilation system filters by using high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filters. Although regular tests indicate a high quality of indoor air in our schools, aged ventilation systems will be replaced by new systems to improve the control and

reliability of air circulation.

- When possible, staff will open doors and windows, use child-safe fans, and have activities, classes, or lunches outdoors when circumstances allow.
- When it does not pose a safety risk, transportation staff will keep vehicle windows open at least a few inches to improve air circulation.

Staying Home When Sick

- It is essential that parents keep children home if they are showing signs and symptoms of illness
- Parents are asked to have open communication with schools and to contact offices and/or the school nurse for any questions or concerns related to COVID signs/symptoms or signs/symptoms of any illness
- Individuals in the school environment who show signs/symptoms of illness are to report to or be escorted to the district nurse office to be evaluated or sent home. Parents should ensure that ill students are picked up from school within 30 minutes of being notified. Ill students will not be allowed to utilize the school bus to return home.
 - Individuals who are not COVID positive may return to school upon providing a negative COVID test (home test are allowed) or a physician letter confirming symptoms are not COVID
- Individuals that are positive for COVID are recommended by the CDC and health department to isolate for 5 days from symptom onset or positive test date (see "[Calculating Isolation](#)" via CDC)
- Individuals may return after 5 days if asymptomatic or fever-free without fever-reducing medication for 24 hours, diarrhea/vomiting have ceased for 24 hours, and other symptoms have improved
- Students diagnosed COVID-19 will be recorded as medically excused
- Staff diagnosed with COVID-19 will be recorded in accordance with the district's sick leave policy and related professional negotiations agreements

Diagnostic & Screening Testing

- We will continue to collaborate with Macon County Health Department to provide testing information & opportunities to families as requested
- We will offer to administer a rapid antigen test via [BinaxNOW nasal swab](#) to students that get ill while at school upon parent request. Ill students will still need to go home but may return to school once they have been free of fever/vomiting/diarrhea for 24 hours and other symptoms have improved.
- COVID-19 testing at school is optional and requires parental consent through our [online parental/staff consent](#) form
- COVID testing at school is may be impacted due to availability of testing supplies

Vaccinations

- We will continue to collaborate with Macon County Health Department to share vaccination information, education, and opportunities as requested by families
- Vaccinations are not mandated in IL or by the school district; it is a personal choice to get vaccinated

Remote Learning

- Students that are in isolation or quarantine due to COVID are eligible for remote learning
- Students that are out ill will be provided with access to instructional materials via Google Classroom. Instructional materials and methods will vary depending on the grade level and subject.
- Students will only be considered for long-term remote learning if they are eligible for homebound instruction. Homebound instruction requires physician certification and review by the district. See the building principal for more information.

Adaptive Pause

- We will consult with Macon County Health Department regarding any potential school-associated outbreaks (ie. 10% of students/staff within a specified core group such as an extracurricular team/group, classroom, grade level) to determine if an adaptive pause is needed
- If an adaptive pause is required for an instructional setting, WL will transition to remote learning for that specified group
- In consultation with the health department, WL will consider alternative strategies less drastic than a closure (ie. transition to remote learning, closing playground, adjusting food service, adjusting transportation, shortening the school day, specialized scheduling, increased physical spacing between students)
- School closure should be the last resort to managing an outbreak due to the critical role of in-person instruction to students' overall wellbeing

Disabilities or Other Health Care Needs

- Parents of students who need accommodations, modifications, or assistance related to COVID-19 safety protocols, disabilities, underlying medical conditions, or weakened immune systems should contact their student's case manager or principal to discuss the need(s)
- Parents of students that require & are eligible for homebound instruction or that choose homeschooling, should contact their building principal to discuss options, resources, etc.
- Staff members who need accommodations, modifications, or assistance related to COVID-19 safety protocols, disabilities, underlying medical conditions, or weakened immune systems, should contact their school's principal to discuss the need(s). Staff members with weakened immune systems are advised to contact their healthcare professional about the need for continued personal protective measures after vaccination.

Coordination with State & Local Health Officials & Plan Revision

- District officials will continue to collaborate and consult with Macon County Health Department officials on various logistics and decision-making including, but not limited to, school health and safety protocols, and emergency school closings
- WL will continue to follow updates by CDC/IDPH/ISBE and make necessary revisions to this plan as needed
- This plan will be reviewed no less frequently than every six months and revised as appropriate
- Revisions to the plan will be communicated to all stakeholders via the district's regular communication platforms
- This plan will remain posted publicly on the district website

ESSER Allocation Use of Funds

- ESSER grants funds to the best of our ability to support student academic

needs, student social emotional needs, student health & food services, and student access to technology

- You may view the ESSER Allocation Use of Funds Plan [here](#)

Resources

- [Macon County COVID Risk Metrics](#)
- [Macon County Health Department COVID-19 Information](#) - including local testing sites & upcoming local vaccine clinics
- [Macon County Health Department Vaccine Clinics](#) - including vaccine fact sheets, consent forms & “Ask the Expert Panel” video
- [IDPH COVID-19 Guidance for Schools](#)
- [IDPH COVID-19 General Guidance](#)
- [IHSA COVID-19 Information](#)
- [IDPH All Sports Policy](#)
- [CDC Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools](#)
- [What counts as close contact?](#)
- [Isolation or Quarantine: What’s the difference?](#)
- [CDC: Options to Reduce Quarantine](#)
- [CDC: Interactive Symptom Self-Checker](#)