

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



**School District: School District of Greenfield**

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Template Developed by CESA 5



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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 LEA or 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 School District of Greenfield will begin the 2022-23 school year with a five-day per week, face-to-face instructional model and adhere to the following health protocols. Accordingly, the District:

- maintains daily and weekly protocols for cleaning and disinfecting,
- continues increased air exchanges and filtering to reduce airborne particles,
- utilizes spaces to maintain distancing and allow for assigned seating when appropriate,
- maintains emphasis on handwashing and use of hand sanitizers
- continues to review CDC and health department guidelines to assist the Board with masking decisions as deemed appropriate,
- encourages 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,
- maintains contact tracing and quarantines as necessary,
- provides sanitizing stations throughout the buildings.

### 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 School District will offer in-person learning five days a week according to the Board adopted 2022-23 Academic Year Calendar. In the event of school closure due to recurrence of the pandemic, the district purchased Chromebooks for all students to continue virtual learning.

Regardless of the mode of instruction, the District 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. 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 District employs one full-time school nurse who will continue to offer health services in-person or virtually. The District also provides mental health supports for families.

## Mitigation Measures

### Universal and correct wearing of masks

The School Board continues to monitor CDC guidelines and health department recommendations for when students, staff, and visitors will be required to wear masks and when mask-wearing will be optional. Current CDC thresholds are based on the level of high risk within the community based on rates of illness and hospital capacity.

### Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing

Mitigation measures such as proper signage, the installation of floor decals and use of water bottle filling stations, and the promotion of social distancing have been implemented at each facility.

Extended and/or staggered meal services have been implemented as deemed necessary to support social distancing while ensuring adequate time for students to consume their meals. Individual schools 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.

Masks are optional when riding the school bus unless federal regulations were to change due to recurrence of the pandemic.

### Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette is encouraged at all grade levels. Signage is posted throughout buildings as reminders of handwashing and respiratory etiquette.

In addition, hand sanitization stations/liquids and wipes are available throughout the District.

## **Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation**

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 also increased air exchange and is using a higher level of filtration throughout all facilities. Indoor air quality has been optimized through air dilution (by increasing the amount of outside air being pulled into buildings), air turnover (increased indoor air turnover over between 4-6 times per hour), and by utilizing OSHA recommended air filters. All HVAC systems are digitally controlled and monitored by trained staff within our Building and Grounds Department.

## **Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments**

The 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 and 2021-22 school years and will continue to do so in 2022-23 if the pandemic spikes again.

The District will guide parents/students, employees, and contractors on screening protocols for the daily pre-screening process, which all parties should complete before entering school buildings. 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.

## **Diagnostic and screening testing**

The District recommends students and staff get tested for COVID by their medical provider, a local pharmacy, or as provided on-site by the District when available. The District has worked with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services to coordinate COVID testing at our schools. As availability allows, students 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**

All eligible staff employed in 2020-2021 were provided opportunities to be vaccinated. Students ages 16 and older were provided access to vaccinations in the spring of 2021. Students ages 12 and older were provided access to vaccinations in the summer of 2021. Students ages 5 and up were provided access to vaccinations in the fall of 2022. All students and staff have been given access and opportunities to on-site after school vaccination clinics (December 2021) or were provided other opportunities and information to easily book appointments in collaboration with the local health department.

**Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies and practices**

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**

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 School District continues to work with the City Health Department 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

**The School District of Greenfield will provide for continuity of services as follows:**

#### **Student Academic Needs**

The District has 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 2022, with limited exception. Additional instructional personnel have been added to staffing to implement further academic recovery efforts in core curriculum areas. These individuals will be available during the instructional day and/or during before and after-school tutoring programs throughout the year.

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

The District continues to increase and support pupil services and mental health staffing needs to address our students' social and emotional learning needs.

#### **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 and all children age 18 and under. More information can be found on the District website under Food Service.

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

The District has provided staff with opportunities for social and emotional supports through the Employee Assistance Program provided through the District insurance program and through the District's on-site health clinic.

#### **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 School District of Greenfield 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

The School District of Greenfield has taken the following steps to make its plan available to the public:

- The plan is posted at <http://www.greenfield.k12.wi.us> along with other applicable COVID19 information.
- The plan is available in multiple languages through the use of our web provider powered by Google Translate or upon request.
- Covid19 mitigation and learning updates are frequently shared with parents, students, and employees via our messaging systems as new information becomes available.
- The 22-23 plan was shared at the August 8th, 2022 School District Board meeting. Meetings are open to public comment and the plan was made available for review on the District website prior to the meeting.
- The plans were discussed and developed with assistance from the Greenfield Community Advisory Committee, in addition to consultations with educational and support staff, public health officials, and school leadership.
- 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.