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# WILLIAMS BAY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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



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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 Williams Bay School District will begin the 2021-22 school year with a five-day per week, face-to-face instructional model and adhere to the following health protocols. Accordingly, the District will:

- publish the COVID-19 prevention strategies and wellness protocols
- 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 for non-essential purposes,
- provide sanitizing stations throughout the building.

### 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 Williams Bay School District will offer in-person learning five days a week according to the Board adopted 2021-2022 Academic Year Calendar. The school district has also provided families the option to enroll their students in the Elkhorn Area School District's Options Charter School. In the event of school closure due to the pandemic, the district has provided a Chromebook to all students to continue virtual learning.

Regardless of the mode of instruction, the Williams Bay School District will continue to provide meals under the community provision as long as USDA continues the allowance. Meals will be provided for 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 Williams Bay School District employs one full-time school nurse who will continue to offer health services in-person. The school district also partners with Wisconsin Mental Health to provide mental health support for families.

## **Mitigation Measures**

### **Universal and correct wearing of masks**

When teachers, staff, students who are not fully vaccinated consistently and correctly wear a mask, they protect others as well as themselves. Mask wearing is optional for staff and students, but recommended and supported for those who are not vaccinated. Reusable face coverings, sanitizer dispensers, and sanitizer stations will be made available to all students and staff.

### **Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing**

(for example, the use of cohorts and podding)

Mitigation measures such as proper signage and water bottle filling stations, and the promotion of social distancing have been implemented in the district. Alternative areas in which to eat will be provided to support social distancing while ensuring adequate time for students to consume their meals.

Transportation will comply with CDC guidelines regarding capacity that are in effect during the 2021-22 school year.

### **Handwashing and respiratory etiquette**

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 sanitization stations/liquids are available in all classrooms.

### **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 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 systems.

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

The Williams Bay School District will continue contact tracing and transparent reporting to the public of COVID-19 cases and 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 Williams Bay School District will guide parents/students, employees, and contractors on screening protocols for the daily pre-screening process, which all parties should complete before entering the campus/building. 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 Williams Bay School District recommends students and staff get tested for COVID by the district provided testing service, their medical provider or a local pharmacy. The turnaround time for results at the Williams Bay testing service and Walgreens has been reduced to within 24 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 and new staff will be given access to vaccinations by working with local healthcare partners and County Public Health.

### **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 Williams Bay School District continues to work with the Walworth County Public Health 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 District will provide for continuity of services as follows:

##### **Student Academic Needs**

The Williams Bay School District has implemented a summer school program to assist identified 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 services and supports have been added to staffing to support academic recovery efforts in core curriculum areas.

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

Additional support staff has been added to the mental health staff 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 all eligible youth during the school year.

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

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.

The Williams Bay 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. 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 Williams Bay School District has taken the following steps to make its plan available to the public:

- The plan is posted at [www.williamsbayschools.org/about/coronavirus-update-21-22.cfm](http://www.williamsbayschools.org/about/coronavirus-update-21-22.cfm)
- The plan is available in multiple languages through the use of our web provider powered by Google Translate. The plan is available in more than ten languages.
- The plan was sent to parents, students, and employees via our messaging systems.
- The plan was shared at the Williams Bay School District Board of Education meetings on August 23, 2021 and September 27, 2021. An opportunity for public comment is available during each Regular Monthly Board Meeting.
- 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.

[WI DPI ESSER III Stakeholder Engagement presentation](#)