

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 Chilton Public Schools 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

Chilton Public School's plan will include how it will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other school and Chilton 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

Chilton Public Schools 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 pre-screening checklist and strongly encourage students and staff members to utilize the checklist before entering a school facility,
- 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 and activities for non-essential purposes,
- provide sanitizing stations throughout the building.

Description to continue to provide services regardless of the mode of instruction

Chilton Public Schools will offer in-person learning five days a week according to the Board adopted 2021-2022 Academic Year Calendar. The District will provide students in quarantine or isolation the option for virtual learning. In the event of school closure due to the pandemic, the District moved to a one-to-one setting in the 2020-2021 school year and provides all students with Chromebooks to continue virtual learning.

Regardless of the mode of instruction, Chilton Public Schools 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.

Chilton Public Schools employs one full-time school nurse who will continue to offer health services

in-person or virtually. As a result of the Wisconsin School Based Mental Health Grant and the Thrive Calumet Grant, the District also partners with Samaritan Health to provide mental health support to our students and families.

Mitigation Measures

Universal and correct wearing of masks

The Chilton Public Schools Board of Education approves an update to the “Return to Learning Plan” each month. This update takes into account the local data, as well as local health department updates, to determine when students, staff, and visitors will be required to wear masks and when mask wearing will be optional. These updates are based on COVID activity in individual classrooms or schools, the level of COVID transmission within the district’s geographic boundaries, and in Calumet County. Local District Data is shared weekly with families and Board of Education Members.

Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing

Mitigation measures such as the monitoring of symptoms before coming to school, frequent handwashing and respiratory etiquette, routine disinfecting and cleaning of common surfaces, encouraging COVID-19 vaccinations, proper signage in multiple languages, installation of water bottle filling stations and the promotion of social distancing have been implemented at each facility. Additional seating and adjustments to lunch periods have been added to support social distancing while ensuring adequate time for students to consume their meals. Cafeteria and/or classrooms may be used as settings for students’ meals if there is an increase in COVID-19 transmission in the classrooms or schools.

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette is taught to students with high emphasis in the primary grade levels. Signage, including visuals, is posted in multiple languages throughout buildings as reminders of handwashing and respiratory etiquette.

In addition, hand sanitizing stations/liquids are available in all classrooms and commons spaces throughout the District.

The District also provides additional cleaning /sanitation daily with the addition of another housekeeper.

Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

The District has worked with our HVAC Company (Energy Control and Design) to implement settings that increase the ventilation of our HVAC units in the District. This setting provides for more outside air to circulate through all rooms in the District throughout the day.

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 SARS virus. In addition all classroom tables and desk tops are cleaned between every class.

Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with Calumet County Health Departments

Chilton Public Schools will continue contact tracing and transparent reporting to the public of COVID-19 cases and staff quarantines within the District. We have partnered with the Calumet County Health Department utilizing a COVID-19 Tracking Sheet (Google Doc) to maintain real-time data/information on students and staff. To provide transparent reporting for our stakeholders, the District emailed parents and Board of Education Members weekly during the 2020-21 school year and will continue to do so for the 2021-22 school year.

Chilton Public Schools 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. Procedures for contact tracing can be found on the district website at chiltonschools.com

Diagnostic and screening testing

Chilton Public Schools recommends students and staff get tested for COVID by their medical provider or a local pharmacy if they are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, or have been identified as a close contact or exposed to COVID-19. The turnaround time for results at Walgreens or National Guard testing sites in our area has been reduced to within 24-48 hours.

Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible

In the late winter/early spring of 2021, eligible staff employed in 2020-2021 were provided the opportunity to be vaccinated against COVID-19. The District worked with the Calumet County Health Department to provide COVID-19 vaccination clinics for our staff. New staff will be given access to vaccinations by working with the Calumet County Health Department, as well as staff wishing to receive the approved COVID-19 booster shots. When students became eligible, information was shared with parents regarding the times and places of vaccination clinics within Calumet County.

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. Chilton Public Schools has been very proactive in working with local and regional health partners to implement mitigation strategies for the safety of students and staff. In the summer of 2020, the District became involved in a relational partnership with local health departments from Calumet County, Outagamie County, Winnebago County, City of Appleton, City of Menasha and healthcare professionals from ThedaCare, Ascension and Childrens Hospital of Wisconsin. Included in this partnership were representatives from the following school districts: Hilbert, Chilton, Brillion, Stockbridge, New Holstein, Kaukauna, Kimberly, Wrightstown, Freedom, Little Chute, Appleton, Hortonville, Seymour, Neenah, Oshkosh, Menasha, New London, Omro and Winneconne. This partnership has endured the length of the pandemic and still continues to meet on a biweekly basis and plans on continuing through the 2021-2022 school year.

Continuity of Services

Overview

Chilton Public Schools 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

Chilton Public Schools provided full-time, in-person instruction during the 2020-2021 school year and plans to continue this model of instruction throughout the 2021-2022 school year. The District also offered Summer School in June of 2021 to provide additional intervention and credit recovery, this included transportation to and from school. This same model will be used in June 2022. Chilton Public Schools added additional instructional staff at all 3 levels to implement further academic recovery in core curriculum areas.

The District has purchased and implemented additional assessments and academic programs to help determine the current academic levels of our students. Once current levels are determined, our teachers are able to use this information to develop plans for the students. Programs purchased are: IReady, Fastbridge, IXL and Moby Max.

Our District has designated time every day to implement interventions and extension. Tiger Time is used at the Elementary, Resource and pull out intervention at the Middle School and Homeroom at the High School. This time is dedicated to working with students who are falling behind in class, completing missing assignments, implementing interventions and getting caught up on time missed from school. There is also time on Wednesday from 1:00pm-2:00pm for students to stay and receive additional support from teachers.

Student Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs

Chilton Public Schools provides support for students in the areas of Mental Health and Social Emotional needs. For the 2021-2022 school year all students in K-8 will receive instruction in the Second Step Program. This program is taught by the Social Emotional Learning teacher during the school day. The Elementary School also utilizes Conscious Discipline and has created Safe Spaces throughout the building for students and staff to use. The High School has implemented Sources of Strength.

Students' mental health needs are monitored District-wide by using the B.E.S.T screener in grades K-8 and an Adolescent Trauma Questionnaire for Emotional Distress at the High School. Referrals are also made to Samaritan Health who provides onsite therapy once a week.

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 to all eligible youth during the school year and Summer.

Staff Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs

The District has provided staff with opportunities for social and emotional support through the creation of Tiger Teams which meet once a month. The focus is to relax, create new friendships and laugh. Staff appreciation days throughout the year which may include: a gift of time, a meal or drawing for door prizes.

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

Chilton Public Schools will 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

Chilton Public Schools 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.

Public Input

Overview

The ARP Act requires that Chilton Public Schools 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

Chilton Public Schools has taken the following steps to make its plan available to the public:

- The plan is posted at chiltonschools.com
- 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 originally approved on August 17, 2020. It has been discussed, modified, updated and re-approved on July 19, 2021. Mitigation strategies are discussed at every Board of Education Meeting. An opportunity for public comment occurs at every Board of Education Meeting during delegations.
- 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.