

2023-24 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 New Glarus School District will begin the 2023-2024 school year with a five-day per week, face-to-face instructional model and adhere to the following health protocols. Accordingly, the District will:

- 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
- provide sanitizing stations throughout the building
- require masking when internal metrics or external factors require the District to do so

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)

New Glarus School District will offer in-person learning five days per week according to the Board adopted 2023-2024 Academic Year Calendar. New Glarus School District also provides families the option to enroll their students in virtual learning if they choose to do so.

The District has Chromebooks as well as learning management systems to operate in the case of school closure.

If school is closed due to the pandemic, the District will assess its ability to distribute meals utilizing a similar process as was used during the spring of 2020.

The New Glarus School District employs one full-time school nurse who will continue to provide health services in-person or virtually. In addition, New Glarus School District partners with SSM Health to

provide mental health support for students and this can be provided both in person and virtually.

Mitigation Measures

Universal and correct wearing of masks

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

The New Glarus School District monitors Covid-19 statistics in our area, and may require masks on an interim basis if necessary.

Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (for example, the use of cohorts and podding)

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

Mitigation measures such as signage around school and the encouragement of social distancing will be implemented if Covid 19 statistics in our area make it necessary.

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

Handwashing examples are provided in all bathrooms and signs are posted reminding of the importance of handwashing.

Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

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

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

The New Glarus School District continues to track COVID-19 cases when they are reported to us. The District 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

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

The New Glarus School District recommends students and staff get tested for COVID if they have symptoms. The District has offered on-site testing for symptomatic students and staff, and plans to continue in the 2023-24 school year.

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

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

All eligible staff employed during the 2021-2022 school year were provided the opportunity to be vaccinated. Students ages 5 and up were provided access to on-site vaccination clinics as well.

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

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

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

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

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 New Glarus School District continues to work with 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 New Glarus School District will provide for continuity of services as follows:

Student Academic Needs

New Glarus School District has implemented a K-12 Tier 2 and Tier 3 plan. This multi-tiered system of support (MTSS) promotes academic progress by supporting students who are not meeting essential learning outcomes. In addition, we have technology that allows for students to continue to learn regardless of location. We have devices for students along with a learning management system at each level that promotes continued learning if students are not able to be in school.

Student Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs

Additional counseling staff has been added to the mental health staff to address our students' social and emotional learning needs. In addition, the District has added a K-12 social emotional universal screener to accurately assess and gauge the mental health needs of our students.

Other Student Needs (which may include student health and food services)

Food services will offer meals for students and staff. Meals will be offered for summer school attendees as well as all students and staff during the school year.

Staff Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs

During the 2023-24 school year the District will be focusing on social and emotional support for staff through a District-wide book-read of the book **"180 Days of Self-Care for Busy Educators"** by Tina Boogren. **"Soul"** by Timothy Kanold. 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.

District response on ensuring periodic updates to its plan

The New Glarus School District will periodically review and, as needed, revise the plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services. 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 New Glarus School District has taken the following steps to make its plan available to the public:

- The plan is posted at [New Glarus School District](#)
- The plan is reviewed periodically by the New Glarus School Board, and an opportunity for public comment is available.
- 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.