

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 School District of Fort Atkinson 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

The plan outlines how the School District of Fort Atkinson 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 Fort Atkinson 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 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,
- Ongoing use of mitigation strategies including but not limited to,
 - Frequent hand washing and hand sanitizing
 - Continued daily cleaning procedures
 - Maximized ventilation in all schools
 - Continued parent communication and education
 - Optional, family choice for face covering to avoid communicable diseases
- [Covid 19- Isolation/Quarantine Protocol](#)

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 of Fort Atkinson will offer in-person learning five days a week according to the Board adopted 2022-2023 Academic Year Calendar. Fort Atkinson families requesting online programming for their student(s) may complete the process to enroll in the JEDI Virtual School. JEDI requires a minimum of a semester commitment. In the event of school closure due to the pandemic, the district's 1:1 technology initiative provides devices for all students to continue virtual learning.

Supporting Students with Extended Absence

When students have an extended absence due to illness, whether COVID related or related to another health condition, we ask that the teacher works with the family to determine the best strategies to minimize the lost learning time and curricular disruption for the learner. If the child is sick and unable to be a learner, it is our first priority for the family to attend to the student's medical needs and allow them to recover. If the student is feeling well enough to access and engage in learning during the extended absence, the teacher and the family will work together to create a plan for how to best support the learner during the extended absence. Strategies to be considered include but not limited to:

- Sending paper copies and resources home for families to lead learning with their child or student to complete independently
- Providing access to synchronous classroom learning through Zoom (resources shared via Google classroom or sent home)
- Uploading video of classroom instruction to Google classroom for asynchronous learning

Family preference will vary. Every circumstance will be unique. This approach ensures that we are responsive to each situation and are collaborative with each family.

The School District of Fort Atkinson employs 2.0 full-time school nurses who will continue to offer health services in-person or consult virtually with families as needed. The school district also partners with Fort Healthcare to provide mental health support for families.

Mitigation Measures

Universal and correct wearing of masks

Face coverings are made optional for all groups when on the School District of Fort Atkinson property beginning December 17, 2021.

[Policy: Personal Protective Equipment During Pandemic/Epidemic Events](#)

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

Buildings have returned to Pre-Pandemic functioning based on recently updated CDC guidelines.

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 sanitizing stations/liquids are available for classrooms.

Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

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 ventilation units that 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

Contact tracing is no longer required. Quarantine and isolation procedures are in alignment with CDC guidelines per the following protocol: [Covid 19- Isolation/Quarantine Protocol](#)

Diagnostic and screening testing

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

Free at-home tests are available from the School District as requested.

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

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

Vaccinations are available to all individuals that are eligible.

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 State and local health officials. The School District of Fort Atkinson will continue to work with the Jefferson County Public Health Department regarding public health concerns.

Continuity of Services

Overview

This section describes how the School District of Fort Atkinson 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.

The District will provide for continuity of services as follows:

Student Academic Needs

The School District of Fort Atkinson remains committed to meeting diverse student needs and providing instruction that provides access for all learners. For those learners with unfinished learning due to pandemic disruptions, teachers continue to provide review and/or teaching of prerequisite skills / knowledge prior to introducing new learning. For those learners with more significant academic needs, additional instructional personnel have been added. These specialists will be available when needed to provide layered instruction to close learning gaps. Overall, all areas will have an increased focus on integration of social emotional learning and focus on whole-child instruction to maximize learning.

Student Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs

Additional pupil services staff has been added to meet the growing needs and reduce the barriers to accessing educational services. The addition of school social workers at each level will aid in the District's ability to connect with families and make sure students are able to access educational services. Additionally, the District is partnering with the Jefferson County Human Services department to access the services of additional behavioral mental health counselors. This additional support will compliment the in district counseling service we currently have to address our student's social and emotional learning needs.

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

Due to the expiration of USDA allowances and waivers, Nutrition Services operations have returned to Pre-Pandemic functions.

Staff Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs

The staff's social, emotional, and mental health needs are 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 School District of Fort Atkinson 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 consider updated 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 Fort Atkinson has taken the following steps to make its plan available to the public:

- The plan is posted at <https://www.fortschools.org/Page/9411>
- The plan is available in English and Spanish.
- The plan was shared at the School District of Fort Atkinson's Board of Education meeting on September 15, 2022. An opportunity for public comment is available via the website link below.
- 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.

[District survey for public comment](#)