

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



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 Marshall 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

On March 12, the COVID-19 pandemic limited Marshall Public Schools ability to offer full in-person instruction for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year and a portion of the 2020-2021 school year. Families were given the choice to continue virtual learning or in-person learning when their school reopened during the second semester. Marshall Public Schools will provide in-person instruction for the 2021-2022 school year.

The goal of the district is to have each student return to in-person learning this fall. Students interested in continuing virtual learning are encouraged to consider participating through Marshall's partnership with JEDI Virtual School (grades K-12). We excitedly encourage students to participate in extra-curricular activities, with enhanced safety measures, to provide meaningful learning opportunities for each of our students. Marshall Public Schools strives to be the best school for your child to learn.

The Continuity of Services Plan was developed in collaboration with district administration, Public Health Madison & Dane County, Department of Health Services and the Center for Disease Control. The plan is based on current research and public health guidance and may evolve. The plan outlines how the district 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

Marshall 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 and encourage the use of sanitizing stations throughout the building,
- practice physical distancing of 3 feet or more to the greatest extent possible,
- encourage frequent hand washing,
- require and/or recommend that face coverings be worn for all 4K-12 students and adults, regardless of vaccination status, while indoors including all indoor activities.

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)

Marshall Public Schools will offer in-person learning five days a week according to the Board adopted 2021-2022 District Calendar. The school district has also provided families the option to enroll their students in JEDI virtual learning. In the event of school closure due to the pandemic, each student has a school-issued Chromebook if a transition to virtual learning would be needed.

Regardless of the mode of instruction, Marshall 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.

Marshall Public Schools employs one school nurse who will continue to offer health services in-person or virtually. The school district also partners with Wisconsin Mental Health to provide mental health support for families.

Mitigation Measures

Universal and correct wearing of masks

[Protective Measure Policy](#)

The Marshall Public Schools Board of Education will review available health data twice monthly to determine when students, staff, and visitors will be required to wear masks and when mask-wearing will be optional. These decisions are based on COVID activity in individual classrooms or schools, the level of COVID transmission within the district's geographic boundaries, and in Dane County. Additional information is available on the district website.

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

Mitigation measures such as proper signage in multiple languages, the installation of floor decals and water bottle filling stations, and the promotion of social distancing have been implemented at each school building. Individual schools have adjusted lunch times and participant numbers to determine the cafeteria service that best suits the needs of their students. Cafeterias and/or classrooms may be used as settings for student meals.

Students will be assigned to cohorts if public health conditions warrant the use of hybrid or distance instructional models. Transportation will comply with CDC guidelines regarding capacity that are in effect during the 2021-22 school year.

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

[Hygiene Policy](#)

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 in all classrooms and throughout each school.

Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

[Facility Cleaning Policy](#)

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. High-touch surfaces are to be treated daily.

The District has installed Merv 8 air filters and have also increased outside air flow into each of our schools. 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

Marshall Public Schools continue contact tracing and transparent reporting to the public of COVID-19 cases and staff quarantines within the district via the district website. 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 second semester of the 2021-22 school year.

Marshall Public Schools will guide parents/students and employees 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.

Diagnostic and screening testing

[Family In-Person Learning Plan](#)

[Staff Guide to Opening Schools](#)

Marshall Public Schools recommends students and staff get tested for COVID by their medical provider or a local pharmacy. The district has hosted multiple vaccination clinics.

The district, through coordination with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, began testing for symptomatic individuals beginning February 2022. Parent permission was required as individuals were 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 the opportunity to be vaccinated. Students ages 16 and older were provided access to on-site vaccination clinics in the spring of 2021. Students ages 12 and older were provided access to on-site vaccination clinics in the summer of 2021. Staff and students ages 5 and older were provided access to on-site vaccination clinics during the 2021-2022 school year.

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. Marshall Public Schools continues to work with County Public Health to implement mitigating strategies for the safety of students and staff.

Continuity of Services

Overview

Marshall 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

Marshall Public Schools will provide for continuity of services as follows:

Student Academic Needs

Marshall Public Schools 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 2021, with limited exception. Additional instructional personnel has been added to staffing to implement further academic recovery efforts in core curriculum areas. These specialists 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

Additional counseling staff has been added to the Pupil Services 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 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 through summer 2022 as long as the USDA continues community eligibility under the new school meal application.

Staff Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs

The District has provided staff with opportunities for social and emotional supports through meetings with the counseling staff and nursing staff. 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

Marshall 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. 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

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

- The plan is posted at <http://www.marshallschools.org>
- The plan is available in multiple languages through the use of our web provider powered by Google Translate.
- The plan was sent to parents, students, and employees via Infinite Campus.
- The plan was shared at the Marshall Public Schools Board of Education meetings on March 2, 2022. An opportunity for public comment was available during the March 2, 2022, 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.

[Sample district survey for public comment](#)

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