

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



Chetek-Weyerhaeuser Area School District

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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 Chetek-Weyerhaeuser Area School District will begin the 2021-2022 school year with a five-day per week, face-to-face instructional model to adhere to the following health protocols. Accordingly, the District will:

- Encourage students and staff members to monitor for symptoms before entering the school building.
- Encourage staff members and students to stay home or go home if they are ill and contact their health care providers if they are experiencing symptoms.
- Provide sanitizing stations throughout the building.
- Monitor state and local guidelines for best approaches to mitigate health risks.
- Continue to work with Public Health to implement as many practical mitigation measures as possible.

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 Chetek-Weyerhaeuser Area School District offers 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 virtual learning. In the event of school closure due to the pandemic, the district purchased Chromebooks for all students to continue virtual learning.

Regardless of the mode of instruction, CWASD 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.

The Chetek-Weyerhaeuser Area School District employs one full-time school nurse and one nursing assistant who will continue to offer health services in-person or virtually. The school district employs a clinical mental health therapist and added a social worker to provide mental health support for families.

Mitigation Measures

Use of Face Coverings

Description of Policies or Practices

The Chetek-Weyerhaeuser Area School District recommends using face-coverings for staff and students in buildings.

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

Description of Policies or Practices

Mitigation measures such as proper signage, floor decals, and water bottle filling stations, and the promotion of social distancing at each facility are utilized. CWASD implemented extended and/or staggered meal service to support social distancing while ensuring adequate time for students to consume their meals. Individual schools will determine the cafeteria service that best suits the needs of their students. Cafeterias and/or classrooms may be used as settings for student meals.

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

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Description of Policies or Practices

CWASD emphasizes hand washing and respiratory etiquette for all students and staff, but with greater emphasis in the primary grade levels. CWASD posted signage throughout buildings as reminders of handwashing, spacing, and respiratory etiquette.

In addition, hand sanitizing stations/liquids are available throughout all buildings.

Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

Description of Policies or Practices

CWASD implemented enhanced sanitation procedures and continues at all schools with a focus on high-touch surfaces. The District uses cleaning solutions that are rated to kill the SARS virus. In addition to daily cleaning, CWASD treats specific areas with sanitizing or ionizing solutions on an

as-needed basis.

The District has improved the air exchange rate to twenty-five percent or greater on all air intake ventilation units in all buildings. Ventilation units operate and are monitored electronically through HVAC computer systems. CWASD purchased and placed high-grade air purification units in higher-risk areas such as vocal and instrumental music classes.

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

Description of Policies or Practices

COVID-19 is a Category 1 communicable illness per DHS, and DHS Chapter 145 requires CWASD to report a known case of COVID-19 to public health immediately. Per WI State Statute 252.21, CWASD will send students home if they are experiencing symptoms of a communicable illness.

The Chetek-Weyerhaeuser Area School District will continue to work with Public Health for contact tracing and transparent reporting to the public health department of COVID-19 cases and staff quarantines within the District. CWASD will provide transparent reporting to families of potential exposures to positive cases within their classrooms and activities. CWASD 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. CWASD hosts our procedures for contact tracing on the district website.

Diagnostic and screening testing

Description of Policies or Practices

CWASD recommends students and staff get tested for COVID by their medical provider, a local pharmacy, or a local testing site. COVID-19 testing is readily available through county health systems and multiple pharmacies. CWASD is not participating in a government-funded program for testing in schools at this time. CWASD asks families to keep their children home from school if they are ill and contact their healthcare provider if they are experiencing symptoms. In an outbreak or some other situation, CWASD may re-evaluate testing on-site (with parental consent).

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

Description of Policies or Practices

CWASD assisted all staff find vaccination locations during the 2020-2021 school year. CWASD provided vaccination information, including locations to school families for all eligible students.

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

Description of Policies or 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.

CWASD's Special Education Department will continue to provide educational services for students with disabilities by meeting their unique needs, to the greatest extent possible, in alignment with state and local officials and district guidelines. Special education staff will communicate with families and reconvene IEP teams, when necessary, to discuss the most appropriate placement and method of providing services. Students' access to education may need to be reconfigured to meet physical distancing guidelines while meeting individual needs. Further caseloads may need to be redesigned to provide access to individual learning to meet the IEP.

Coordination with state and local health officials

Description of Policies or Practices

CWASD will continue to collaborate and cooperate with Public Health to discuss, assess and problem-solve real-time issues related to COVID-19 and school operations. CWASD collaborates with Barron County Public Health through weekly meetings and open dialogue as needed.

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 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 support and recovery efforts in core curriculum areas. These staff will be available during the instructional day and/or during before and after-school tutoring programs throughout the next few years.

Student Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs

Additional counseling staff (social worker) 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 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 June 30, 2021 and beyond if appropriate.

Summer school meals will resume August 1 - 5, 8 - 10, & 15 - 19. CWASD assumes that the USDA will continue community eligibility provision under the new school meal application.

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. In addition, the District designed a district calendar specifically to include days off during critical times of the year to allow staff (and students) time to decompress for mental health purposes.

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

CWASD will periodically review and, as needed, revise the plan for the maintenance of in-person learning for all students. CWASD will review this plan 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 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

CWASD has taken the following steps to make its plan available to the public:

- The plan is posted at the link below.
- The plan is available in multiple languages upon request.
- CWASD's Back to School Plan was reviewed at the August 9, 2021 school board meeting.
- CWASD's Back to School Plan was sent to families and staff on August 24, 2021.
- CWASD's Back to School Plan was reviewed again at the August 31, 2021 school board meeting.
- This document reformats our August 2021 Back to School plan that was put in place prior to the ESSER III guidelines.
- CWASD held a public hearing on February 28, 2022, Board meeting.
- CWASD has a public comment and a suggested revision site in place for this plan.
- The superintendent provided all stakeholders with his personal contact information to allow input via email or phone.
- 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.

[CWASD 2021-2022 Safe Operations Plan](#)

[CWASD ESSER III Public Hearing Presentation](#)