

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 Beaver Dam Unified School District 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:

- 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.
- Provide updated COVID-19 data on our District website to include all current District positive cases.

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)

Example response: The Beaver Dam Unified School District will offer in-person learning five days a week according to the Board adopted 2021-2022 Academic Year Calendar. In the event of school closure due to the pandemic, the district is prepared for virtual learning. This includes electronic devices (chromebooks) and Canvas as a learning management system.

Regardless of the mode of instruction, the Beaver Dam Unified School District will continue to provide meals under the community provision as long as USDA continues the allowance. Meals will be provided at multiple sites during summer, as well as to eligible youth during the school year. If school is closed due to a pandemic, the district will assess its ability to distribute meals utilizing a process similar to the one used during the spring of 2020.

The Beaver Dam Unified School District employs three full-time school nurses and one full-time Licensed Practical Nurse who will continue to offer health services in-person and support families virtually or by phone. The school district also partners with Doll & Associates, Open Door Counseling and Church Health Services to provide mental health support for students.

Mitigation Measures

Universal and correct wearing of masks

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

The Beaver Dam Unified School District Board of Education highly recommends mask wearing. The Board of Education takes action based on COVID activity, availability of vaccines, and other such variables to determine if masks are mandated.

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 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 facility. Extended and/or staggered meal service will be implemented 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, if applicable

Handwashing and precautions to prevent the transmission of disease 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.

Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

Training for custodial staff has been ongoing on best practices for cleaning and sanitizing school facilities. Staff scheduling has been adjusted to have extra personnel work while the building is occupied. This has increased cleaning of high-touch points and high travel areas in the schools. The District uses cleaning solutions rated to kill the COVID virus. The District has started the process of adding ionization to air intake ventilation units in all buildings. We are scheduled to have all duct work cleaned this year in all elementary buildings. The District uses the reliable controls software program to monitor the HVAC system and monitor fresh air flow in all buildings.

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 Beaver Dam Unified School District will continue contact tracing and transparent reporting to the public of COVID-19 cases and staff quarantines within the District. 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 2021-22 school year.

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*Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable*

The Beaver Dam Unified School District recommends students and staff get tested for COVID by their medical provider, local testing site, or a local pharmacy. The District is advising current waiting protocols for various testing sites throughout the community when appropriate. The District has also established onsite testing for students and staff exhibiting symptoms. Parental permission is required for student testing at school.

Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible*Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable*

All eligible staff employed in 2020-2021 were provided the opportunity to be vaccinated. The District, in partnership with Marshfield Medical Center-Beaver Dam held a vaccination clinic for interested students and community members during meal pick up at Beaver Dam High School. Appointments were not necessary and walk-ins were welcome. The District has also continued to share out testing and vaccination opportunities for students and staff as appropriate.

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 Beaver Dam Unified 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

Example response: The District will provide for continuity of services as follows:

Student Academic Needs

The Beaver Dam Unified School District has offered a summer school program to assist students with continued academic progress and support. BDUSD, starting the fall of 2021, has resumed full-time in-person instruction. Limited exceptions to quarantines may be made. Additional instructional staff have been added to support our students and educators in addressing student needs. This includes instructional coaching to support Tier I instruction and in intervention to address universal skill gaps. In addition, BDUSD is refining the Response to Intervention process to make sure we are regularly evaluating student needs and providing as much support as possible across the grades.

Student Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs

An additional pupil services staff has been approved to help address the social, emotional and mental health of students. We also employ three full-time social workers, nine school counselors and three school psychologists that support students and families.

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 at multiple sites during summer, as well as for all eligible youth during the school year. Summer meals will be available to all children age 18 and under through mid-August, 2021. It is assumed that the USDA will continue community eligibility provision under the new school meal application.

Staff Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs

The District has provided staff with opportunities for staff wellness with incentives from our Wellness Committee and Central Office Newsletter communication. Our health insurance has also provided resources. We have applied for and received a grant for the Calm app which is currently being utilized by 100 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

The Beaver Dam Unified School District will review and revise this plan on a regular basis. The Board of Education receives an update at each business meeting and is able to take action. Public comment is a part of these business meetings. The plan is more formally reviewed at least quarterly. A Return to Learn Team is assembled to receive feedback. This includes staff, Board of Education member, and parents/guardians.

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 Beaver Dam Unified School District has taken the following steps to make its plan available to the public:

- The plan is posted at www.bdusd.org
- 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 district's Return to Learn Plan has been distributed to all families.
- The plan is visited at each monthly Board of Education Plan for updates and possible action. These meetings include public comment.
- The plan was created with the input of the Return to Learn Team. This included staff and parent/guardian team members.
- Upon request, a parent/guardian 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.