

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



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Wrightstown Community 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 Wrightstown Community School 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

The Wrightstown Community School District will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other school and District 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 Wisconsin Health Department, Brown and Outagamie County Health departments and consultation with local health care providers; 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.

The Wrightstown Community School District developed the Fall 2021 Back-to-School Plan and COVID Mitigation Strategies based on District data from the 2020-2021 school year. The plan establishes practices and procedures to be implemented in the 2021-2022 school year related to safety, personnel, finance, community engagement, learning and pupil services.

Description on maintaining the safety of staff and students

The Wrightstown Community 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:

- 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 or have anyone in their family test for COVID-19, or if they tested positive for COVID-19,
- follow quarantine and isolation protocols to limit the spread of COVID-19 for staff and students who have tested positive or who are household contacts to a positive case,
- limit visitors and activities for non-essential purposes,
- promote proper hand washing and respiratory etiquette,
- provide sanitizing stations throughout the building.

Description to continue to provide services regardless of the mode of instruction

The Wrightstown Community School District will offer in-person learning five days a week according to the Board adopted 2021-2022 Academic Year Calendar. The District will provide students in quarantine or isolation the option for virtual learning. In the event of school closure due to the pandemic, the district purchased Chromebooks for all students in the 2020-2021 school year to continue virtual learning.

Regardless of the mode of instruction, the Wrightstown Community School District 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 Wrightstown Community School District partners with Bellin Health to employ a part-time school nurse who will continue to offer health services in-person or virtually. The District also provides two full-time health assistants to provide school health services. With the support of the Wisconsin School-Based Mental Health Grant, and a partnership with Family Services and the Connections for Mental Wellness, the District continues to provide mental health support for students and families.

The Wrightstown Community School District will work with the WIAA and NEC Conference to establish guidelines for extracurricular events and participation. The District will implement mitigation strategies for other co-curricular activities based on specific needs.

Mitigation Measures

Universal and correct wearing of masks

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

The Wrightstown Community School Board of Education reviewed the Fall 2021 Back-to-School & COVID Mitigation Strategies Plan in July 2021. Masks/face coverings will continue to be recommended, but not required, for all students and staff for the 2021-2022 school year. The plan is reviewed weekly by the administrative team and monthly or bi-monthly by the Board of Education examining local data, county health department updates, and local health care provider updates to determine when masking mitigation strategies for students, staff, and visitors need to be modified. These modifications are based on COVID activity in individual classrooms or schools, the level of COVID transmission within the district's geographic boundaries, and in Brown and Outagamie Counties.

Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

Mitigation measures such as water bottle filling stations and the promotion of physical distancing will be practiced in school building spaces where possible to ensure safety and health of our students and staff. Classrooms will be oriented to maximize physical distancing wherever possible and minimizing large group or whole school activities will be part of the physical distancing mitigation strategies.

Extended and/or staggered meal service may be continued to support physical 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.

The District contracted bus company will comply with the CDC order mandating masks to be worn on all public transportation for the 2021-2022 school year. This will be required for daily routes, field trips, and school co-curricular activities. The District will supply extra masks for the bus company to support compliance with wearing masks.

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

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, offices, and common spaces throughout the District.

Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

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. In addition to daily cleaning, all rooms and surfaces are treated with an electro-static sprayer and disinfectant on a weekly basis.

The District is working with HVAC contractors to explore improved and enhanced ventilation systems and settings in the schools. Enhanced HVAC units and increased ventilation will improve air circulation and address air quality in the District buildings.

Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

The Wrightstown Community 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 which was reported to families regularly throughout the 2020-21 school year and will continue to do so for the 2021-22 school year. The most recent family update is located on the District website at www.wrightstown.k12.wi.us.

A shared COVID-19 Tracking System (Google Doc) is used to maintain real-time information on students and staff within the District who have tested positive for COVID-19 or who may be household contacts of individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19. Because of the strain on the County Health systems in Brown and Outagamie Counties, contact tracing will continue to be performed by District staff when a student or staff member has been identified as being COVID positive. Contact tracing will be completed for household members of students and staff of a positive case. Household contacts are notified and protocols for return to school are shared with the staff and families. Staff and families of students in a classroom where a positive case occurred will be notified and encouraged to monitor for symptoms.

The Wrightstown Community School District will guide parents/students, employees, and contractors on screening protocols for the daily pre-screening process, which all parties should complete before entering the school buildings. 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.

Unvaccinated staff or students with a household member who has tested positive for COVID-19 will be required to quarantine for 10 days but the quarantine may be reduced to 7 days with a negative COVID-19 test on Day 5 or later.

Diagnostic and screening testing

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

The Wrightstown Community School District recommends students and staff get tested for COVID-19 by their medical provider or a local pharmacy.

Employees and students who have tested positive for COVID-19 are to remain home until at least 10 days have passed since the onset of symptoms or a confirmed positive test; AND be fever-free without the use of medication for 24 hours; AND other symptoms have improved. Positive test results are to be reported to the Building Principal or District Administrator.

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

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

The Wrightstown Community School District strongly encourages all eligible staff and students to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. All eligible staff employed in 2020-2021 were provided the opportunity to be vaccinated. The District worked with Health Direct Pharmacy to provide COVID-19 vaccination clinics on-site for school employees. New staff will be given access to vaccinations by working with local healthcare partners and local pharmacies, as well as staff looking to receive the approved COVID-19 booster shots.

Information regarding student vaccination clinics was provided to families in newsletters and on the website. The Wrightstown Community School District will not, however, require students, staff, or visitors to be vaccinated.

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. The teams will work in collaboration with parents to make determinations based on individual needs and environmental considerations within each student's least restrictive educational environment.

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 Wrightstown Community School District continues to work with County Public Health to implement mitigating strategies for the safety of students and staff.

The District is proactively engaged with area school district leaders, county health departments, and medical advisors to implement mitigation strategies for the health and safety of staff, students and families. A regional partnership was established during the summer of 2020 with health department officials from Calumet, Outagamie, and Winnebago counties, City of Appleton, City of Menasha, and healthcare professionals from ThedaCare and Ascension and area school districts (Appleton, Brillion, Chilton, Freedom, Hortonville, Kaukauna, Kimberly, Little Chute, Menasha, Neenah, New Holstein, New London, Omro, Oshkosh, Seymour, Stockbridge, Winneconne, and Wrightstown). This group met weekly during the 2020-2021 school year and continues to meet bi-weekly during the 2021-2022 school year. Additionally, the Brown County District Administrators (Ashwaubenon, Denmark,

DePere, Green Bay, Howard Suamico, Pulaski, Seymour, West DePere, and Wrightstown) met weekly or bi-weekly during the 2020-2021 school year and continue to meet monthly during the 2021-2022 school year. Guidance from the Brown County Health Department and DePere Health Department is used when discussing mitigation strategies in the county.

Continuity of Services

Overview

The Wrightstown Community School District 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 Wrightstown Community School District provided full-time, in-person instruction for the entire 2020-2021 school year. The District plans to continue full-time, in-person instruction beginning the Fall of 2021 as well.

Response to Intervention services continue to be provided by reading and math interventionists at all three buildings. Support is provided to students struggling with reading and math to maximize their learning opportunities with the curriculum and improve student achievement.

Additional support has been provided for our students with English Language learning needs to allow them to be successful in the regular classroom.

To continue to evaluate, review, and improve reading and language curriculum and instruction strategies, the District has contracted for ELA Instructional Coaches for grades K-8. The coaches provide professional development in research-based ELA strategies, support unit planning and articulation of clear learning targets, and present feedback and reflection opportunities for grade level teachers based on classroom observations.

District and building level curriculum teams continue reviewing, revising, and updating core curriculum areas through monthly meetings and discussions. The District Curriculum Council meets quarterly to assure consistency between buildings in the core content areas.

Student Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs

The Wrightstown Community School District provides a significant amount of support to students in the area of social emotional learning and mental health needs.

The District purchased and implemented the '*Second Step*' SEL curriculum for use in grades 6-8 and

the *'Stanford Harmony'* SEL curriculum for grades K-5. *Sources of Strength* has been implemented at Wrightstown Middle and High Schools.

The District has partnered with Family Services and Samaritan Counseling to provide wellness and mental health screenings, along with additional counseling services for students. The District has added B.E.S.T. screening in grades K-8 for early identification of students who are struggling with social, emotional, and mental health needs.

Students also participate in a *'Respect Retreat'* as freshman, a *'Wisdom Retreat'* as seniors, and PBIS, DARE, and Restorative Circles during the school day.

Additional program support staff has been added to address our students' social, emotional, and behavioral 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 July 2, 2022.

Staff Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs

The District has provided staff with opportunities for social and emotional support through the Employee Assistance Program provided through the District insurance program. Compassion Resilience training was also offered to District staff in support of their social emotional needs. Various staff appreciation days and activities are provided regularly to recognize staff and the challenges in education at this time.

Other Staff Needs

The District will follow national, state, and local governing agencies' laws and directives concerning staff employment and benefits.

Periodic Review

Overview

The Wrightstown Community School District will 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 Wrightstown Community School District 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.

The Fall 2020 Back-to-School & COVID Mitigation Strategies Plan and the Fall 2021 Back-to-School & COVID Mitigation Strategies Plan were originally received and reviewed by the Board of Education in July 2020 and July 2021 respectively. The plans have been discussed, reviewed, updated, and revised monthly or bi-monthly since their initial draft and presentation. An opportunity for public comment after the Board discussion is available at every meeting. The respective plans were communicated to parents and are available on the school district website.

Public Input

Overview

The Wrightstown Community School District has made their Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan available to the public online. The plan is in a format that is understandable and uniform and easily orally translated. Upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability, the plan will be provided in an alternative format accessible to that parent. Before making its plan publicly available, the Wrightstown Community School District will seek public comment on the plan and review and revise the plan after taking into account public comment.

District response on public input in the development of its plan

The Wrightstown Community School District has taken the following steps to make its plan available to the public:

- The plan is posted at <http://www.wrightstown.k12.wi.us>
- 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 our messaging systems.
- The plan was shared at the Wrightstown Community School District Board of Education meetings on July 15, 2020 and July 21, 2021. It has been discussed, modified, and updated

monthly or bi-monthly at the school board meetings since the initial presentation. An opportunity for public comment is provided at every meeting where the plan is addressed.

- 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.

Share Your Feedback

Gathering feedback is an important part of any planning process. Please share any questions, comments, or concerns you may have about the ***'Safe Return to In-Person & Continuity of Services Plan'***:

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