

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



# North Lakeland 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

### Description on maintaining the safety of staff and students

The North Lakeland School District 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,
- provide sanitizing stations throughout the building.

### 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 North Lakeland School District will offer in-person learning five days a week according to the Board adopted 2022-2023 Academic Year Calendar. The North Lakeland School District employs a .6 FTE school nurse who will continue to offer health services in-person or virtually. The school district also partners with county and local resources/providers to offer mental health support for families.

## Mitigation Measures

### Masking

Masking will be optional at North Lakeland School District. Decisions to change mask wearing may be made with the local health department's support and guidance

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

Mitigation measures such as water bottle filling stations, and the promotion of social distancing have been implemented at North Lakeland.

### Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette is taught to students with high emphasis in the primary grade levels.

In addition, hand sanitization stations/liquids are available in all classrooms.

### Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

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 a nano-technology barrier solution on an as-needed basis. This solution is rated to last 30 days on surfaces, and the District elects to retreat surfaces at the rated half-life of the product.

The District has purchased air-cleaning units for the rooms that students are actively present in.

### **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*

All contract tracing will be done by the Vilas County Health Department.

### **Diagnostic and screening testing**

#### *Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable*

The North Lakeland School District recommends students and staff get tested for COVID by their medical provider or a local pharmacy. The turnaround time for results at the clinic and Walgreens has been reduced to within 48 hours.

### **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. New staff will be given access to vaccinations by working with local healthcare partners and County Public Health.

### **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 North Lakeland School District continues to work with Vilas 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

**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 exceptions. 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.

#### **Student Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs**

Additional counseling staff has been added to the mental health staff to address our students' social and emotional learning needs.

#### **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 North Lakeland 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 may 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

The North Lakeland School District has taken the following steps to make its plan available to the public:

- The plan is posted at <http://www.northlakelandschool.com>
- 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 plan was shared at the North Lakeland School District Board of Education meetings on February 21, 2022. An opportunity for public comment was available during the February 21, 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.