

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

School District of Pittsville

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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 Pittsville 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

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 Pittsville 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 positive for COVID-19,
- limit visitors and activities for non-essential purposes,
- 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 Pittsville School District will offer 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 through our partnership with RVA and access to ACCELUS Academy. In the event of school closure due to the pandemic, the district purchased Chromebooks and portable hotspots for all students to continue virtual learning.

Regardless of the mode of instruction, Pittsville 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 Pittsville School District employs one part-time school nurse who will continue to offer health services in-person or virtually, one part-time Health Aid, and secured a 25 hour a week Medical Assistant to assist with COVID-19 testing and record keeping. The school district is a recipient of the Mental Health Grant and has increased our Guidance and counseling services and reduced the counselor to student ratio. We work closely with the Wood County Health Department to provide information for our school community and vaccination opportunities. We also have an MOU which allows for outside counseling and therapy services to be done on our site.

Mitigation Measures

Universal and correct wearing of masks

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

The Pittsville School Board adopted thresholds to determine when students, staff, and visitors will be required to wear masks and when mask-wearing will be optional. These thresholds are based on COVID activity in individual school's. Details about these thresholds can be found on the district website and are summarized below:

1. 5% or higher COVID-19 positive students in the HS
2. 2% or higher COVID-19 positive students in the ES/MS
3. Masking for students is required for 7 days after the percent positive is reached, if the percent positive remains above the determined percent, masks remain required until the number of student positive cases is below the established thresholds.
4. All staff required to mask. Masking becomes optional if no staff or household members of staff are positive or presumed positive.

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, the installation of touchless fixtures 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.

Students cohort as possible in the lower grades, middle and high school students have no direct

contact during the day.

When student health conditions warrant the use of hybrid or distance instructional models, synchronous access to classes and staff is available and all course content is made available on Google Classroom. 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 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.

Touchless fixtures have been installed in all bathroom and wash areas in 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 a nano-technology barrier solution on a twice a week 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.

We installed a Bipolar Ionization system in the new addition and are in the process of adding it to all of our buildings to help neutralize bacteria and viruses suspended in the air. We have three portable units being used now in our choir and music rooms due to the high volume of aerosol emitted while singing and playing wind instruments.

We have provided ionizer foggers for the bus company and they are used every day in our buses.

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

Pittsville School District will continue contact tracing and transparent reporting to the public of COVID-19 cases and staff quarantines within the District through our dashboard found on the district web site at pittsville.k12.wi.us. We also maintain several lists with required dates to manage positive and quarantine staff and students.

Pittsville is working closely with Wood County Health Department and area school district leadership to provide some consistency in messaging. 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

Pittsville School District started a Test to Stay antigen testing program in October and is aligned with NOAH Labs for PCR testing. We are CLIA certified through our Medical Assistant secured for the testing program. Rapid testing gives results in 15 minutes and our turnaround on PCR tests has been less than 36 hours. The District has been able to keep kids in school over 1,000 days using the program where in the past the students would have been off site in quarantine. We offer drive up PCR testing for symptomatic students and staff.

TTS is optional and requires parent permission.

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. Students ages 12 and older were provided access to an on-site vaccination clinic in the fall of 2021. County Public Health has held 2 vaccination clinics for eligible people on our school site and provided boosters for staff.

Vaccination has been voluntary and we are just over 50% vaccinated as a staff.

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. As stated several times earlier in this document, Pittsville 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

The District will provide for continuity of services as follows:

Student Academic Needs

The Pittsville School District has implemented a summer school program to assist all K-12 students with academic recovery. This includes a summer school jump start program for math and reading specific to students which meets in small groups with direct instruction at the beginning of August for 2-3 weeks. 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. We have an instructional coach position we have not been able to fill with a qualified person for the secondary level, but will continue to search for the right fit for our school.

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. Our counselor to student ratio was decreased from 1:300 to 1:200 students and we increased our access to outside counseling services which are provided on site during the school day for students with identified emotional needs. We are in the third year of the Mental Health Grant and are spending in excess of \$75,000 a year to address the many emerging and existing mental health 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.

Summer school meals will resume August 10-12, 17-19, and 24-26. It is assumed that the USDA will continue community eligibility provision under the new school meal application.

Staff Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs

We offer our employees access to the Employee Assistance Program to address social, emotional,

and mental health issues. The District is encouraging more appropriate social contact between staff to rebuild peer support structures which were in place pre-COVID-19. The staff's social, emotional, and mental health needs may also be addressed through free membership in our fitness facility and a \$200 payment toward membership in a fitness center through our health insurance carrier.

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 Pittsville 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. Our Board of Education has requested a standing Agenda item to discuss, and if necessary, take action on COVID-19 related topics at each regular monthly meeting. This includes public comment for each posted item which is heard prior to any Board discussion. 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

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

- The plan is posted at pittsville.k12.wi.us
- Detailed information about the plan and or any changes has been and will continue to be sent to parents, students, and employees via our messaging systems.
- The plan was shared at the Pittsville School District Board of Education meetings every month since July, 2020 and all changes, revisions, additions, and deletions are entered into record and communicated. An opportunity for public comment was available at every regular meeting prior to any Board discussion related to COVID-19.
- 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.