

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

Description on maintaining the safety of staff and students

The Edgar School District will begin the 2023-24 school year with a five-day per week, face-to-face instructional model and adhere to pre-covid health protocols due to the new CDC and DPI Guidelines.

The CDC has updated COVID guidance and the mitigation strategy states you should stay home when you are sick. Anyone that tests positive for COVID should follow CDC guidance on when to return to school.

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 Edgar School District will offer in-person learning five days a week according to the Board adopted 2023-24 Academic Year Calendar.

In the event of school closure due to the pandemic, the district would revert to virtual learning. The district has already made an investment in technology so that students and staff members would be able to participate in the virtual learning. Students in grades K-2 are one-to-one with I-pads, grades 3-12 are one-to-one with Chromebooks. All staff members have been equipped with a laptop that could be taken home to use to teach. The district also would provide hot spots to families that are unable to have internet in their home.

Food services will revert back to regular pay meals for 2023-24. Meals will be provided for summer school attendees as well.

The Edgar School District employs .33 FTE school nurse and a full-time health aide who will continue to offer health services in-person. The school district also partners with True North Counseling to provide mental health support for students/families.

Mitigation Measures

Universal and correct wearing of masks

During the 2023-24 school year, all mitigation measures will be eliminated. Masks will not be required.

Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing

During the 2023-24 school year, all mitigation measures will be eliminated. Physical distancing will not be required.

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

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

Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

During the 2023-24 school year, all mitigation measures will be eliminated. Cleaning and maintaining the facilities will convert back to pre-covid guidelines.

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

During the 2023-24 school year, all mitigation measures will be eliminated. Contact tracing will not be required.

Diagnostic and screening testing

During the 2023-24 school year, all mitigation measures will be eliminated. Diagnostic and screening testing will not be required.

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

Coordination with state and local health officials

The Edgar School District will work with Marathon County Public Health on an as needed basis.

Continuity of Services

District response on continuity of services

The Edgar School District will provide for continuity of services as follows:

Student Academic Needs

The Edgar School District has implemented a summer school program to assist all K-12 students with academic recovery. The District will continue full-time, in-person instruction beginning the fall of 2023.

Student Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs

School counseling staff have continued to address our students' social and emotional learning needs. The Edgar School District has also partnered with True North Counseling for additional counseling resources. True North is an outside counseling agency that comes to Edgar School District twice a week to help address the mental health needs of our students.

Other Student Needs (which may include student health and food services)

Food services will revert back to regular pay meals. Meals will be provided for summer school attendees as well.

Staff Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs

The District has provided staff with opportunities for social and emotional supports through professional development opportunities during our inservice days. 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

District response on ensuring periodic updates to its plan

The Edgar 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 input during the review process. Plan revisions will address updated CDC and County Public Health guidance if any are issued.

Public Input

Overview

District response on public input in the development of its plan

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

- The plan is posted at <https://www.edgar.k12.wi.us/district/covid-19.cfm>
- The plan is available in multiple languages as requested.
- The plan was shared at the Edgar School District Board of Education meetings on August 18, 2021. An updated plan was presented and approved by the School Board at the January 17, 2022 Board Meeting. Another updated plan was presented and approved by the School Board at the September 14, 2022 and February 15, 2023 Board Meetings. This current (updated) plan was presented and approved by the School Board at a Board meeting in August 24, 2023.
- 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.

Board Approved: 8/24/2023