



Amherst Exempted Village School District Safe Return & Continuity of Services Plan

District Name:	Amherst Exempted Village School District
District Address:	550 Milan Avenue, Amherst Ohio 44001
District Contact:	Michael Molnar, Assistant Superintendent
District IRN:	045195

The recently passed American Rescue Plan (ARP) provides substantial federal resources to support states and local school districts. Recent federal guidance clarifies expectations for states and districts, including the development of a state plan that must be approved by the U.S. Department of Education before the remaining one-third of the federal funds can be allocated. That state plan is under development and will be posted for public feedback in late May before submission to the U.S. Department of Education prior to the June 7 deadline.

The federal template also includes a requirement that districts and community schools receiving American Rescue Plan funds must publish local "Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plans" by June 24, 2021. Each district and community school should post the plan on its local website and then submit the website address that links directly to the plan to continuityplan@education.ohio.gov by June 24.

Districts and community schools were notified of the requirement for establishing a Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan in a Comprehensive Continuous Improvement Plan (CCIP) note on May 7. The LEA ARP Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) Application and CCIP Note 472 provide steps and instructions for addressing plan requirements.

Required elements of local plans. The federal requirements go on to identify the elements of the most up-to-date Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance that must be addressed in the plan:

1. Each LEA plan includes, or will be modified to include, the extent to which it has adopted policies and a description of any such policies on each of the following mitigation strategies:
 - a. Universal and correct wearing of masks;
 - b. Physical distancing (e.g., including use of cohorts/podding);
 - c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;
 - d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;
 - e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the state, local, territorial or tribal health departments;
 - f. Diagnostic and screening testing;
 - g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff and students, if eligible; and
 - h. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies.
2. Each LEA plan describes how it will ensure continuity of services including but not limited to services to address the students' academic needs, and students' and staff social, emotional, mental health and other needs, which may include student health and food services.
3. The LEA periodically reviews, no less frequently than every six months for the duration of the ARP ESSER grant period (i.e., through September 30, 2023), and revises its plan as appropriate.
4. The LEA seeks public input and takes such input into account on (1) whether revisions are necessary and, if so, (2) the revisions to the plan.

Deadline: June 24, 2021

Directions: Post the plan to the school or district website and then email that link (URL) to:
continuityplan@education.ohio.gov

Resources:

[ODE American Rescue Plan: Safe Return to In-person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plans](#)
[CDC Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools through Phased Prevention](#)



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Introduction

The Amherst Exempted Village School District provided two educational settings for the 2020-2021 school year: an in-person onCampus program and an online eCampus program. The district's Comprehensive Restart Plan allowed students and staff to safely participate in the onCampus program in all district buildings for the entire 2020-2021 school year. The district's Comprehensive Restart Plan was developed and guided by the Restart Education-Planning Guide for Ohio Schools and Districts issued by the Ohio Department of Education; the COVID-19 Health and Prevention Guidance for Ohio K-12 Schools issued by the Ohio Department of Health; the Reopening Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and the COVID-19 Planning Considerations: Guidance for School Reentry from American Academy of Pediatrics. The district worked closely with Lorain County Public Health (LCPH) and in conjunction with their recommendations set forth in the Lorain County Schools Re-Opening Guide. The following Amherst Safe Return and Continuity of Services Plan is a continuation of the successful implementation of our onCampus program for all students and staff for the 2021-2022 school year and beyond.

Policies for Mitigation Strategies

Face Coverings

During the 2020-2021 school year, the district required all students and staff to wear a face covering on school grounds and school transportation when social distancing was not possible. The district provided disposable face coverings for students and staff when needed. Beginning with the 2021-2022 school year, the district will support the personal face covering decisions of each individual on school grounds.

Physical Distancing

During the 2020-2021 school year, the district encouraged, promoted, and enforced social distancing throughout school grounds. Beginning with the 2021-2022 school year, the district will support the personal physical distancing decisions of each individual on school grounds.



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Physical Responsibility

During the 2020-2021 school year, the district required students and staff to wash or sanitize their hands throughout the day, especially before and after eating, recess, changing classrooms, and using the bathroom. Beginning with the 2021-2022 school year, the district will encourage and promote the washing and sanitizing of hands before and after eating, recess, changing classrooms, and using the bathroom.

Cleaning and Sanitizing

During the 2020-2021 school year, the district provided cleaning and sanitizing supplies to all buildings and all staff for daily cleaning and sanitizing. The custodial staff performed daily cleaning which included sanitizing all high-touch surfaces like desks, chairs, doors, etc. Beginning with the 2021-2022 school year, the district will continue to provide cleaning and sanitizing supplies to all buildings and all staff for daily cleaning and sanitizing. The custodial staff will continue to perform daily cleaning which will include sanitizing all high-touch surfaces like desks, chairs, doors, etc.

Contact Tracing

During the 2020-2021 school year, the district followed the Lorain County Public Health contact tracing guidelines and procedures. Beginning with the 2021-2022 school year, the district will continue to follow the Lorain County Public Health contact tracing guidelines and procedures, if applicable.

Screening

During the 2020-2021 school year, the district required students and staff to check symptoms daily before arriving on school grounds. Beginning with the 2021-2022 school year, the district will encourage and promote all individuals to check symptoms daily before arriving on school grounds.

Vaccinations

The Amherst Exempted Village School District participated in the Lorain County Schools vaccination clinics for staff members on February 26, 2021 and March 26, 2021. Staff and student vaccinations are personal health decisions that will be made by each individual staff member, student, parent(s), and/or guardian(s).



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Continuity of Services

Academics

The Amherst Exempted Village School District will continue to utilize our diagnostic assessments in grades K-8 (NWEA MAP Growth), our gifted screening assessments in grades 2, 3, and 5 (MAP and CogAT), our Ohio End-Of-Course assessments in grades 9-12, and our Ohio State Testing in grades 3-8 to assess the instructional level and growth of our students to determine the student learning gaps in each grade level, content area, and subgroup of students. The district is providing a Summer Experience program in August 2021 to all K-12 students to address any instruction lost due to the pandemic of 2020-2021. The district is adding two new Literacy Instructional Coaches and one new Math Instructional Coach to support teachers and provide professional development to enhance instruction practices and learning in the classroom for all students. The district is also adding a College and Career School Counselor to Marion L. Steele High School to assist students and families in preparing for life after high school.

Wellness (Social, Emotional, and Mental Health)

The district is adding a full-time School Counselor to Powers Elementary School and a part-time district Social Worker to support the social, emotional, and mental health needs of all students and staff. The district's school counselors and social workers will continue to coordinate services with the district's Director of Student Services and outside agencies.

Nutrition

During the 2020-2021 school year, the district provided no cost breakfast and lunch to all students. Beginning with the 2021-2022 school year, the district will continue to provide no cost breakfast and lunch to all students as allowed by law.



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Periodic Review

The Amherst Safe Return and Continuity of Services Plan will be reviewed every six months (December and June) through September 30, 2023 (for the duration of the ARP ESSER grant period). The plan will be reviewed by the district's administrative team and will be shared at the December and June Board of Education Meetings. If the plan is revised at any time, the public will be notified of the revisions and the rationale for each revision.

Public Input

The Amherst Safe Return and Continuity of Services Plan is posted on the district website and is open to comments and input from the public. The Amherst Safe Return and Continuity of Services Plan will be reviewed and revised every six months in response to public input and any change in public law, policy, guidance, etc. The public is encouraged to contact Assistant Superintendent, Michael Molnar, with any input or feedback regarding the Amherst Safe Return and Continuity of Services Plan. If the plan is revised at any time, the public will be notified of the revisions and the rationale for each revision.