



**DRAFT**



CONNECTICUT STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

## WILTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS SAFE RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION AND CONTINUITY OF SERVICES PLAN\*

*\*Based on the CSDE template*

**CSDE ARP ESSER**

### Connecticut State Department of Education Introduction

Our Connecticut school communities — with students at the center — continue to be bold and innovative as they respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The United States Department of Education (USED) has recognized the importance of supporting these efforts, particularly with the infusion of resources to support education in Connecticut. The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ARP ESSER) has granted the State of Connecticut an additional \$1,105,919,874, providing the opportunity to develop bold, high-impact plans to address the substantial disruptions to student learning, interpersonal interactions, and social-emotional well-being. While earlier sources of federal relief funding during the pandemic supported our ability to first survive, and then thrive, ARP ESSER is Connecticut's opportunity to transform our schools.

The federal government requires that each Local Education Agency (LEA) create a Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan (the Plan). This plan must be publicly available online by June 23, 2021 and submitted to the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) as a part of the ARP ESSER application due mid-August 2021. To aid in the planning process, CSDE is providing this template to guide LEAs planning as well as serve as an opportunity to share the Plan with the public.

Due to the expansive efforts of the CSDE and the educational community, as of the week of May 3–7, no district in the state of Connecticut was fully remote. This was achieved through extensive planning by each LEA; therefore, this template should be seen as a means to support LEAs' efforts to date and can be used to expand upon or revisit previous Reopening School Plans.

There are five areas that LEAs must consider when developing the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan:

- I. Health and Safety Strategies
- II. Continuity of Services
- III. Public Comment
- IV. Periodic Review Process
- V. Understandable and Uniform Format

The CSDE has maintained consistently that in-person learning is the preferred opportunity for students and that schools should work to safely open their buildings for the 2020–21 school year. We are proud to have led the nation in safe return to in-person instruction — as of April 30 nearly 82.7% of Connecticut school districts were offering a predominately fully in-person learning. Thank you for your work and helping us continue to be an example of how we can best serve our children safely in school buildings.

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## I. Health and Safety Strategies

Describe how the LEA plan includes (or will be modified to include) the extent to which the LEA has adopted policies and a description of any such policies on each of the strategies listed in the table on page 2:

1. Wilton Public Schools will return for full-time, in-person instruction, PK-12 at the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year, so long as public health data and SDE support this model.
2. Beginning March 2020, Wilton Public Schools invested significantly in technology to enable the district to transition between full, in-person, hybrid, and full-remote instruction. The technology will remain in place for the 2021-2022 school year and the district will be “remote ready” should we need to shift from a full in-person learning model.
3. The following Wilton Board of Education Policies remain in force and guide district operations.
  - 1250 C19 Visitors and Observers in Schools
  - 3524.2 C19 Green Cleaning
  - 5113 C19 Regularity of Attendance
  - 5114 C19 Visitors and Observers in School

Please complete the table below with the LEA's mitigation strategy for each category. In developing the LEA's response, please review and consider the [CDC guidance](#) and the [Connecticut DPH and CSDE guidance](#) for each category.

	Mitigation strategy	LEA response
WILTONPUBLIC SCHOOLS	<p><b>Universal and correct wearing of masks</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pending CDC , CT DPH and CSDE guidance students and staff will be required to wear a face covering over their mouths and nose with the following exceptions:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ those who have difficulty breathing</li> <li>○ those who are unconscious or incapacitated</li> <li>○ those who are physically unable to don or doff the face covering</li> <li>○ those who have a medical reason for not wearing a face covering</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Pending CDC guidance students and staff will not be required to wear a face covering over their mouths and nose while outdoors.</li> <li>• People entering any building site will be required to wear a mask and will be allowed to use their own personal masks; however, masks will be available at the main entrance and in the nurse's office of every school site. Those who do not have their own masks or who need a new mask during the course of the school or workday will be provided with one by the school district.</li> </ul>
WILTONPUBLIC SCHOOLS	<p><b>Physical distancing(e.g., including use of cohorts/podding)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To the extent practicable, Wilton Public Schools will engage in physical distancing.</li> </ul>
WILTONPUBLIC SCHOOLS	<p><b>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All students and staff will be trained be on best practices to prevent the spread of disease, including:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Handwashing and the use of hand sanitizer, proper hygiene including cough and respiratory protocols.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Signs reinforcing hand sanitizing, handwashing will remain posted throughout school buildings and classrooms.</li> <li>• Hand sanitizing stations will remain in the entrances to all the schools, in all classrooms and throughout corridors.</li> </ul>
WILTONPUBLIC SCHOOLS	<p><b>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wilton Public Schools will retain its cleaning and disinfecting routine in accordance with CT DPH guidelines.</li> <li>• School buildings will continue to be ventilated in accordance with CT DPH guidance</li> </ul>

	Mitigation strategy	LEA response
WILTONPUBLIC SCHOOLS	<p><b>Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Wilton Public Schools has established a robust system for contact tracing and quarantining in accordance with CT DPH guidelines.</li> </ul>
WILTONPUBLIC SCHOOLS	<p><b>Diagnostic screening and testing</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The district has established a COVID-19 surveillance testing program. Participation is voluntary.</li> <li>• Testing will continue beginning August 2021.</li> </ul>
WILTONPUBLIC SCHOOLS	<p><b>Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The majority of our staff have been vaccinated.</li> <li>• The district will continue to include vaccination information in district communications.</li> </ul>
WILTONPUBLIC SCHOOLS	<p><b>Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Per established policies, appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety procedures.</li> </ul>

LEA must implement, to the greatest extent practicable, each element of the most up-to-date guidance listed in the table.

## II. Continuity of Services

Describe how the LEA plan 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:

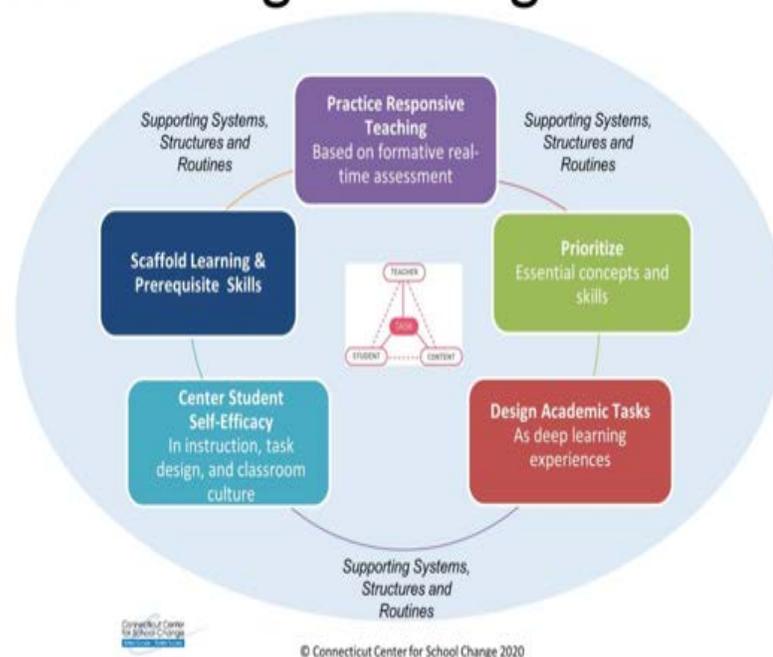
### District Priorities:

- Support intervention and unfinished learning initiatives
- Support social emotional and mental health of students

### District Activities:

- Summer 2021
  1. Extend Academic Intervention Services for students in grades K-11
    - a) Target group: students currently receiving intervention services in reading and mathematics
      - Two sessions: June 21-July 1; July 12-July 22
  2. WHS Summer Enrichment program
    - a) High interest, high engagement, multidisciplinary project targeting standards in mathematics, science, social studies and language arts.
  3. Professional Learning Launched for Accelerating Learning Framework

# Accelerating Learning Framework



- School Year 2021-2022
  4. Additional instructional staff to maintain small class sizes in grades K-5
  5. Supplemental support services before and after school
  6. Supplemental support services during school day - 9 part-time interventionists
  7. SAT preparation program for Class of 2023
  8. Additional mental health services

### **III. Public Comment**

Public comment is a key element of stakeholder engagement, and at times a stand-alone element which may include dedicating time to open forums at board of education meetings, conducting surveys, or soliciting written input from external residents not involved in the decision-making process. Describe how the LEA plans to provide the public the opportunity to provide input and for public comment in the development of the plan, a summary of the input (including any letters of support), and how the LEA took such input into account:

- Wilton Public Schools will take public comment on plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services at the June 17, 2021 Board of Education meeting.
- The plan will be posted on the Wilton Public Schools website. The public will have the opportunity to submit a comment via email using [input@wiltonps.org](mailto:input@wiltonps.org).

## IV. Periodic Review Process

LEAs are required to periodically 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. Each review must include seeking public comment on the plan and developing the plan after taking into account the public comment.

Below are the dates that LEAs must submit a refreshed or updated plan to CSDE via eGMS.

### Review/revisit Dates:

- June 23, 2021
  - December 23, 2021
  - June 23, 2022
  - December 23, 2022
  - June 23, 2021
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- The plan will be reviewed as necessary at Board of Education meetings.
  - A portion at the beginning of each meeting is dedicated to Public Comment.

## V. Understandable and Uniform Format

Federal regulations require that this plan be in an understandable and uniform format, to the extent practicable; is 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. Describe the unique needs of the LEA's audience and confirm the LEA's approach to ensuring the document is accessible:

- The plan will be posted on our website and can be translated automatically to any needed language.