



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

Pursuant to the Federal American Rescue Plan Act, Section 2001(i)

District Name:	Highland Local School District
District Address:	3880 Ridge Road, Medina, Ohio 44256
District Contact:	Laurie Boedicker, Director of Curriculum
District IRN:	048496

Introduction and Background

In March 2021, President Biden signed the Federal [American Rescue Plan \(ARP\) Act](#), Public Law 117-2, into law. The ARP Act provides an additional \$122 billion in Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) to states and school districts to help safely reopen, sustain the safe operation of schools, and address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the nation's students. As with the previous ESSER funds available under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, and the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA), the purpose of the additional funding is to support local educational agencies (LEAs) in preparing for and responding to the impacts of COVID-19 on educators, students, and families.

Section 2001(i)(1) of the ARP Act requires each LEA that receives ARP ESSER funds to develop and make publicly available on the LEA's website, no later than 30 days after receiving ARP ESSER funds, a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services for all schools (Safe Return Plan). A Safe Return Plan is required of all fund recipients, including those that have already returned to in-person instruction. Section 2001(i)(2) of the ARP Act further requires that the LEA seek public comment on the Safe Return Plan and take those comments into account in the finalization of the Safe Return Plan. Under the interim final requirements published in [Volume 86, No. 76 of the Federal Register](#) by the U.S. Department of Education (USDE), an LEA must periodically, but no less frequently than every six months through September 30, 2023, review and, as appropriate, revise its Safe Return Plan.

Plan for the 2021-2022 School Year

The Highland Local School District will offer in-person learning, five days per week according to the Board adopted 2021-2022 Academic Year Calendar.



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Maintaining Health and Safety

Universal and Correct Wearing of Masks

The District will follow Ohio Department of Health orders regarding facial coverings. Students, staff and parents may choose to wear face coverings due to personal preference or health conditions.

Physical Distancing

The District will return to pre-pandemic protocols.

Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette

Handwashing will continue to be emphasized throughout the school day. Hand sanitizers will be placed throughout the buildings and students will be encouraged to sanitize their hands when entering and again when leaving a classroom. Cough and sneeze etiquette will be taught and reinforced.

Facilities

The District will keep all established and routine cleaning protocols in place. In addition, the District will continue to utilize electrostatic disinfectant sprayers throughout the facilities and on buses. Ventilation systems in schools all have a MERV rating of 13 or higher.

Contact Tracing

The District will continue to implement any contact tracing, isolation or quarantine protocols and reporting requirements as directed by the Ohio Department of Health or the Medina County Health Department.

Diagnostic and Screening Testing

The District will continue to make Abbott BinaxNOW Test Kits available to parents who request a kit for school-based attendance purposes. Test kits are available through each school's health clinic.

Vaccinations

The District will continue to serve as a host site for vaccination clinics when requested by health care partners.

Accommodations for Children with Disabilities

The District will continue to provide health and safety accommodations in accordance with students' Individualized Educational Plans.



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Ensuring Continuity of Services

The Highland Local School District is committed to the highest academic and developmental outcomes for each student. As such, the District will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address students' academic needs and students' and staff's social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, including student health and food services.

The District will continue to follow the **Highland Local School District Learning Recovery and Extended Learning Plan** to identify academic needs, address academic gap filling and identify social and emotional needs

<https://www.highlandschools.org/docs/district/hlnd%20learning%20recovery%20&%20extended%20learning%20plan%20-%20google%20docs.pdf?id=4173>

Semi-Annual Review and Public Comment

This plan will be available on the district website at www.highlandschools.org.
Department/Curriculum/Subcategories/[Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan](#)

In accordance with federal guidelines, any person electing to provide public comment for review and consideration regarding this plan may contact Laurie Boedicker, Director of Curriculum, at boedicker@highlandschools.org or 330-239-1901, ext. 1218.

This plan will be reviewed semi-annually (by December and June of each school year) through calendar year 2023.