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ESSER Grants

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

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction

At the start of the pandemic, District 155 began working to ensure a plan was in place once in-person learning was deemed safe and could resume.

Working with our Board of Education, Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), the McHenry County Health Department (MCHD), the Center of Disease Control (CDC) and the families of D155, the district identified key areas to address once students and staff returned.

The team focus began with student academic needs, how to assist and support with the learning loss experienced as a result of the pandemic along with how to make and keep the schools a safe and healthy environment.

Principals, teachers and other support staff focused primarily on the learning loss aspect while psychologists, social workers and counselors focused primarily on the social and emotional impact the pandemic had on the students and staff. The district nurses ensured the school community had the most up to date information on the health and safety protocols for returning to and maintaining an in-person learning environment. And finally, the operations team focused on deep cleaning the high school buildings, focused cleaning of all high-traffic areas and maintaining disinfectant supply kits for the use within the classrooms amongst other safety measures.

Throughout the process, the district kept key stakeholders informed, both electronically and public communications, while seeking community input as needed. The district has continued to follow guidance from the public health experts including the CDC.



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Safe Return - Health & Safety

- **Stay Up-To-Date on Health and Immunizations**
 - Assist families to ensure all policies and guidelines are followed as outlined in Board Policy 7:100
 - Health examinations as required by the State of Illinois Law
 - Provide informational materials regarding proper mask wearing, hand washing and hand sanitizing
 - Practicing social distancing
- **Stay Home When Sick**
 - Provide updated CDC recommendations on COVID-19 protocol
 - Encourage students and staff to remain home when ill
 - Make disposable masks available
 - Provide hand sanitizer in classrooms, cafeterias and hallways
- **Improve Ventilation Systems**
 - Installed dedicated air ventilation systems to assist in the mitigation of COVID-19 utilizing the American Rescue Plan - Elementary and Secondary Emergency Relief Funding (ARP-ESSER)
 - Installed HEPA filtration systems in school buses
- **Clean and Disinfect**
 - District 155 continues to clean and disinfect all facilities routinely
 - Provide deep cleaning in high traffic areas including cafeteria and locker rooms
 - Provide disinfection kits for students and staff throughout its buildings



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Safe Return - Continuity of Services

- **Student Academic Needs**
 - **Curriculum Based Programs**
 - D155 implemented additional resources to help identify and support learning loss due to the pandemic
 - iXL Math, Edmentum/PLATO and Pairin to name a few
 - D155 provides special educational services and support within and outside of the classroom
 - **Tutoring Collaboration Centers**
 - Students and staff utilize these areas for small group teaching and learning opportunities
 - Students utilize these areas to reconnect with fellow students and staff; bridging the social isolation felt as a result of the pandemic
- **Afterschool and Summer School Support**
 - Provide teachers and support staff additional hours before and after school for students seeking additional support academically and/or social/emotional support
 - Provide staff to assist those students seeking additional support for their social and emotional needs



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Safe Return - Continuity of Services

- **Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Support**
 - Student Service divisions in each school provide individual and small group counseling as well as referral options for families as needed
 - Maintains a working partnership between McHenry County Mental Health Services and other local agencies such as Rosecrance to bridge students with school support
 - District 155 hosts a multitude of related services including counseling, behavioral therapy, and psychiatric consultation. Services are delivered via group, individual, or in a blended structure as determined by the student's educational team
 - Services provided in a live format take into consideration social distancing and other safety measures
- **Food Service**
 - Financial Assistance is available to those families in need. Families are encouraged to complete the application for assistance with fee waivers and/or Free/Reduced lunch
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- **Technology Support**
 - Chromebooks are provided to every student
 - Provide Hotspots for WIFI connectivity to assist students with additional resources to support learning loss



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