

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



Unified School District of Marshfield

District Contact: Ryan Christianson, Superintendent

Website: www.marshfieldschools.org

Phone: (715) 387-1101

Address: 1010 E. 4th Street, Marshfield, WI 54449

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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 Unified School District of Marshfield (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

Overview

A district's plan must include how it will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other school and LEA staff, and the extent to which it has adopted policies or practices and a description of any such policies or practices on each of the CDC's safety recommendations including the universal and correct wearing of masks; modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding); hand washing and respiratory etiquette; cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation; contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the state, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments; diagnostic and screening testing; efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible; appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies or practices; and coordination with state and local health officials.

Description on maintaining the safety of staff and students

Update 8/9/2023: The School District of Marshfield will continue to offer in-person learning five days a week at all grade levels and continues to encourage students, staff, and visitors to stay or go home from school when sick.

Update 8/10/2022: The School District of Marshfield will begin the 2022-23 school year with a five-day per week, face-to-face instructional model at all grade levels and adhere to the health protocols listed below:

- Provide "Stay Home" recommendations and guidelines to both vaccinated and unvaccinated staff and strongly encourage staff members to utilize these guidelines before entering a school facility.
- Provide guidelines to families and students regarding when students should remain home from school due to potential COVID-19-related symptoms.
- Encourage staff members and students to stay home or go home if they are showing COVID-19 symptoms or if they have tested positive for COVID-19.
- Work with the District's local bus contractor to ensure mitigation strategies are in place for bus riders and are consistent with District practice and federal requirements.
- Permit access for parents, volunteers, vendors, and other outside organizations into District facilities provided transmission levels remain within acceptable limits.

The School District of Marshfield has begun the 2021-22 school year with a five-day per week, face-to-face instructional model at all grade levels and adheres to the following health protocols:

- Provide "Stay Home" recommendations and guidelines to both vaccinated and unvaccinated staff and strongly encourage staff members to utilize these guidelines before entering a school facility.
- Provide guidelines to families and students regarding when students should remain home

from school due to potential COVID-19-related symptoms.

- Encourage staff members and students to stay home or go home if they are showing COVID-19 symptoms or if they have tested positive for COVID-19.
- Work with the District's local bus contractor to ensure mitigation strategies are in place for bus riders and are consistent with District practice and federal requirements.
- Limit non-essential activities where the potential for disease spread may exist.
- Increase services and supports in the health area to provide additional nursing and isolation room resources.
- Restrict/control access for parents, volunteers, vendors, and other outside organizations who do not have essential business within District facilities.

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)

Update 8/9/2023: The School District of Marshfield will continue to offer in-person learning five days a week according to the Board approved 2023-2024 Academic Calendar. In addition, families continue to have the option of enrolling their students in virtual learning through Rural Virtual Academy (RVA) as well as coursework through RVA District Connect and other virtual partners (where applicable).

Update 2/8/2023: The School District of Marshfield will continue to offer in-person learning five days a week according to the Board adopted 2022-2023 Academic Year Calendar. In addition, families continue to have the option of enrolling their students in virtual learning through Rural Virtual Academy (RVA) as well as course work through RVA District Connect and other virtual partners.

Food Service operations will continue as outlined in the August, 2022 update along with plans for participating in the school Food Service Program for the summer of 2023.

Update 8/10/2022: The School District of Marshfield will offer in-person learning five days a week according to the Board adopted 2022-2023 Academic Year Calendar. The school district also provides families the option to enroll their students in virtual learning through Rural Virtual Academy (RVA) as well as course work through RVA District Connect and other virtual partners. In the event of school closure due to the pandemic, the district shall provide iPads for all students to continue virtual learning.

With USDA waivers ending in June, 2022, Food Service operations will resume as it did before March 2020. Notable changes for the 2022-2023 school year are as follows:

1. Breakfast and lunch will still be available to all students; however, they will not continue to be free to all students. Families will need to complete a free or reduced-price application to qualify for free or reduced-price meals, unless the family is notified that they qualify through Direct Certification.
2. Middle and High School students will be able to pay with cash for a la carte purchases.
3. The school district will again be participating in the Summer Food Service Program for the summer of 2022. Breakfast and lunch will be served free of charge from June 13th-July 22nd, 2022.

The School District of Marshfield employs two full-time school nurses who continue to offer health services in-person or if necessary, virtually. If necessary, additional nursing services can be available for the 2022-23 school year based on transmission levels, student medical needs and demand.

The School District of Marshfield will offer in-person learning five days a week according to the Board adopted 2021-2022 Academic Year Calendar. The school district also provides families the option to enroll their students in virtual learning through Rural Virtual Academy (RVA) as well as course work through RVA District Connect and other virtual partners. In the event of school closure due to the pandemic, the district shall provide iPads for all students to continue virtual learning.

Regardless of the mode of instruction, the School District of Marshfield will continue to provide meals under the community provision as long as USDA continues the allowance. Meals will be provided for summer school attendees as well as all eligible youth during the school year. If school is closed due to a pandemic, the district will assess its ability to distribute meals utilizing the same process it used during the spring and summer of 2020 and 2021.

The School District of Marshfield employs two full-time school nurses who continue to offer health services in-person or if necessary, virtually. Additional nursing services equivalent to 1 FTE have also been added for the 2021-22 school year. The school district also partners with the Marshfield Medical Center to provide health services for students in the schools.

Mitigation Measures

Universal and correct wearing of masks

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

Update 8/9/2023: The School District of Marshfield will not require the wearing of masks during the 2023-2024 school year. Mask wearing will remain optional, as a personal choice by individuals, in District facilities and on school buses.

Update 8/10/2022: Masks will remain optional in District facilities and on school buses to begin the 2022-23 school year. The School District of Marshfield will continue to monitor transmission thresholds to determine when students, staff, and visitors may be required to wear masks and when mask-wearing may be optional.

Update 2/28/2022: Following the change in CDC guidance to no longer require masks be worn on school buses, the School District of Marshfield will no longer require students and staff to wear masks on school buses and school-sponsored transportation, including bus travel for athletics and other co-curricular activities, effective Monday, February 28, 2022.

Update 2/22/2022: the School District of Marshfield will shift to designating "masks optional" in school facilities effective Monday, February 14, 2022. In accordance with Federal regulations, masking continues to be required on school buses and school district transportation, including bus travel for athletics and other co-curricular activities.

The School District of Marshfield will rely on thresholds to determine when students, staff, and visitors are required to wear masks and when mask-wearing will be optional. These thresholds are based on community transmission levels as identified by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (WDHS) within the District's geographic boundaries. The District will evaluate and consider optional mask-wearing when levels of transmission appear to remain consistently below the "High Transmission" level as defined by the WDHS. The District may return to requiring masks in the event transmission levels consistently rise into the "High Transmission" category.

Staff will practice and model appropriate mask-wearing and encourage all students and visitors within the building to do the same.

Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (for example, the use of cohorts and podding)

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

Update 8/9/2023: Protocols and procedures associated with physical spacing and proximity of individuals to one another in school buildings has returned to pre-pandemic conditions and will remain as such in the School District of Marshfield for the 2023-2024 school year.

Update 8/10/2022: Physical distancing, although still encouraged, will not be required for the 2022-23 school year. The School District of Marshfield will continue to monitor transmission thresholds to determine if physical distancing needs to be reinstated.

Mitigation measures such as proper signage, the installation of floor markings, plexiglass barriers, water bottle filling stations, and the promotion of social distancing have been implemented at each facility. Extended and/or staggered meal service has been implemented along with physical spacing of students in the lunchroom to support social distancing while ensuring adequate time for students to consume their meals. Individual schools will determine the cafeteria service that best suits the needs of their students. Cafeterias and/or classrooms may be used as settings for student meals.

Student foot traffic and sharing of common areas will be restricted to the greatest extent practical to support social distancing.

The District will work with their bus contractor to ensure students are physically distanced to the greatest extent practical when traveling on school and coach buses.

Students will be assigned to cohorts in the Seesaw or Canvas learning management systems if public health conditions warrant the use of hybrid or distance instructional models.

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette are taught to students with high emphasis in the primary grade levels. Signage is posted throughout the buildings as reminders of handwashing and respiratory etiquette.

In addition, hand sanitization stations/liquids are available throughout the schools in high volume areas.

Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

Update 8/9/2023: The School District of Marshfield will continue to adhere to regular, appropriate cleaning practices in all District facilities during the 2023-2024 school year. Electronic disinfecting and ultraviolet light cleaning machines will continue to be made available to District custodial staff to provide enhanced cleaning and disinfecting of classrooms and other spaces in school buildings as needed.

Update 8/10/2022: Cleaning and sanitation procedures remain in effect for the 2022-23 school year focusing on high-touch surfaces. Electronic disinfecting and ultraviolet light cleaning machines are available to District custodial staff as a means to clean and disinfect classrooms and other areas when necessary.

Enhanced cleaning and sanitation procedures have been implemented and continue at all schools focusing on high-touch surfaces. Daily and weekly cleaning schedules have been increased with an emphasis on high traffic areas and locations with the highest incidence of touch points before, during, and after school. Electronic disinfecting machines have been provided for each school and incorporated into cleaning schedules. Two ultraviolet light cleaning machines were purchased in 2020-21, and one additional machine was purchased for 2021-22. These machines are used periodically based on a rotating schedule and are also enlisted whenever a classroom has been identified for quarantine.

In consultation with the school district's environmental management company, the school district has verified the current level of fresh air exchange at each school. All schools have been "balanced" for air quality, which measures the air flow in and out of the rooms. To ensure additional fresh air flow, the school district has increased the air handling systems before and after school to guarantee proper air exchange is prevalent in all the school buildings each day. The school district has also increased the frequency of replacing air filters in all the schools.

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

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

Update 8/9/2023: Contact tracing and notices of isolation and quarantine, which may become necessary due to communicable diseases, shall remain at the discretion of county health officials.

Update 2/8/2023: The School District of Marshfield is no longer addressing quarantines associated with household contacts. When applicable, county health officials remain available to perform contact tracing and issue notification of isolation and quarantine due to positive cases of COVID-19.

Update 8/10/2022: For the 2022-23 school year, aside from addressing quarantines associated with household contacts, the School District of Marshfield will discontinue having school district staff conduct contact tracing for in-school exposures. County health officials will conduct all contact tracing and issue notification of isolation and quarantine due to positive cases of COVID-19. The School District of Marshfield will continue to follow guidance regarding contact tracing, isolation and quarantining as prescribed by the CDC and local health officials.

Update 2/22/2022: While the school district will continue to work closely with county health officials to address potential exposures to COVID-19, school district staff will no longer conduct contact tracing for in-school exposures. County health officials will review cases and issue isolation and quarantine letters when positive cases of COVID-19 are identified amongst students and staff. Students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 will need to stay home and isolate. Regarding quarantines, the school district will focus on circumstances where students and staff have been exposed to a household member who has tested positive for COVID-19. The early return option for asymptomatic individuals will also continue to be allowed for students and staff placed on a quarantine. Asymptomatic individuals who return early from isolation or quarantine will be required to wear a mask while around others, including while at school and participating in school activities, through day 10 after testing positive or encountering an exposure to someone who has tested positive.

The School District of Marshfield will continue contact tracing and transparent reporting to the public of COVID-19 cases and staff quarantines within the District. To provide transparent reporting for our stakeholders, the District maintained a COVID-19 case dashboard throughout the 2020-21 school year and will continue to do so for the 2021-22 school year.

Data collection procedures are in place to ensure adequate tracking of confirmed cases so that information is available upon request from the Wood County Health Department and other regulatory agencies.

Each school will continue to provide current health information to staff, students, and families about the signs and symptoms of COVID-19, when they should stay home, and when they can return to work/school.

Diagnostic and screening testing

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

Update 8/9/2023: The School District of Marshfield will continue to provide free over the counter COVID-19 tests, while supplies last. In all cases of sickness and ailments, when students and staff are not feeling well enough to be in school, District staff will continue to evaluate and assess symptoms in order to assist with deciding when it is most appropriate to stay or go home from school.

When parents notify the District of a student illness, District staff ask illness screening questions to evaluate and assess whether symptoms may be COVID-19-related. Based on the input received, staff direct parents accordingly.

The School District of Marshfield recommends students and staff get tested for COVID-19 by their medical provider or a local pharmacy when symptoms arise. Turnaround times for results at the Marshfield Medical Center and local pharmacies such as Walgreens have varied based on backlogs and demand but generally are available within 24 hours.

The District is currently not offering COVID-19 testing for students or staff in our schools. Should the District see the need for on-site testing, students could have the option to be tested with parent permission when they are identified as close contacts or become symptomatic.

Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

Update 8/10/2022: If necessary and appropriate, the School District of Marshfield will assist in the facilitation of vaccinations in accordance with guidance from local health officials.

All eligible staff employed in 2020-2021 were provided the opportunity to be vaccinated. An onsite vaccination clinic was offered by staff from the Marshfield Medical Center on March 16, 2021, and April 13, 2021. The Moderna vaccine series was distributed to 229 District staff members.

The School District of Marshfield encourages all eligible students and staff get vaccinated for COVID-19.

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

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

When circumstances require specific policies or procedures designed to protect the health and safety of students with disability-related issues, Individualized Education Plan (IEP) teams will determine if modifications and/or reasonable accommodations are needed for individual students. Collaboration, communication, and support provided to learners and families will be customized to each individual child's special education needs based on their IEP. All related services and supports of each learner will be provided in a virtual setting, per IEP team review, if learners cannot be in school. The IEP team will monitor and assess student needs and if necessary, make plan modifications.

Coordination with state and local health officials

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

The CDC recommends that all decisions concerning the implementation of school-based strategies should be made locally and in collaboration with local health officials who can help determine the level of transmission in the community. The School District of Marshfield continues to work with the Wood County Health Department to implement mitigating strategies for the safety of students and staff.

Continuity of Services

Overview

Districts must describe how the LEA will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address students' academic needs and students' and staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services.

District response on continuity of services

The District will provide for continuity of services as follows:

Student Academic Needs

Update 8/9/2023: While the School District of Marshfield has returned to pre-pandemic operations for the 2023-2024 school year, including regular in-person instruction at all levels, the District continues to offer virtual learning alternatives for families who wish to request at-home learning options. In addition, the District will maintain the services detailed below under "Student Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs."

Update 8/10/2022: The District plans to offer full-time, in-person instruction for the 2022-23 school year and will continue to follow the outline of addressing student and staff needs as described below:

The School District of Marshfield has added offerings to its summer school program to assist all K-12 students with academic recovery.

The District plans to continue full-time, in-person instruction beginning the fall of 2021, with limited exception. Additional instructional personnel have been added to District staff to implement further academic recovery efforts in core curriculum areas. These specialists will be available during the instructional day and/or during before and after-school tutoring programs throughout the year.

Student Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs

Additional counseling and behavioral health services staff have been added to address students' social and emotional learning needs. For example, an additional 1.0 FTE school counselor was added at the elementary level to allow the placement of a full-time counselor at each of the District's five elementary school buildings. In addition, the District added a full-time Interventionist teaching position at each elementary school (for an increase of 5.0 FTE professional staff positions) to help address the behavioral intervention needs (social, emotional, and mental) of elementary-aged students. A district mental health navigator position was added to coordinate our school-based mental health consortium. The consortium services are provided at school by licensed therapists and are an option for students with barriers to receiving traditional community therapy services. In addition, the navigator provides guidance and training related to mental health topics to students,

families, and staff.

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

Update 8/9/2023: The School District of Marshfield has returned to pre-pandemic Food Services operations. Students will pay regular price for meals during the 2023-2024 school year, as per prices established by the Board of Education, except for those who qualify for free and reduced price school meals as determined by the National School Lunch Program (and USDA Foods in Schools).

Free meals were again provided during summer school programming in the summer of 2023.

Update 8/10/2022: Free meals were also provided for the 2021-22 school year and for summer school programming which ran during the summer of 2022.

Free meals were provided to families during the 2020-21 school year due to the USDA extension of waivers of free meals to families. Free summer meals were also provided to families during the summer of 2020 and 2021.

As the USDA has again extended the waivers for free meals to families, all children ages 18 and under will continue to receive free meals through June 30, 2022. Food services will continue to provide meals under the community provision as long as USDA continues the allowance.

Staff Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs

The District has provided staff with opportunities for social and emotional supports through frequent and systemic communications within monthly wellness and quarterly student services newsletters. The staff's social, emotional, and mental health needs are also addressed through the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) provided through the District insurance program and mental health awareness campaigns. Professional staff development opportunities are offered to focus on the impact COVID has had on individuals in a school community such as students, staff, and families.

Other Staff Needs

The District will follow national, state, and local governing agencies' laws and directives concerning staff employment and benefits.

Periodic Review

Overview

Districts are required to 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, including seeking public input and taking such input into account in determining whether to revise the plan and, if revisions are determined necessary, on the revisions it makes to its plan.

District response on ensuring periodic updates to its plan

The School District of Marshfield will periodically review and as needed, revise the plan for continued in-person instruction and continuity of services. The plan will be reviewed at least every six months, and the school system will seek and consider public input during the review process. Plan revisions will address updated CDC and the Wood County Health Department guidance on safely reopening schools if any are issued.

Public Input

Overview

The ARP Act requires that school districts make their Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan available to the public online and that the plans be in an understandable and uniform format; to the extent practicable, are 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. Before making its plan publicly available, school districts must seek public comment on the plan and develop the plan after considering public comment.

District response on public input in the development of its plan

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

- The plan is posted at <http://www.marshfieldschools.org>
- The plan is available in multiple languages through the use of our web provider powered by Google Translate. The plan is available in more than ten languages.
- Information on accessing the plan was sent to parents, students, and employees via our messaging systems.
- The plan was shared at the School District of Marshfield Board of Education meeting on December 8, 2021. An opportunity for public comment was available during the November 10, 2021, Board meeting.
- 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.

[Public comment form for gathering input on District's use of ARP ESSER funding](#)