

Safe Return to In Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

District Name: Bear Lake School

Revision Date: October 2023

Introduction and Background

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2. The ARP Act includes nearly \$122 billion for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER III) Fund that allows state and local education agencies (LEAs) to take additional steps for continued safe in-person instruction and to address unfinished teaching and learning to mitigate the COVID-19 Pandemic.

These resources will allow school districts to take additional measures to safely sustain their healthy operations, this includes using funds to enact appropriate measures to help schools to invest in mitigation strategies consistent with the Centers for Disease Control and Preventions' (CDC) Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools to the greatest extent practicable; address the many impacts of COVID-19 on students, including unfinished instruction; implement strategies to meet student's social, emotional, mental health, and academic needs; offer crucial summer, afterschool, and other extended learning and enrichment programs; support early childhood education; invest in staff capacity; and avoid devastating layoffs at this critical moment, ensuring that all students have access to teachers, counselors and other school personnel to support their needs.

Section 2001(i)(1) of the ARP Act requires that 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 these comments into account in finalization of the Safe Return Plan.

Mitigation Strategy	LEA Response
Universal and Correct wearing of masks	Masking is not required for the 2023-2024 school year. Bear Lake School students and staff are expected to wear face coverings, covering the nose and mouth if they have tested positive for Covid for 5 consecutive days after returning to school from a 5-day quarantine.
Physical Distancing (ie including use of cohorts)	The mitigation strategy of cohorts and social distancing are not in use for the 2023-2024 school year.

<p>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</p>	<p>Students and staff will continue to have access to facial tissue in classrooms and common areas in order to cover sneezes and coughs. Students and staff will be encouraged to cover sneezes or coughs with the inside of the bend of the elbow when tissue is not available.</p> <p>Bear Lake School will encourage students and staff to follow CDC Handwashing guidelines to help prevent the spread of germs.</p> <p>Hand sanitizer is available in each classroom and hand sanitizer stations are set up throughout the school building. School staff will frequently refill soap and sanitizer.</p> <p>Signage is posted in all restrooms and throughout the school building on handwashing</p>
<p>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation</p>	<p>Frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned every day with an EPA-approved disinfectant.</p> <p>Student desks in the middle/high school will be wiped down with an EPA-approved disinfectant after every day.</p> <p>Normal routine cleaning of playground equipment will occur.</p> <p>Staff will be trained in proper cleaning procedures.</p> <p>Cleaning supplies will be properly stored away from students.</p> <p>Ait purification machines are used in all classrooms and offices</p>
<p>Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the state, local territorial, or Tribal health departments</p>	<p>State of Michigan contact tracing and quarantine guidelines</p>

<p>Diagnostic screening and testing</p>	<p>Bear Lake Schools will cooperate with the Michigan District Health Department #10 regarding implementing protocols for screening and testing students and staff.</p> <p>Covid-19 rapid tests are available at the school for staff and student use with parent permission.</p>
<p>Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible,</p>	<p>In collaboration with the Michigan District Health Department #10, vaccination information is shared with staff and the on-site school nurse provides materials to parents and students.</p>
<p>Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies</p>	<p>When school starts, students' IEPs and 504 plans will be reviewed in coordination with general and special education teachers and/or providers to address any data-driven accommodations and/or services that are needed due to known changes in students' needs.</p> <p>The district has established structures for general and special education teachers and/or providers to collaborate and communicate regarding student performance and student needs on IEP goals and objectives with special consideration regarding assistive technology and accessibility.</p> <p>The district ensures a continuation of services for students receiving speech and language, occupational therapy, physical therapy, or social work services within their IEP. The district also ensures a method for the continuation of evaluation for students suspected of having a disability as well as those requiring re-evaluation.</p>

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: **Examples include: Tutoring, before and After school, MTSS Process, 31 N Counselors, 31- O Counselors, Tier 1 SEL Curriculum, FRL Breakfast and Lunch for all students, Staff PD and Mental Health supports**

As we return to school in the fall, our first priority will be to ensure the well-being of all members of our school community. Because of the wide range of experiences students had during the remote learning portion of the 19-20 and 20-21 school years, we anticipate that students will come to school in the fall of 2023 with a wider than usual range of competencies. We expect that many students will be behind and will need opportunities to catch up. Teachers will need opportunities to collaborate with each other as they examine student work and determine what comes next in the learning for each student.

As Bear Lake School plans to begin the school year in a face-to-face environment, we will need to ensure that there are structures in place to help with student engagement and achievement for all. This plan will focus on teaching and learning with an emphasis on equity for all learners and the well-being of students and staff.

Students will have access to a full-time counselor, SafeNet worker, school nurse, and behavioral health specialist. Bear lake will continue its second year of the SEL curriculum, The Positivity Project as well.

Free breakfast and lunch is available to all students.

Staff will engage in professional development focusing on the health and well-being of educators throughout the school year.

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 opportunity to provide input and for the public comment in the development of the plan, a summary of the input (including letters of support), and how the LEA took such input into account.

Throughout the pandemic, Bear Lake parents have voiced their want for

- in-person learning
- masking optional
- no testing of student-athletes

Public Comment on 10-12-22 - None

Public Comment on 4-12-23- None

Public Comment on 10-11-23- None

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**. Each review must include seeking public comment on the plan and developing the plan after taking into an account the public comment.

Dates of Review...

October 12, 2022

April 15, 2023

August 16, 2023

October 11, 2023

Understandable and Uniform Format

Federal regulation 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: **Is this posted on the website? Newsletter? Hand out and PTC? Mailings home...**

Posted on the school website
Hard copies available in the superintendent's office