

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



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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 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

Maintaining the safety of staff and students

The School District of Crandon will begin the 2022-2023 school year with a five-day per week, face-to-face instructional model.

The School District of Crandon will:

- Continue to publish all parent communications regarding COVID-19 mitigation strategies and information clearly on the District's website
- publish the COVID-19 pre-screening checklist and strongly encourage students and staff members to utilize the checklist before entering a school facility,
- 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,
- provide sanitizing stations throughout the building,
- recommend masks if exhibiting symptoms.

Continue to provide services regardless of the mode of instruction

The School District of Crandon will continue to offer in-person learning five days a week according to the Board adopted 2022-2023 Academic Year Calendar. In the event of school closure due to the pandemic, the district has Chromebooks for all students to continue learning at home through platforms such as Google Classroom.

The School District of Crandon will continue to provide meals to all students. In the event of school closure, meals will be sent home with students or a pick up can be scheduled with the school. Meals will be provided for summer school attendees.

The School District of Crandon employs one full-time school nurse who will continue to offer health services in-person. Additionally, the District employs a school psychologist and school counselors to directly work with students and families to provide resources and support for the social emotional needs of students and also partner with community agencies such as Sokaogon Chippewa Community and Forest County Potawatomi Community.

Mitigation Measures

Universal and correct wearing of masks

The goal of the School District of Crandon has been to keep as many students in school to learn in person, as much as possible. If there is evidence of COVID-19 spread within the district, the mitigation requirements may change. Masks are currently not required, but are recommended at the district for those exhibiting symptoms.

Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing

Mitigation measures such as cohorting of classes, breakfast in classrooms, extended/staggered lunch service and the promotion of physical distancing may be implemented in the district at the direction of the Forest County Health Department.

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

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

In addition, hand sanitizing stations/liquids are available in all classrooms and in highly traveled areas.

Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

Enhanced sanitation procedures have been implemented and continue at all schools focusing on high-touch surfaces. The District uses cleaning solutions that are rated to kill the SARS virus. In addition to routine daily cleaning, staff members are increasing disinfection of high touch surface areas. Classroom teachers and other staff members are helping to support these additional cleaning measures.

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

The School District of Crandon will guide parents/students, employees, and contractors on screening protocols for the daily pre-screening process, which all parties should complete before entering the campus/building. 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 school.

Diagnostic and screening testing

The School District of Crandon recently has been approved to have on-site testing. Students or staff 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

All eligible staff employed in 2020-2021 were provided the opportunity to be vaccinated. Students ages 16 and older were provided information to vaccination clinics in the spring of 2021. Students ages 12 and older were provided information to the vaccination clinics in the summer of 2021. New staff will be given access to vaccinations by working with local healthcare partners and Forest County Health Department.

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

When circumstances require specific policies or procedures designed to protect the health and safety of students, 504 and IEP teams will determine if modifications and/or reasonable accommodations are needed for individual students with disability-related issues.

Coordination with state and local health officials

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

Continuity of Services

Overview

The School District of Crandon will continue to provide services to address the myriad of needs students have not only in the area of academics, but also in the areas of social-emotional, mental health and other needs such as those associated with physical health and food services. Staff social, emotional and mental health needs are also an area of focus to ensure well-being is attended to.

District response on continuity of services

The School District of Crandon will provide for continuity of services as follows:

Student Academic Needs

The School District of Crandon plans to continue, full time, in person instruction in the 2022-2023 school year. The District plans to continue full-time, in-person instruction beginning the fall of 2022, with limited exception.

Student Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs

Additional contracted counseling staff have been added to the mental health staff to address our students' social and emotional learning needs.

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

Food services 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. Summer meals will be provided for summer school during the dates as approved by the Board of Education.

Staff Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs

The District will look to provide staff with opportunities for social and emotional support through post-school hour meetings with the counseling staff and nursing staff. The staff's social, emotional, and mental health needs may also be addressed through the Employee Assistance Program provided through the District insurance program.

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 Crandon will periodically review and, as needed, revise the plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services. The plan will be reviewed at least every six months, and the school system will seek and take into account public input during the review process. Plan revisions will address updated CDC and County Public Health guidance on safely reopening schools if any are issued.

Tentative Review Schedule (requirement is to review at least every six months through September 30, 2023):

- January 10, 2022 (Plan Reviewed/Approved)
- June 13, 2022 (Approved)
- September 12, 2022 (Plan Revised/CDC Guidelines/Approved)
- March 13, 2023 (Approved)
- September 11, 2023

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 taking into account public comment.

District response on public input in the development of its plan

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

- The plan is posted at <https://www.sdofcrandon.com/community/esser-iii.cfm>
- The plan was shared at the School District of Crandon Board of Education meetings on January 10, 2022.
- 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.

[Sample district survey for public comment](#)

[WI DPI ESSER III Stakeholder Engagement presentation](#)