

ESSER III Plan

Safe & Healthy In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services



School District of Hartford Jt. 1

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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

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

Hartford Joint 1 School District(pre-K through 8 grade began the 2021-22 school year with a face-to-face instructional model five days per week. Asynchronous Virtual model was offered to families who preferred to remain virtual. The following health procedures were followed:

- A letter was sent to district families documenting the safe return to school procedures and protocols for 2021-2022 school year. [A Safe Return to School](#)
- Information was sent home with a COVID FAQ that discusses signs and symptoms of COVID and ways to keep safe and healthy.
- District Website has a section with information pertaining to COVID procedures/protocols.
- Students and staff members are instructed to stay home when ill or displaying symptoms.
- Students seen in the health room with two or more COVID symptoms or a fever are instructed to stay home for at least 3 days and encouraged to get tested or follow up with a physician.
- Utilize 3 feet of distance when possible.
- Face coverings are recommended on school district property. Face coverings required on school buses.
- Instructed staff and student's guardians to inform the school with positive cases. Follow the public health guidelines for positive cases and positive cases in the household.
- District will notify families if an individual within their classroom has tested positive. The notification will instruct parents to monitor their child for developing symptoms.
- Increased sanitizing and disinfecting throughout the building.

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)

All students in grades preK through 8th grade will be enrolled in in-person instruction for the 2021-22 school year. The District continues to offer the K-8 asynchronous virtual option for families who wish to remain virtual for the school year. Staff have made chromebooks, lessons and activities available for students to complete at home in case a student needs to be quarantined so they can continue learning. Learning at home resources and a technology help line is available on the District web page. Chromebooks have been purchased for all students to use in case the district would have to close due to the pandemic.

All Hartford Jt. 1 students, face to face and virtual, are able to receive meals for breakfast and lunch at no cost for the 2021-22 school year. This Federally Funded program will run through the end of the 2021/2022 school year. Meals are available for pick up for children 0-18 years. If school is closed due to a pandemic, the district will assess the ability to distribute meals utilizing the same process it used during the spring of 2020.

Hartford Joint 1 employs a full-time nurse and 3 healthroom aides to assist with health needs of the students and staff including contact tracing. The nurse and health room aides' time in the district have been increased. In addition, each school has a full time psychologist, counselor, and K-8 health and wellness curriculum in place. An EPA program is available for staff members and their dependants. The school district also partners with Wisconsin Mental Health to provide mental health support for families.

Mitigation Measures

Universal and correct wearing of masks

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

Face coverings are recommended for all individuals while on the School District of Hartford Jt 1 property. District administration is closely monitoring the presence of COVID-19 and any variants within the community and the District. Should transmission rates increase or decrease within our schools and/or public health orders change, we may adjust the mask procedures.

The use of face coverings on buses is currently a federal requirement; the bus company and the District complies with laws, regulations, statutes, and orders. Face masks were supplied to the bus company in case a student forgets their mask.

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

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

Mitigation measures such as proper signage in multiple languages, the installation of water bottle filling stations, and the promotion of social distancing have been implemented at each facility. Staggered meal service has been implemented 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. If a cohort instructional model is implemented due to an increase of COVID cases locally, students will eat in their classrooms.

Trifolds and plexiglass barriers are available for individual students and staff upon request.

Students are assigned to cohorts in Schoology or Seesaw content management systems if public health conditions warrant the use of hybrid or distance instructional models.

Transportation continues to comply with CDC guidelines regarding capacity that are in effect during the 2021-22 school year.

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

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

Sinks or hand sanitizers are available in every classroom.

Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

Classrooms are being disinfected and cleaned daily and equipped with additional cleaning supplies to be used throughout the day, and between classes with different groups of students. Cleaning supplies are rated to kill the COVID virus. Janitorial staff continue enhanced cleaning and disinfecting in common areas, including the restrooms and cafeterias. Clorox 360 machines and UV lights were purchased and are utilized to disinfect common areas, classrooms and offices periodically and as needed.

The HVAC system has ventilation components that are operational and monitored electronically.

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

Hartford Joint 1 School District website has a specific section dedicated to COVID-19. The section contains a dashboard that started in the 2020-2021 school year and remains current for all the guardians and the public to see student and staff quarantines and positive cases for each school. Contract tracing and spreadsheets are maintained by the school nurse and health room staff utilizing the guidance and guidelines from Washington/ Ozuakee Public Health Department. District notifies families if there is a positive case in the classroom instructing them to monitor their child for symptoms. The notification lists symptoms to monitor. Protocols/guidelines for families to follow if there is a positive case in the household is available on the website.

Staff and guardians were provided information of symptoms to monitor for and when to stay home via district website, parent handbook, healthroom notes, signage, and staff protocols.

Diagnostic and screening testing

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

Hartford Joint 1 has documentation available for staff and students with information regarding COVID testing sites. The documentation has a link for Washington/Ozaukee testing sites and Department of Health testing sites by county. Documentation also suggests testing through staff's own Providers.

Information on the District website states, COVID-19 Testing is available for WI residents of all ages through county public health and has a link to Washington Ozaukee County Public Health Department Website for more information.

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

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

During 2020-2021 staff were provided the opportunity to be vaccinated with paid time off. Information and assistance to schedule staff vaccines was provided, working with Washington/Ozaukee Public Health, local vaccination clinics, and local healthcare providers.

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

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

Student's IEP, Section 504, or school health plan indicate services and possible accommodations that are provided in the event the district would return to virtual instruction due to the pandemic. Masks and other health accommodations are available for students with disabilities in the event masks become required in the school district.

Coordination with state and local health officials

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

Hartford Joint 1 School District works with the Washington/Ozaukee Public Health to determine recommendations and guidelines to follow for the health and safety of our students. District administration closely monitors the presence of COVID-19 and any variants within the community and the District utilizes information obtained from Washington/Ozaukee Public Health.

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 service.

District response on continuity of services

The District will provide for continuity of services as follows:

Student Academic Needs

The District plans to continue full-time, in-person instruction beginning the fall of 2021, with limited exception. School Community Coordinators are facilitating after school extended learning opportunities to targeted students who require additional core academic support. In addition, the District has partnered with Casa Guadalupe to provide Read to Succeed for EL learners twice weekly as extended learning opportunities. Summer school programming will continue as an option to assist all K-8 students with academic recovery.

Contracted services for EL are being utilized for this school year and next as additional FTE staff have been added as part of the District's academic recovery plan.

Student Wellness

Each school has a full time psych and counselor as well as a part time Community Coordinator. Additional health and wellness curricula have been purchased and implemented in an effort to address the overall wellbeing of our students.' The middle school has an advisory time to facilitate relationship building and support students' wellbeing and needs at that level.

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

The Food Service Department continues to provide meals under the community provision as long as USDA continues the allowance. Meals are provided for all eligible youth during the school year.

Staff Wellness

The District provides staff opportunities for social and emotional support through 1:1 life coaching sessions sponsored by the PRMG. Staff needs may also be addressed through the Employee Assistance Program provided through the District insurance program.

Other Staff Needs

The District follows 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 Hartford Jt. 1 School District periodically reviews and, as needed, revises the plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services. The plan is reviewed at least every six months, and the school system seeks and takes into account public input during the review process. Planned revisions address updated CDC and County Public Health guidance on safely reopening of 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 taking into account public comment.

District response on public input in the development of its plan

The Hartford Jt. 1 School District has taken the following steps to make its plan available to the public:

- The [Hartford Jt. 1 ESSER III Plan](#) is posted on the District website.
- The plan is available in multiple languages through the use of our web provider powered by Google Translate.
- The plan was sent to parents, students, and employees via our messaging systems.
- The plan was approved at the Hartford Jt. 1 School District Board meetings on November 22, 2021.
- An opportunity for public comment was available during the Board meetings and parent surveys.
- 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.