

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



Dodgeland
S C H O O L S

The Road to a Better Tomorrow

Dodgeland School District

Template Developed by CESA 5



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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

Description on maintaining the safety of staff and students

The Dodgeland School District began the 2021-22 school year with a five-day per week, face-to-face instructional model. We committed to the following health protocols, which were presented at the July 2021 regular Board of Education meeting. The district:

- published our “Safe Return to Universal In-Person Learning” plan, which strongly encourages students and staff members to utilize the symptom checklist before entering a school facility,
- encouraged 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,
- limited visitors and activities for non-essential purposes, and
- provided sanitizing stations throughout the building.

Update: The Dodgeland School District will begin the 2022-23 school year with the same protocols as above, with the exception of allowing visitors to school and activities.

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)

The Dodgeland School District offers in-person learning five days a week according to the Board adopted 2021-2022 Academic Year Calendar. In the event of school closure due to the pandemic, the district purchased iPads for all students to continue virtual learning.

Regardless of the mode of instruction, the Dodgeland School District continues 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 of 2020.

The Dodgeland School District employs one full-time school nurse who will continue to offer health services in-person or virtually.

Update: The Dodgeland School District will begin the 2022-23 school year with the same protocols as above.

Mitigation Measures

Universal and correct wearing of masks

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

The DodgeLand School Board authorized the administration to determine when students, staff, and visitors will be required to wear masks and when mask-wearing will be optional. These thresholds are based on COVID activity in individual classrooms or schools, the level of COVID transmission within the district's geographic boundaries, and in Dodge County. Details about these thresholds can be found on the district website.

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 water bottle filling stations and the promotion of social distancing have been implemented in our building.

Update: We are no longer promoting social distancing in the 22-23 school year.

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette is taught to students. Signage is posted throughout buildings as reminders of handwashing and respiratory etiquette.

In addition, hand sanitization stations/liquids are available in all classrooms.

Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

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 daily cleaning, all rooms and surfaces are sprayed when a COVID-positive individual has been in that space.

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

The Dodgeland School District 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 has continued to do so for the 2021-22 school year.

Update: For the 2022-23 school year, the Dodgeland School District will discontinue contact tracing and transparent reporting of COVID-19 cases.

Diagnostic and screening testing

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

The Dodgeland School District is authorized by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services to conduct COVID testing at our schools. Students have the option to be tested with parent permission when they are identified as close contacts or become symptomatic. Staff members are also able to be tested on-site.

Update: On site COVID testing will not take place at school for the 2022-23 school year.

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

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

All eligible staff employed in 2020-2021 were provided the opportunity to be vaccinated. During the 2021 - 2022 school year, Information about local vaccination clinics has been shared with parents, students, and staff.

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, 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

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

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 Dodgeland School District continues to work with Dodge County Public Health 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

The Dodgeland School District implemented a summer school program to assist all K-12 students with academic recovery. Students have experienced full-time, in-person instruction beginning the fall of 2021.

Student Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs

As a result of the heightened awareness of our students' social and emotional learning needs, regular pupil services team meetings focus on a multi-level system of support.

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.

Staff Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs

The District has provided staff with access to social and emotional support via a private contract with a company specializing in staff wellbeing. Topics include: meditation, breathing, stress-reduction, financial fitness, nutrition counseling, and physical fitness. 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

District response on ensuring periodic updates to its plan

The Dodgeland School District 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 Dodge County Public Health guidance on safely reopening schools if any are issued.

Plan reviewed: August 1, 2022

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 Dodgeland School District has taken the following steps to make its plan available to the public:

- The plan is posted at <http://www.dodgeland.k12.wi.us>
- The plan was sent to parents, students, and employees via multiple formats, including inclusion in our district newsletter and via our messaging systems.
- The plan was shared at the Dodgeland School District Board of Education meeting on July 26, 2021. An opportunity for public comment was available during that 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.