

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



## Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah School District

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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 Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah School District will provide a safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services for all schools.

# 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

The Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah School District will begin the 2021-22 school year with a five-day per week, face-to-face instructional model and adhere to the following health protocols. Accordingly, the District will:

- 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
- be flexible with the statutory attendance requirements for students/staff who may remain home due to experiencing symptoms, who may test positive and/or have to be quarantined due to exposure.
- Generally not limit parent and visitor access. However, request that visits be pre-arranged when possible. Drop-in visits may not be able to be accommodated. Also check-in with office staff is required. However, there may be times where visitor/guest access is limited due to current health situation.
- provide sanitizing stations 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)

The Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah School District will offer 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 Chromebooks for all students to continue virtual learning.

Regardless of the mode of instruction, the Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah School District 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 the needs of our families/students and the District's ability to distribute meals. This service will be modified from the process used in 2020 when students/families who qualified for free or reduced meals were provided daily meals free of charge funded by donations to the District. This was necessary as the District was not participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) at that time.

The Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah School District employs one part-time school nurse who will continue to offer health services. The School District also partners with Sheboygan County United Way to provide mental health support for students/families through the PATH Counseling program (Providing Access to Healing).

## Mitigation Measures

### Universal and correct wearing of masks

The Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah School Board concluded the use of masks is optional. However, it is strongly recommended that unvaccinated students, staff and visitors wear face coverings when indoors, especially when not able to social distance.

The use of masks is strongly encouraged for ALL people when unable to social distance for extended periods of time (more than 15 minutes), regardless of vaccination status.

If the District has a significant increase in positive cases at school (multiple cases/significant spread in a classroom, school level, etc.), or are seeing a significant increase in community/District spread, masks may be temporarily required for all students, staff and visitors (per Board action).

Masks are required on buses per the Federal Mandate.

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

Mitigation measures such as proper signage, water bottle filling stations, and the promotion of social distancing have been implemented at each facility. In order to promote a healthy and safe return to school, students and staff are expected to adhere to social distancing practices when requested –

classroom settings, elem./m.s. lunch lines, etc.

Students in high school and students in grades 7-8 (ages 12 and up) will try to maintain a minimum social distance of 3 ft. between desks in the classrooms. If necessary, high school classes will move to a larger setting to hold their classes (ex.: cafeteria, auditorium). Elementary and grades 5-6 will have social distancing of 3 to 6 feet for desks in classroom settings.

Individual schools will determine the cafeteria service that best suits the needs of their students. An additional lunch period was maintained for elementary classes to reduce the number of classes eating at each time. Cafeterias and/or classrooms/libraries may also be used as settings for student meals.

Working with the transportation company contracted by the District, the following guidelines will be implemented: masking, disinfecting of the buses per scheduled established by the bus company, seat assignments will be in use. windows should be open on the bus to allow for fresh air circulation as weather permits, students will be encouraged to practice social distancing and remain seated, and students are to cooperate with the directions provided by the bus driver.

### **Handwashing and respiratory etiquette**

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette is taught and modeled 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 portable sanitizing stations are available by areas of high use by the student/general population.

### **Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation**

Enhanced sanitation procedures have been implemented and disinfection of "high touch" surface areas will continue throughout the day using an EPA-registered disinfectant that is effective for use against COVID-19 virus. Daily room cleaning will occur with disinfectant detergent and disinfectant wipes will be available in all rooms/hallways so students can "wipe down" their "personal" areas before use (desks, locker handles, etc.). Wall-mounted sanitizers will be available in all classrooms. Also elementary students will be encouraged to use the sinks in their rooms and wash hands with soap and water often during the day.

Routine schedule of full surface cleaning with an electro-static and/or mist sprayer -- includes classrooms, "common areas," auditorium, gymnasiums, etc. to occur minimally once a week. Child Care and JK-grade 4 classrooms will have access to a spray disinfectant that is safe to be used on toys, soft objects, etc. and is safe for young children who may put objects into their mouths. These

bottles will be properly labeled and stored properly by the “teacher” in the classroom/Child Care room.

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

The Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah School District will work with the Sheboygan County Department of Health/Human Services to implement their guidance for quarantining contract tracing and isolating positive cases aligned with CDC recommendations. Contract tracing is occurring for students with both household and in-school contact. The District is using the definition provided by the CDC/Sheboygan County to identify close contacts.

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. This information is communicated through our plan being posted on the District’s website and originally shared with all parents/staff. Parents/staff are notified when changes occur via email, updates posted on the website, and letters may also be mailed to each family and put in staff mailboxes.

### **Diagnostic and screening testing**

The Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah School District recommends students and staff get tested for COVID at the Plymouth testing facility with whom the District has a cooperative arrangement. Students, staff and family members of both have access to rapid test with results in 15 minutes when readily available. They are also given PCR tests to collaborate the rapid tests with results in 2 to 3 days. The District worked with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services to coordinate with Plymouth School District to have COVID testing offered at Plymouth. Due to our smaller school size, it was determined to be a more effective and efficient use of resources. Students have the option to be tested with parent permission at any time. The District will investigate the use of DPI’s Test-to-Return program when implemented

### **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. New staff will be given access to vaccinations by working with local healthcare partners and County Public Health. Students, staff and community members were provided access to an on-site vaccination clinic in the fall of 2021.

## 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 Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah School District continues to work with Sheboygan County Public Health to implement mitigating strategies for the safety of students and staff as they take into consideration guidance offered by CDC, WI Department of Health and WI DPI.

# 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 Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah School District has implemented a 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 if needed to accommodate unique circumstances or special needs of students. We have also hired additional special education instructional aides to provide academic support and implemented an after-school program at the high school for students needing additional assistance. Also additional time was added to our EL support teacher and speech/language therapist to increase both from 60% to full-time.

### **Student Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs**

Counseling resources and services have been modified by staff to address our students' social and emotional learning needs. One of the District's goals is continuing to purposely introduce, facilitate and reinforce opportunities to build compassion resilience among students and staff. Staff will work

collaboratively to determine supportive measures, programs and practices they can implement into their regular classroom settings which will promote/support student well-being.

**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 attendees. In 2021-22, the District began offering breakfast to Kindergarten-grade 8 students. At the high school level, the principal has food items available for students to grab if hungry at no cost to them.

It is assumed that the USDA will continue community eligibility provision under the new school meal application.

**Staff Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs**

The District's goal of building compassion resilience is not just on our students, but also for our staff. In order to take care of our students and help them learn the skills for self-care, it is crucial for our staff to take care of themselves. Professional development and various activities throughout the year will focus on this topic. In addition, the staff's social, emotional, and mental health needs may 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 Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah 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/revisited monthly during the 2021-2022 school year as it is a standing agenda item for each Board meeting. At these meetings, and at a Special meeting held in July to introduce the District's Return to School Plan, the School Board and District invites and takes into account public input provided when

reviewing/revising the plan.

Plan revisions will address updated CDC and County Public Health 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 taking into account public comment.

### District response on public input in the development of its plan

The Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah School District has taken the following steps to make its plan available to the public:

- The plan is posted on the District website: [www.goresorters.com](http://www.goresorters.com).
- Upon request, the District will seek to have it translated in a language other than English.
- The plan was distributed to parents, students, and employees via our messaging systems (email, USPS mail, electronic announcements, website). In addition, updates/clarifications/FAQ's are communicated through the same formats.
- The plan was drafted by a committee consisting of staff, administration, parents, Board members, school nurse and community members who met twice over the summer of 2021. This committee revised/updated the plan that the District had implemented for the 2020-2021 school year as in-person instruction was also offered five-days a week for that entire school year.
- The plan was shared at the Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah School District Board of Education Special Meeting on July 21 with an opportunity for public comment. It has continued to be a "standing agenda" item for each following monthly School Board meeting with the opportunity to comment throughout the 2021-2022 school year. Modifications to timeline for review/input may be made beginning in the 2022-2023 school year.
- 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.