

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



Iola-Scandinavia School District

District Contact: Chris Nelson

Website: www.iola.k12.wi.us

Phone: 715-445-2411

Address: 450 E. Division Street Iola, WI 54945

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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 Iola-Scandinavia School District will continue to 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 Iola-Scandinavia School District will begin the 2023-24 school year with a five-day per week, face-to-face instructional model and adhere to the following health protocols. Accordingly, the District will adhere to the following:

- Parent/Guardian monitor symptoms of child and keep home if sick
- Promote hand washing and covering your cough/sneeze

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 Iola-Scandinavia School District will offer in-person learning five days a week according to the Board adopted 2023-2024 Academic Year Calendar. The school district has also provided families the option to enroll their students in virtual learning through Rural Virtual Academy. In the event of school closure due to a virus outbreak, the district purchased Chromebooks for all students to continue instruction via Schoology. Physical materials may be picked up in the school offices or delivered.

Regardless of the mode of instruction, the Iola-Scandinavia School District will continue to provide meals under the community provision as long as USDA continues the allowance. 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. (This is no longer an option for USDA)

The Iola-Scandinavia School District employs Part-time school nurses who will continue to offer health services in-person or virtually.

Mitigation Measures

Universal and correct wearing of masks

The Iola-Scandinavia School Board adopted procedures that face coverings for all students, staff, and visitors will be optional in all school district settings.

Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing

Mitigation measures such as proper signage, water bottle filling stations, and the promotion of social distancing have been implemented at each facility. 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.

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 classrooms and at most entry points.

Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

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.

The District has installed higher quality filters on all air cleaning units and air intake ventilation units in all buildings. These units function continuously while the ventilation units operate and are monitored electronically through HVAC computer systems. The District has also increased the outside air intake on all of these units.

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

Our nursing staff will guide parents/students, employees, and contractors on screening protocols for the daily pre-screening process. 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 Iola-Scandinavia School District recommends students and staff get tested for COVID by their medical provider or a local pharmacy. The District has ample amounts of covid 19 tests. Staff and parents can contact nursing service or administrators at each building to obtain test kits.

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 and new staff will be able to access to vaccinations by working with local healthcare partners and County Public Health.

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 Iola-Scandinavia School District continues to work with 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 Iola-Scandinavia 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. Additional instructional personnel has been added to staffing to implement further academic recovery efforts in core curriculum areas. These specialists will be available during the instructional day.

Student Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs

The District is working with the county and CAP services to provide additional counseling and mental health services for our students. We employ a mental health navigator and a family engagement specialist.

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. (This is no longer an option for schools)

Staff Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs

The staff's social, emotional, and mental health needs are being 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 Iola-Scandinavia 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 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 Iola-Scandinavia School District has taken the following steps to make its plan available to the public:

- The plan is posted at <http://www.iola.k12.wi.us>
- The plan is available in multiple languages through the use of our web provider powered by Google Translate. The plan is available in more than ten languages.
- The plan was sent to parents, students, and employees via our messaging systems.
- The plan was shared at the Iola-Scandinavia School District Board of Education meetings on November 1 and 8, 2021. An opportunity for public comment was available during the November 8, 2021, 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.

I-S [district survey for public comment](#)