

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



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF BELLEVILLE

District Name: School District of Belleville

District Contact: Nate Perry

Website: <https://www.belleville.k12.wi.us/>

Phone: (608) 835-6120

Address: 625 W. Church Street, Belleville, WI 53508

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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 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

The School District of Belleville 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. **A similar approach has been taken during the 2022-23 school year.** Accordingly, the District will:

- publish [Back-to-School Protocols](#) and strongly encourage students and staff members to utilize [this county guidance](#) before entering a school facility,
- encourage staff members and students to stay home or go home if they are showing COVID-19 symptoms,
- have students and staff isolate if they have tested positive for COVID-19,
- limit visitors and activities for non-essential purposes,
- 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 School District of Belleville will offer in-person learning five days a week according to [the Board adopted 2022-2023 Academic Year Calendar](#). The school district has also provided families the option to enroll their students in virtual learning [through the Wisconsin Virtual School](#). In the event of school closure due to the pandemic, the district has had a 1:1 device initiative for eight years and all students have access to a touchscreen Chromebook to continue virtual learning.

Regardless of the mode of instruction, the School District of Belleville will continue to provide meals under the community provision as long as USDA continues this 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. This may include meal pick-up or meal delivery utilizing the district's vehicle

fleet. ***As of June 3, 2022, the USDA no longer reimbursed students for all meals (breakfast and lunch). Taher did not provide meals during Summer School in 2022. Students who do not qualify for free or reduced meals will return to regular payments in the fall of 2022.***

The School District of Belleville employs one full-time school nurse who will continue to offer health services in-person or virtually. The school district also partners with Positive Insights, LLC to provide mental health support for families.

Mitigation Measures

Universal and correct wearing of masks

Description of Policies or Practices

The School District of Belleville is located in Dane County and had been under a [Face Covering Emergency Order](#) since August 19, 2021. It required face coverings indoors (including activities) and on public transportation (busing) for those 2 years old and older. The order also specified a 2-ply mask be worn. This order was very similar to one the district was operating under before June 2nd of the 2020-21 school year.

On Thursday, September 9, 2021, PHMDC extended its masking order with Face Covering Emergency Order #2. A major change in the order once again allowed for Band to occur indoors, with bell covers and 6-ft. of social distancing. This order ran through Friday, October 8th.

On October 4, 2021, PHMDC issued Face Covering Emergency Order #3. It was in effect until November 5th and contained no changes to the previous order. It required face coverings for those 2 and older indoors and on public transportation.

On November 1, 2021, Public Health Madison & Dane County issued Face Covering Emergency Order #4. Similar to previous orders, it required face coverings for people ages two and older in any enclosed space open to the public. However, in [its press release](#), PHMDC noted that when the order expires on November 27th, "it does not plan to replace it with any other mask requirements."

At its November 8, 2021, regular meeting, the Belleville Board of Education acted to:

- Require masks at the elementary school through December 23rd. After the holiday break (on January 3, 2022), masks would be *optional* at the Elementary School.
- Beginning on Monday, November 29th, students and staff at the Middle and High Schools had the option to mask.
- The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) had already extended the face mask requirement on all public transportation through March 18, 2022.

On November 23, 2021 Public Health Madison & Dane County extended the mask order with Face Covering Emergency Order #5. This order carried over previous face covering requirements but added an exception which "now allows people to remove their masks if all individuals in an enclosed space are fully vaccinated."

On December 20, 2021, PHMDC issued Face Covering Emergency Order #6. It extended the mask requirement in Dane County through January 31, 2022. For school purposes, there was little change from the previous order to this new order. It required 2-ply face coverings for people ages two and older when in enclosed spaces (including buses) open to the public where others are present. Based on the school board decision from its regular November 8th meeting, Belleville Elementary, Middle, and High Schools would be mask-optional *when the PHMDC order expires and is not extended again.*

On January 26, 2022, PHMDC extended its [Face Covering Emergency Order](#). Face Covering Emergency Order #7 mirrored the previous order and required 2-ply face coverings for people ages two and older in enclosed spaces open to the public where other people are present. *The school board had voted to follow PHMDC's face covering emergency orders. The district would allow for a mask-optional policy when these orders expired.*

On February 14, 2022, PHMDC released a statement that it would no longer require face coverings in public indoor spaces beginning on March 1st. At its January 10th regular meeting, the Belleville Board of Education voted to follow Public Health Madison and Dane County's Face Covering Emergency Orders, with a mask-optional policy throughout the district when orders expired. *Beginning on Tuesday, March 1st, students, staff, and visitors throughout the district had the choice to wear masks at the elementary, middle, and high schools.* The only exception to this was a [Transportation Security Administration \(TSA\) requirement](#) for masks on the district's school buses through March 18th.

On February 25th, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention released a statement that no longer required masking on public school buses. [This Skylert](#) was sent to parents on February 28th to inform them that starting on March 1st, the district's mask-optional policy would apply to both school buildings and school buses.

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

Description of Policies or Practices

Mitigation measures such as [proper signage](#), the installation of [floor decals](#) and [water bottle filling stations](#), and the [promotion of social distancing](#) have been implemented at each facility. Seating charts were used at the Elementary School in the cafeteria during the lunch period. At both buildings, the administrative teams had attempted to limit the time students spent at lunch unmasked, within 6 feet of one another, to limit close contact exposures. Individual schools determined the cafeteria service that best suits the needs of their students. Classrooms may be used as settings for student meals.

At Belleville Elementary School, staff separated classrooms of students as much as possible from other classrooms, again to limit close contact exposures. Belleville school buses complied with CDC guidelines regarding capacity that were in effect during the 2021-22 school year. The School District of Belleville followed the [Transportation Security Administration \(TSA\) requirement](#) of wearing a face mask on public transportation through March 18, 2022.

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Description of Policies or Practices

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.

Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

Description of Policies or Practices

In August of 2020, the School District of Belleville purchased ten Pike Systems sprayers. The district has utilized [Vital Oxide](#) to spray classrooms, common areas with tables, and bathrooms. For the 2020-21 school year, spraying occurred between each cohort- even midday of the elementary school. The district is committed to spraying these same areas at the end of each day through the 2021-22 school year. This has now been extended *until the remaining Vital Oxide supply is used*. Custodians still use an H₂O₂-based disinfectant in classrooms with illness.

The District has installed ionization air cleaning units on all air intake ventilation units in all buildings. This project was completed in January of 2021, with Alpha Controls & Services installing [Global Plasma Solutions \(GPS\)](#) needlepoint bipolar ionizers throughout both buildings at a cost of just under \$80,000. These units function at all times that ventilation units operate and are monitored electronically through HVAC computer systems.

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

Description of Policies or Practices

The School District of Belleville had contact traced throughout the pandemic. **With the start of the 2022-23 school year and on recommendations from Public Health Madison & Dane County, contact tracing has stopped.** To provide transparent reporting for our stakeholders, the District still maintains [a COVID-19 case dashboard](#) for the current school year that is updated weekly with student (by grade level) and staff (by building) COVID cases.

The School District of Belleville will guide parents/students, employees, and contractors on screening protocols for a [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](#).

[Update guidance](#) from Public Health Madison & Dane County released in May of 2023 continues to require isolation for five days for both staff and students with a positive COVID-19 test, with masking from days 6-10 after exposure when around others. However, any close contact language has been removed.

Diagnostic and screening testing

Description of Policies or Practices

On January 15, 2021, [Dr. David O'Connor](#) and [Dr. Shelby O'Connor](#) trained three School District of Belleville staff members to administer rapid antigen tests (Abbott BinaxNow COVID-19 Ag CARDS). Parents/Guardians must sign a waiver before its use. Results can be retrieved within 15 minutes and are reported to the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene. The school district will encourage parents and staff to get a PCR test when the individual still identifies as symptomatic.

For the 2022-23 school year, the School District of Belleville has partnered with Accelerated Labs for both rapid and PCR testing within our schools (with the schedule listed below). This program is funded through the Wisconsin Department of Health Services.

Belleville Elementary School 101 S. Grant St, Belleville WI 53508			
Mon	8:00	11:00 AM	3:00:00
Tues	12:00 PM	3:00 PM	3:00:00
Wed	8:00	11:00 AM	3:00:00
Thurs	12:00 PM	3:00 PM	3:00:00
Fri	8:00	11:00 AM	3:00:00
		Total Site Hours:	15:00:00

Belleville Middle School/High School 635 W. Church St, Belleville WI 53508			
Mon	12:00 PM	3:00 PM	3:00:00
Tues	8:00	11:00 AM	3:00:00
Wed	12:00 PM	3:00 PM	3:00:00
Thurs	8:00	11:00 AM	3:00:00
Fri	12:00 PM	3:00 PM	3:00:00
		Total Site Hours:	15:00:00

**Accelerated Labs testing within the buildings came to an end at the end of February 2023 due to decreased need.*

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

Description of Policies or Practices

All eligible staff employed in 2020-2021 were provided the opportunity to be vaccinated. Students ages 16 and older were provided access to an on-site vaccination clinic in the spring of 2021. Students ages 12 and older were provided access to an on-site vaccination clinic in the summer of 2021. New staff will be given access to vaccinations by working with local healthcare partners and County Public Health. The school district coordinated with Hometown Pharmacy in Monroe to set up other on-site COVID vaccination clinics for students ages 5-11 on November 11th, and December 3rd, 2021.

The School District of Belleville hosted an additional COVID vaccine clinic for students (and staff and families) in coordination with the Monroe Hometown Pharmacy prior to the start of the 2022-23 school year on August 30th, 2022.

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

Description of Policies or 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.

Throughout the pandemic, the district has supported students virtually, in the school buildings when they were closed to other students, and with additional technology support when necessary.

Coordination with state and local health officials

Description of Policies or Practices

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 Belleville continues to work with County Public Health to implement mitigating strategies for the safety of students and staff.

The school district's administrative team still attends now bi-weekly meetings with updates from Public Health Madison & Dane County (PHMDC). The school district has also worked with PHMDC and local daycare centers on consistent contact tracing methods. The district's Medical Advisory group, consisting of three doctors, an infection control practitioner, and the district nurse, met seven times between October of 2020 and August of 2021.

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 School District of Belleville implemented a summer school program for English Language Learners (ELL) during the Summer of 2020 to assist in academic recovery from that spring. The School District of Belleville's full Summer School Program returned in 2021, with academic recovery classes at the elementary, middle, and high schools by invitation.

The District has continued full-time, in-person instruction for the 2021-22 school year onward. Additional instructional personnel has been added to staffing to implement further academic recovery efforts in core curriculum areas. This includes hiring an elementary school Math interventionist, as well as two additional first grade and fourth grade teachers to ensure small class sizes in the primary grades. A part-time ELL aide and another regular education aide were made permanent hires. Through a grant program, the district also established a homeless liaison position. The middle and high schools also split one position into two full-time positions- separating a full-time interventionist and a full-time instructional coach.

The School District of Belleville secured over \$340,000 in two Out-of-School Time grants during the 2022-23 school year. These grants will provide academic assistance outside of the school day (before and after school) and during the summer. They will provide support for students struggling in math and reading.

Student Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs

Additional counseling staff was added for the 2019-20 school year to address our students' social and emotional learning needs. The district continues to employ a full-time nurse who assists in these efforts. Belleville contracts with CESA 5 for an 80% school psychologist position. The School District of Belleville has also established a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Positive Insights, LLC to provide counseling services within our buildings to students during the school day. In addition, the district applied for and received Peer-to-Peer Suicide and Dane County Mental Health Grants totaling over \$11,000 to address teen mental health and launch a Social-Emotional Learning screener.

For the 2022-23 school year, the School District of Belleville has partnered with Foundations Counseling Center for a \$50,000 Telehealth Grant to serve Wildcat students.

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

Food services continued to provide meals under the community provision as long as USDA provided the allowance. Meals were provided for summer school attendees as well as all eligible youth during the school year. Summer meals were provided for summer school and all children age 18 and under through July 8, 2021.

As of June 3, 2022, the USDA no longer reimbursed students for all meals (breakfast and lunch). Taher did not provide meals during Summer School in 2022. Students who do not qualify for free or reduced meals will return to regular payments in the fall of 2022.

Staff Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs

The District has provided staff with opportunities for social and emotional supports through its Wellness Committee, with the assistance of its counseling and nursing staff. This includes running, PiYO/Yoga, book club, and dog walking groups with regular meetings during the school year. The administrative team has also brought in speakers [Jeff Ditzenberger](#), [Doug Stampfli](#), and [Brittany Meoska](#) to address staff mental health throughout the pandemic. 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 Belleville 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.

The school district's administrative team meets twice per month and will add the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan to its agenda twice per year. The District Administrator will provide two updates per year at regular meetings of the Board of Education,

through the fall of 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 Belleville has taken the following steps to make its plan available to the public:

- The plan is posted at:
<https://www.belleville.k12.wi.us/district/covid-19-coronavirus-info-page.cfm>.
- 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 shared at the School District Board of Education meetings on December 13th, 2021. An opportunity for public comment was available during the December 13th, 2021, and January 10th, 2022, Board meetings.
- The plan was also presented to 20 parents at the December 8, 2021 meeting of the Key Communicators volunteer group, with the opportunity for feedback.
- At the April 11, 2022, school board meeting, the public had the chance to provide input on how the district is spending [ESSER III funds](#).
- At the January 9, 2023, school board meeting, the District Administrator included a discussion item on the agenda about updates to the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction & Continuity of Services Plan.
- 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.

[District form for public comment](#)

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