

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



**Mineral Point Unified 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 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

The Mineral Point School District will begin the 2021-22 school year with a five-day per week, face-to-face instructional model. With the help of local medical professionals, the school board will establish a set of health protocols to follow along with a mask decision matrix that will respond to increasing/decreasing cases of covid. The district will:

- Publish the COVID pre-screening checklist and encourage students and staff to utilize the checklist before coming to school.
- Encourage students and staff members to stay home or go home if they are showing symptoms or if they have tested positive.
- Provide sanitizing stations throughout the building.
- Train staff to administer the antigen test (rapid) within the school buildings.
- The district will update families weekly on the current positive case count and what protocols will be in effect for the upcoming week.

### 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 Mineral Point School District will offer in-person instruction five days a week according to the Board adopted calendar, for the 2021-22 academic year. In the event of school closure due to the pandemic, the district has purchased Chromebooks for all students. The district has also purchased enough Mifi hotspots to provide wireless internet connectivity for families that do not currently have home access to the internet.

Regardless of the mode of instruction, the Mineral Point School District will continue to provide meals under the community provision as long as the USDA continues the allowance. Meals will be provided to all youth during the school year. In the event that the school is closed due to the pandemic, the district will develop a process to distribute meals similar to the plan used in the spring of 2020.

The Mineral Point School District employs one full-time nurse who will continue to offer health services in-person or virtually. The district also employs one school psychologist and one social worker that will offer mental health support for families.

## Mitigation Measures

### Universal and correct wearing of masks

The Mineral Point School District adopted thresholds 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 the transmission level of COVID within the school district's zip code. The thresholds are part of the Board approved matrix and can be found on the district website.

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

Mitigation measures such as social distancing, water bottle filling stations have been implemented at each facility. When possible, extended or staggered meal service will be implemented to support social distancing. Adequate time will be provided to allow students to consume their meals. Cafeterias, classrooms, and the gymnasium may be used as settings for student meals.

All staff members will keep accurate seating charts in the event contact tracing is necessary. The school district will follow all safety protocols and guidelines for transportation, in accordance with the national guidelines.

### Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette are 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 sanitization stations/liquids are available in all classrooms.

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

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 treated with a nano-technology barrier solution on a bi-weekly basis. This solution is rated to last 30 days on surfaces, and the District elects to retreat surfaces at the rated half-life of the product.

The District has purchased UV light sanitizing units for each building. These disinfecting units are used on a nightly basis after classrooms and common areas are cleaned. Mineral Point is also diagnosing its current air quality and will make improvements if a need is indicated.

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

The Mineral Point 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 will continue to do so for the 2021-22 school year.

The Mineral Point School District will guide parents/students, employees, and contractors on screening protocols for the daily pre-screening process, which all parties should complete before entering the campus/building. 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. Procedures for contact tracing can be found on the [district website](#).

### **Diagnostic and screening testing**

The Mineral Point School District recommend students and staff get tested for COVID at their respective school building, or by their medical provider or a local pharmacy. The turnaround time for results at the school is 15 minutes, and at a pharmacy or local testing center has been reduced to within 48 hours.

### **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 ages 12 and older were provided access to an on-site vaccination clinic in the spring of 2021. Students ages 5 and older were provided access to an on-site vaccination clinic in the fall of 2021. New staff will be given 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 Mineral Point School District continues to work with the Iowa County Public Health Department and the Wisconsin Department of Health and Safety to implement mitigating strategies for the safety of students and staff.

# Continuity of Services

## Overview

The Mineral Point School District 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 Mineral Point 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.

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

Additional counseling staff has been added to the mental health staff to address our students' social and emotional learning needs.

#### **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 and all children age 18 and under through July 2, 2021.

Summer school meals will resume July 6 - 9, 12 -15, and 19 - 22. 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 has provided staff with opportunities for social and emotional support through post-school hour meetings with the counseling staff and nursing staff. 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

The Mineral Point School District will 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 Mineral Point 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 Mineral Point School District has taken the following steps to make its plan available to the public:

- The plan is posted at <http://www.mineralpointschools.org>
- The plan was sent to parents, students, and employees via our messaging systems.
- The plan was shared at the Mineral Point School District Board of Education meetings on August 23 and 26, 2021. An opportunity for public comment was available during the September 13, 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.