

Milwaukee Academy of Science 21-22 Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan



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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

Milwaukee Academy of Science (MAS) will enter the 2021-22 with a five-day per week, face-to-face instructional model and adhere to the following health protocols. Accordingly, MAS 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,
- limit visitors and activities for non-instructional purposes,
- provide sanitizing stations throughout the building.
- Supply masks for all staff and students
- Adjust policies when appropriate to reflect CDC's latest guidance

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)

Milwaukee Academy of Science (MAS) is offering in-person learning according to the Board of Director adopted 2021-22 school calendar. MAS is not offering school-wide virtual opt out options, however, has adopted policies that allow for individual, class and/or grade level virtual programs as required for illness and/or quarantines. In the event of a school closure due to the pandemic, MAS will ensure all scholars will have access to a device and virtual learning program.

Regardless of the mode of instruction MAS will continue to provide meals under the community provision as long as USDA continues the allowance. Meals will be provided for all scholars during the school year and for summer school attendees as well. If school is closed due to a pandemic, the district will assess its ability to distribute meals to all students utilizing the same process it used during the 2020-21 school year.

Our counselors, family engagement coordinator and student support services will continue to offer services in-person or virtually in the instance of quarantine or closure.

Mitigation Measures

Universal and correct wearing of masks

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

The Board of Directors and staff leadership of Milwaukee Academy of Science has determined that all staff and students, vaccinated or not, will be required to wear a mask within the building for the 2021-22 school year. School leadership will determine if the policy will be maintained during summer school and the following school year at an upcoming Board of Director meeting.

In addition, MAS has trained staff and students on the correct way to wear masks and have placed signs throughout the building as a reminder.

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

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

MAS is requiring all classrooms to be structured for social distancing to the greatest degree possible. MAS has also placed hand sanitation stations throughout the building and allows scholars to use personal water bottles and/or paper cups when drinking water. Scholars at MAS have assigned seats, therefore, contact tracing can be completed when necessary.

In addition, MAS reduced the number of scholars riding buses to better social distance.

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

Proper 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.

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

Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

MAS increased our sanitation expectations and procedures throughout the building- especially on high touch surfaces like door handles, in restrooms and cafeterias. The District uses cleaning solutions that are rated to kill the SARS virus. In addition to daily cleaning, we've implemented hourly cleaning of high traffic areas and doors.

MAS has upgraded our air filtrations systems to above what is recommended by the CDC. 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, if applicable

MAS 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, MAS maintains a COVID-19 dashboard on our school's website throughout the 2020-21 school year and will continue to do so for the 2021-22 school year.

All parents/students and employees are informed of our 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 quarantine and when the CDC or our local health departments changes recommendations related to COVID-19.

Diagnostic and screening testing

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

MAS recommends students and staff get tested for COVID by their medical provider or at a local pharmacy whenever the option exists. However, MAS offers rapid testing for staff, parents and students-with the permission of a parent.

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

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

MAS provided all staff the opportunity to be vaccinated through our partnership with the Medical College of Wisconsin and continues to host on-site vaccination clinics. 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 fall of 2021.

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. MAS continues to work with the Milwaukee Health Department 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

Milwaukee Academy of Science will provide for continuity of services as follows:

Student Academic Needs

Milwaukee Academy of Science has implemented a summer school program to assist students in grades K-12 with academic and credit 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 include instructional paraprofessionals, instructional coaches, and intervention specialists. Additionally, MAS is implementing after school tutoring programming as well as during school academic intervention with a wide range of on-site partners such as Reading Corps, SPARK Literacy, and local university service learners.

Student Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs

Additional social work, student, support, and student services staff have been added to the mental health staff to address our students' social and emotional learning needs. Additionally, we have offered increased training in Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports and have continued to expand the implementation of our Social Emotional Learning curricula in grades K-8. As with supporting academic needs with our partners, we are also supporting Social Emotional needs with our on-site partners including PEARLS for Teen Girls and STRYV 365.

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 31, 2022. 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 staff's social, emotional, and mental health needs are addressed through the Employee Assistance Program provided through the District insurance program. We also utilize our employee wellness Humana Go365 program to encourage our staff to prioritize their health and well-being.

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 Milwaukee Academy of Science 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 Milwaukee Academy of Science has taken the following steps to make its plan available to the public:

- The plan is posted on the Milwaukee Academy of Science website.
- The plan is available for oral translation upon request by our staff.
- The plan was sent to parents, students, and employees via our messaging systems.
- The plan will be shared at the Milwaukee Academy of Science Board of Education meeting on January 20, 2022.
- Parents were surveyed to share their priorities for the use of federal funding that also impacted our academic, SEL, and other student supports that make up the contents of this 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.