

# ALMA PUBLIC SCHOOLS



## **Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan** ***as described in Public Act 149, Section 98a*** ***Final***

On August 20, 2020, Governor Whitmer signed House Bill 5913 into law as Public Act 149. Section 98a states that in order to receive state aid for 2020-2021, districts must provide for instruction under an extended COVID-19 Learning Plan (“Plan”) that has been approved by an intermediate district or authorizing body. The Plan does not replace the District’s/PSA’s COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan, it is an additional plan that includes new assurances and sections on educational goals, instructional delivery, grading, and equitable access. PA 149 does not apply to districts that operate as a cyber school.

District/PSA educational goals written for all students and all subgroups must be established no later than September 15, 2020, and submitted in their Plan to the ISD or Authorizing Body, as applicable, no later than October 1, 2020, for approval. ISDs and PSAs will transmit the approved plan to the superintendent of public instruction and the state treasurer.

**On October 14, 2020, OISHA released additional Guidance to Schools regarding Extended Learning Plans. The additional requirements can be found in this document, in orange and marked with an \*.**

District/PSA Extended COVID-19 Learning Plans should be submitted to the ISD or Authorizing Body as a PDF file.

# **ALMA PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

## **Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan**

Address of School District/PSA: 1500 N. Pine Avenue, Alma Michigan 48801

District/PSA Code Number: 29010

District/PSA Website Address: [www.almaschools.net](http://www.almaschools.net)

District/PSA Contact and Title: Donalynn Ingersoll, Superintendent

District/PSA Contact Email Address: [dingersoll@almaschools.net](mailto:dingersoll@almaschools.net)

Name of Intermediate School District/PSA: Gratiot-Isabella

Name of PSA Authorizing Body (if applicable):

Date of Approval by ISD/Authorizing Body:

## Assurances

1. The District/PSA will make their ISD/Authorizing Body approved Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan accessible through the transparency reporting link located on the District's/PSA's website no later than October 1, 2020.
2. The District/PSA will create and make available on its transparency reporting link located on the District/PSA's website, a report concerning the progress made in meeting the educational goals contained in its Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan no later than February 1, 2021, for goals its expected would be achieved by the middle of the school year and not later than the last day of school of the 2020-2021 school year for goals the District/PSA expected would be achieved by the end of the school year.
3. Benchmark Assessments: The District/PSA will
  - select a benchmark assessment or benchmark assessments that is/are aligned to state standards.
  - administer the approved benchmark assessment, or local benchmark assessment, or any combination thereof, to all pupils in grades K to 8 to measure proficiency in reading and mathematics within the first nine weeks of the 2020-2021 school year and again not later than the last day of the 2020-2021 school year.
4. If delivering pupil instruction virtually, the District/PSA will
  - provide pupils with equitable access to technology and the internet necessary to participate in instruction, and
  - expose each pupil to the academic standards that apply for each pupil's grade level or courses in the same scope and sequence as the District/PSA had planned for that exposure to occur for in-person instruction.
5. The District/PSA, in consultation with a local health department will develop guidelines concerning appropriate methods for delivering pupil instruction for the 2020-2021 school year that is based on local data that are based on key metrics. *Note: A determination concerning the method for delivering pupil instruction shall remain at the District/PSA Board's discretion.* Key metrics that the District/PSA will consider shall include at least all of the following:
  - COVID-19 Cases or Positive COVID-19 tests
  - Hospitalizations due to COVID-19
  - Number of deaths resulting from COVID-19 over a 14-day period
  - COVID-19 cases for each day for each 1 million individuals
  - The percentage of positive COVID-19 tests over a 4-week period
  - Health capacity strength
  - Testing, tracing, and containment infrastructure with regard to COVID-19
6. If the District/PSA determines that it is safe to provide in-person instruction to pupils, the District/PSA will prioritize providing in-person instruction to pupils in grades K to 5 who are enrolled in the District/PSA.
7. The District/PSA assures that
  - instruction will be delivered as described in this plan and re-confirmed by the District/PSA Board,

- the description of instructional delivery in this plan matches the delivery of instruction to be delivered during the 2020-2021 school year,
  - the District/PSA will re-confirm how instruction will be delivered during the 2020-2021 school year thirty days after the approval of the plan, and every 30 days thereafter at a meeting of the Board, and
  - public comment will be solicited from the parents or legal guardians of the pupils enrolled in the District/PSA during a public meeting described in PA-149.
8. The District/PSA will ensure that students with disabilities will be provided with equitable access to instruction and accommodation in accordance with applicable state and federal laws, rules, and regulations.
9. The District/PSA will ensure that two (2), 2-way interactions occur between a pupil enrolled in the District/PSA and the pupil's teacher or at least one (1) of the pupil's teachers during each week of the school year for at least 75% of the pupils enrolled in the District/PSA. The District/PSA will publicly announce its weekly interaction rates at each District/PSA Board meeting where it re-confirms how instruction is being delivered. The District/PSA will make those rates available through the transparency reporting link located on the District/PSA website each month for the 2020-2021 school year.

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District Superintendent or President of the Board of Education/Directors

**September 22, 2020**    **November 5, 2020**

Date

# Learning Plan Narrative

## Opening Statement

- Please provide a statement indicating why an Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan is necessary to increase pupil engagement and achievement for the 2020-2021 school year.

The COVID-19 global pandemic is impacting our school community in a number of ways: we are experiencing a traumatic event, many students may have significant gaps in their learning, and equity issues are more pronounced.

As we return to school in the fall, our first priority will be to ensure the well-being of all members of our school community. Because of the wide range of experiences students had during the remote learning portion of the 19-20 school year, we anticipate that students will come to school in the fall of 2020 with a wider than usual range of competencies. We expect that many students will be behind academically and will need opportunities to recover learning lost over the past six months. Teachers will need opportunities to collaborate with each other as they plan for teaching to these gaps, examine student work and determine what comes next in the learning for each student.

As Alma Public Schools plans to begin the school year with students face to face and students in a remote learning environment, we will need to ensure that there are structures in place to ensure student engagement and achievement for all, regardless of the learning platform. This plan will focus on teaching and learning with an emphasis on equity for all learners and the well-being of students and staff.

\*In compliance with the Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration General Rules, Emergency Rules Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) issued on October 14, 2020, Alma Public Schools has determined the following SARS-CoV-2 risk categories for job tasks and procedures for all district employee job task and procedures:

### MEDIUM:

“These job tasks and procedures include those that require frequent or close contact (e.g. within 6 feet) with people who may be infected with SARS-CoV-2, but who are not known or suspected COVID-19 patients. In areas without on-going community transmission, workers in this risk group may have frequent contact with travelers who may return from locations with widespread SARS-CoV-2 transmission. In areas where there is ongoing community transmission, workers in this category may have contact with the general public (e.g. schools, high-population-density work environments, high-volume retail settings).” OSHA, October 14, 2020 **Rule 3. Exposure determination for all employees** (2) (b), page 3.

\*In compliance with the Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration General Rules, Emergency Rules Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) issued on October 14, 2020, Alma Public Schools is adding the following to this ECOL Plan: "Records of Training, Screening protocols, and Required notifications will be keep for 1 year from time of generation" OISHA, October 14, 2020 **Rule 11. Record keeping requirements for all employees** (1) (a) (b) (c), (2) page 9.

\*The APS COL (Spring, 2020) and the APS ECOL (Fall, 2020) is in compliance with following rules as listed in the Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration General Rules, Emergency Rules Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) issued on October 14, 2020:

Rule 1. Scope and application

Rule 2. Definitions

**Rule 3. (See above addition)**

Rule 4. COVID-19 preparedness and response plans for all employees

Rule 5. Basic infection prevention measures for all employees

Rule 6. Health surveillance for all employees

Rule 7. Workplace controls for all employees

Rule 8. Personal protection equipment requirements for all employees

Rule 9. Industry-specific requirements (does not apply)

Rule 10. Training requirements for all employees

**Rule 11: Recordkeeping requirements for all employees (see above addition)**

## Educational Goals

- **Please outline and describe** the educational goals expected to be achieved for the 2020-2021 school year. The District/PSA must establish all of its goals no later than September 15, 2020. Authorizing bodies expect PSA educational goals will be aligned to the educational goal within your charter contract.
- **Specify** which goals are expected to be achieved by the middle of the school year and which goals are expected to be achieved by the end of the school year.
- **Ensure** that all of the following apply to the educational goals described in this section: (a) The goals include increased pupil achievement or, if growth can be validly and reliably measured using a benchmark assessment or benchmark assessments, growth on a benchmark assessment in the aggregate and for all subgroups of pupils; (b) The District/PSA benchmark assessment(s) are aligned to state standards and will be administered to all pupils K-8 at least once within the first 9 weeks of the 2020-2021 school year and not later than the last day of the 2020-2021 school year to determine whether pupils are making meaningful progress toward mastery of these standards; and (c) the District's/PSA's educational goals are measurable through a benchmark assessment or benchmark assessments.
- To the extent practicable, the District/PSA will administer the same benchmark assessment or benchmark assessments that was administered to pupils in previous years.

## Quality Evidence-Based Assessment Practices

Alma Public Schools believes that benchmark assessment evidence can be used to monitor and evaluate patterns and trends in school/district academic performance and to identify effective instructional programs. We believe it can provide guidance for standardizing or adjusting curriculum and instruction across grade levels, schools, and districts.

However, we do not believe the use of benchmark assessment data to make high-stakes instructional decisions about individual student learning is appropriate. Alma Public Schools will continue the use of (and professional learning around the use of) the formative assessment process as a powerful practice embedded in the teaching and learning process. Formative assessment practices will be used to continuously observe where our students are in order to modify instruction.

We believe the use of the formative assessment process, which is supported by an extensive body of research, provides in-time data for both our teachers and students to accelerate their learning and progress, thereby giving educators and students a more complete picture of what our students know and are able to do. Providing timely and descriptive feedback that shows students the next steps toward improvement in the learning process will be imperative for successful learning in each platform.

## **Educational Goals**

The NWEA assessments in reading and mathematics will be administered to all students at least two times during the 2020-21 school year: once in the first nine weeks of the school year and again prior to the last day of school. Formative assessments will provide information to inform our progress toward our goals over the course of the year. Progress reports will be available on our website in February and June. Progress toward goals will be reviewed with stakeholders as appropriate and required.

As a means of continuous improvement in teaching & learning, all teachers have received professional development in, and are committed to the use of, the formative assessment process. Balanced Assessment practices has been an on-going commitment of this district and the GIRESD, and as such has been supported through professional development, collaborative planning, professional staff evaluations and the School Improvement process.

We will continue to engage stakeholders in the district's balanced assessment system, including publicly sharing aggregate and student subgroup performance reports on NWEA results.

**Goal 1** - All students (K-8) will improve performance in Reading/ELA from Fall to Spring as measured by NWEA.

- All teachers will use the formative assessment process to support adjustment to teaching & learning, to support meaningful student progress towards mastery of Reading/ELA academic standards.
- Results from Reading/ELA benchmark assessments, local Reading/ELA summative assessments, and formative assessment will be continuously discussed and analyzed by staff.

**Goal 2** - All students (K-8) will improve performance in Mathematics from Fall to Spring as measured by NWEA.

- All teachers will use the formative assessment process to support adjustment to teaching & learning, to support meaningful student progress towards mastery of Math academic standards.
- Results from Math benchmark assessments, local Math summative assessments, and formative assessment will be continuously discussed and analyzed by staff.



## Instructional Delivery & Exposure to Core Content

- **Please describe** how and where instruction will be delivered during the 2020-2021 school year. (e.g. instruction may be delivered at school or a different location, in-person, online, digitally, by other remote means, in a synchronous or asynchronous format, or any combination thereof).

Note: The Alma Public Schools full instructional plan can be found in the [MI Safe Schools Roadmap—Alma Public School COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan](#).

### Mode of Instruction

To start the school year, K-12 families may choose an In-Person or On-Line option. Each platform will follow a schedule of 5 days a week, Monday through Fridays, following the APS 2020-21 school year calendar. Panthers On-Line students will be joining (synchronous/asynchronously) via Google Classroom or Seesaw. Student and staff health and safety will be addressed through a cohort model PreK-5 that keeps students together for the entire school day. Middle School and High school students (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades) will begin the year with the same options. The length of the school day PreK-12 has been shortened to limit exposure, provide additional individualized instruction for both instructional platforms, and to allow teachers time to work directly with their Panthers On-Line students, and collaboratively with each other.

- **Please describe** how instruction for core academic areas will expose each pupil to the academic standards that apply for each pupil's grade level or course in the same scope and sequence as the District/PSA had planned for that exposure to occur for in-person instruction.

Note: The Alma Public Schools full instructional plan can be found in the [MI Safe Schools Roadmap—Alma Public School COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan](#).

### **Curriculum and Instruction: Academic Standards**

The Alma Public Schools curriculum for core academic areas is aligned to state standards and housed in APS Google Drive. As teachers navigate the wider than usual range of competencies expected this fall, they will use our Curriculum Maps and GIRESD “Non-Negotiable” Standards to provide guidance in designing new (or best utilize existing) pre-assessments to plan for differentiation of content, use results from pre-assessments to inform instruction, and prioritize K-12 instructional standards for the 2020-2021 School Year. Additionally, resources such as [Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Toolkits](#) are available. Teachers will use these resources to guide their implementation of instructional approaches to meet the range of student needs as they return to school in the fall, identify assessment ideas that allow students to demonstrate understanding in a variety of ways, assess and provide instruction in the content areas in face-to-face, and virtual classroom environments, and incorporate well-being and SEL/trauma-informed practices into instruction.

As our teachers work to engage students remotely, they will use their knowledge and training in virtual instruction best practices. Additional resources to support virtual instruction can be found at [Best Practices for Remote Learning](#) and include:

- Remember Maslow
- Nurture a positive home climate for learning and parental involvement
- Establish and maintain remote classroom norms and learning routines
- Implement culturally responsive teaching practices
- Encourage student collaboration and discourse
- Create opportunities for and attend carefully to feedback
- Engage students in meaningful learning opportunities

- **Please describe** how pupil progress toward mastery of the standards described within this section will be graded or otherwise reported to the pupil and the pupil's parent or legal guardian.

### **Assessment and Grading**

Alma Public Schools bases its assessment system on the Michigan Standards. This will remain true for the 2020-21 school year, regardless of the platform being used to deliver instruction. We regularly assess students at the district and classroom level to determine if they are making progress toward meeting those standards. We place a heavy emphasis on formative assessment. This is critical in the instructional process as students receive timely feedback that helps them know what they need to do to improve. It also gives the teacher important information to know how to adjust the teaching and learning process to meet each student's needs.

We have a system for delivering summative assessments at the district and classroom levels. These are given at the end of a period of learning as an evaluation of what has been learned and are part of our district grading process. For example, teachers deliver summative assessments at the end of each unit of study in our curriculum. These assessments are based on a coherent set of standards in the subject area that focus on a related group of skills and disciplinary knowledge.

We make available to our parents and legal guardians PowerSchool Parent Portal that allows them to see their children's grades at any time. Our teachers keep up-to-date information on student grades in this system. We also send progress reports to our parents and guardians during each marking period. This is in addition to the expectation we have for all teachers that they keep parents and guardians abreast of any concerns regarding a student's grade through emails and phone calls. Finally, report cards are distributed at each marking period.

## Equitable Access

- If delivering pupil instruction virtually, please **describe** how the District/PSA will provide pupils with equitable access to technology and the internet necessary to participate in instruction.

## Technology

Alma Public Schools ensures all students will be provided equitable access to technology and the internet as described in our Continuity of Learning Plan, previously submitted to the state. Our system for maintaining student access to technology devices and the internet is described in the Continuity of Learning Plan, and again in the [MI Safe Schools Roadmap—Alma Public School COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan](#)

- **Please describe** how the District/PSA will ensure that students with disabilities will be provided with equitable access to instruction and accommodation in accordance with applicable state and federal laws, rules, and regulations.

### **Students with identified special needs**

When school starts, students' IEPs, IFSPs, and 504 plans will be reviewed in coordination with general and special education teachers and/or providers to address any data-driven accommodations and/or services that are needed due to known changes in students' needs.

For students from birth to five, K-12 with identified special needs, and those attending CTE programming, intervention and support services will be integrated into the student's program immediately upon the start of school.

The district has established structures for general and special education teachers and/or providers to collaborate and communicate regarding student performance and student needs on IEP goals and objectives with special consideration regarding assistive technology and accessibility. Resources to consider: Alt+Shift consultation or Alt+Shift web resources at <https://www.altshift.education/resources/remote-learning-resources>

Working with local and GIRESD service providers, Alma Public Schools ensures a continuation of services for students receiving speech and language, occupational therapy, physical therapy, or social work services within their IFSP or IEP. The district also ensures a method for the continuation of evaluation for students suspected of having a disability as well as those requiring re-evaluation.

- **Optional Considerations for District/PSA Extended COVID-19 Learning Plans:**

- 1. In addition to the students with disabilities noted above, please describe how the District/PSA will ensure that the needs of other vulnerable student populations, such as but not limited to, early English Learners and Fledgling/struggling students, are met.
- 2. Please describe how the District/PSA will ensure that students will, during pandemic learning, have continued access to programs such as, but not limited to, Early Childhood, CTE, Early-Middle College, Dual Enrollment, and Advanced Placement as applicable within the District/PSA.

The Alma Public Schools full instructional plan addresses ways all learners are supported and can be found in the [MI Safe Schools Roadmap—Alma Public School COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan](#)