

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



**District Name : Melvindale-Northern Allen Park Schools  
(MeINAP)**

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**City:** Melvindale

**State:** MI

**Zip Code:** 48122

# 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.

Michigan will receive \$3,722,478,258 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. MeINAP schools will receive ESSER III funds in the amount of \$7,665,208.



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. This report template complies with all reporting requirements of the ARP Act (Public Law 117-2), the ESSER III grant terms, conditions, and assurances (CFDA Number 84.425U), and the interim final rule established by the United States Department of Education, 86 FR 21195.

# 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 of maintaining health and safety

The state is committed to ensuring that Michigan students and educators are as safe as possible in the classroom to enable in-person learning. It is essential for schools to adopt prevention policies to reduce COVID-19 transmission. Because many students have yet to be vaccinated, layered prevention measures - including universal masking - must be an option for those interested in masking. When necessary, this allows for MeINAP to respect the wishes of those who choose to mask, and allows us to support consistent health practices throughout the district. Though COVID-19 outbreaks have occurred in schools, multiple studies document that transmission of COVID-19 within the school setting can be prevented by implementing multiple prevention strategies, even when community transmission of COVID-19 is high.\* We must remain committed to the safety of our staff and students. We will continue to monitor symptoms, allow for universal masking, and socially distance whenever possible. Do not hesitate to reach out to the MeINAP administration if you have any questions or concerns.

Safety truly is of the utmost importance. We will continue to monitor cases in our community, stay abreast of local and national guidelines from the CDC, the Wayne County Health and Human Services Department, Wayne RESA, our MeINAP nurse, and other health agencies, in order to keep the district apprised of any necessary changes or updates.

Please access the link below for the latest CDC COVID-19 guidelines.

[CDC COVID-19 Guidance](#)

# Policies or Practices Regarding CDC Recommendations

## Universal and correct wearing of masks

At the current time, per the health authorities, masking is not mandated in schools. We will respect the choice of those students and staff members who choose to mask. They will be allowed to wear a mask throughout the school day, or for periodic times, if they so desire. While supplies last, MeINAP will provide masks for those who request them.

## Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)

Be proactive about reducing the number of interactions that students and staff have with one another by practicing physical (or social) distancing (staying at least 6 feet apart) to limit the spread of the coronavirus.

## Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

At a minimum, staff and students are encouraged to wash their hands with soap and water (or use an alcohol-based sanitizer that contains at least 70% alcohol) when entering the building, before/after meals, before/after recess, and before/after lessons that include shared materials.

Everyone is encouraged to wash their hands or use sanitizer throughout the day. Sanitizer stations are installed in convenient locations throughout the facilities, and soap dispensers are filled and maintained.

It is important that individuals cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, dispose of the tissue and then perform appropriate hand washing protocols. In the absence of a tissue, it is recommended that individuals use sleeves and not hands.

Limit close contact with people who are sick, and avoid sharing food, drinks, or utensils.

Staff and students should stay home when they are sick. Students and staff who test **positive** for COVID-19 must isolate for **5 days**. To calculate the **5-day** isolation period, **day 0** is the first day of a positive test. **Day 1** is the first full day after a positive test. Individuals may leave isolation after **5 full days**. Please continue to communicate with school administration to inform them of a positive COVID-19 test and to determine an accurate return date.

- Individuals can end isolation after **5 full days**, when fever-free for **24 hours** without the use of fever-reducing medication, symptoms are improving, or individuals are asymptomatic.
- Individuals should continue to wear a well-fitting mask around others at home, and in

school, for **5 additional days (days 6 through 10)** after the end of your **5-day isolation period**.

- We recommend COVID-19 testing on **day 6**. We are happy to assist with COVID-19 testing when possible.
- On **day 6**, if you are experiencing symptoms, and the test result is **positive**, individuals should continue to isolate until **day 10**. If an individual's test result is negative between **day 6 and day 10**, the isolation period can end; however, it is recommended that mask-wearing continues around others at home and in school until **day 10**. If symptoms have improved, affected students and staff can return on **day 11 of the isolation process**.

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

High touch items

- Staff members have disinfecting wipes at their disposal to clean/disinfect any high-touch items in their classroom/office throughout the day, ideally between uses.

Daily classroom/building cleaning

- In both the business and academic facilities, janitorial staff will be expected to meet the CDC standards of daily cleaning and disinfecting.

Ventilation

- The district installed REME-HALO-RGF Units in Roof-top units. In addition, classroom filters have been upgraded to MERV 11. All Ventilation systems now meet ASHRAE standards for acceptable indoor air quality.

## **Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine**

MeiNAP schools and the district nurse are closely monitoring COVID-19 data throughout the state and intend to adhere to the directives of government agencies that provide such related to the closing or limitations on school attendance.

Furthermore, the district's nurses in coordination with building administration and secretarial staff will track any absences known to be COVID-19 and assign appropriate quarantine measures according to current health guidelines. Administration will consider classroom or school closure if necessary.

Shifts in classroom or school open status will be recorded and shared with appropriate public health and state agencies and stakeholders as necessary.

## **Diagnostic and screening testing**

Diagnostic screening:

No screening forms will be required this year to enter the building. Symptomatic staff and students will be temperature checked and quickly tested for COVID-19 if available and deemed necessary by the district's nurse.



Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus.

Individuals with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Look for emergency warning signs for COVID-19. If someone is showing any of these signs, seek emergency medical care immediately:

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion
- Inability to wake or stay awake
- Pale, gray, or blue-colored skin, lips, or nail beds, depending on skin tone

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

The District strongly suggests vaccination against COVID-19 for all employees and students that are eligible.

We will continue to encourage stakeholders to get vaccinated. When possible, we have and will continue to provide vaccination clinics where stakeholders can receive the COVID-19 vaccination.

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

The District is committed to serving all students consistent with requirements under IDEA and the provision for Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE). MeINAP schools will strive to meet the overall expectation of in-person learning for students with IEPs.

We have already worked with our Special Services Leaders at our schools to identify students who may need different mask/ face coverings for them or their teachers to access learning or

services and are planning out how to ensure those services happen along with appropriate safety measures like social distancing.

### **Coordination with state and local health officials:**

MeINAP will continue to work closely with local health, state officials in order to remain compliant with reporting guidelines.

# **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 COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted Maslow's hierarchy of needs for students, hijacking their physiological and safety needs which need to be addressed before they can return to learning. We are hiring more psychologists, social workers, nurses, nursing assistants, to provide all students access to professionals who can offer guidance, provide tools to cope with their fears and frustrations, and help them to maintain focus on educational goals.

In addition, we are expanding upon coaching and intervention to address learning loss by using data and targeted assistance to meet the needs of individual students. This additional support will follow and track student progress so that they can remain on course to achieving goals and closing gaps. Frequent meetings among stakeholders, such as the MTSS committee, PBIS, and instructional coaching occur to discuss and coordinate efforts for student success.

With our school district's student population being so rich in diversity, we encourage and support our teachers to achieve ESL certification through many professional development opportunities. They are encouraged to take the MTTC test to address the learning needs of a growing population of ESL learners.

Our plan will provide a police officer liaison to give students a sense of safety, that help is nearby for any type of crisis situation, and provide crisis training to key staff so that the district is ready for any emergency.

This plan provides for student needs and implements the scaffolded supports needed to accelerate learning for students that are experiencing gaps in knowledge safely and with confidence.

# Periodic Review and Public Input

## 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 appropriate revisions. If a district developed a plan prior to the enactment of the ARP Act that was made publicly available and was developed with public comment but does not address each of the required aspects of safety established in the ARP Act, the district must, as part of the required periodic review, revise its plan consistent with the ARP Act requirements no later than six months after it last reviewed its plan.

## District response on ensuring periodic updates to its plan

Stakeholders received personalized outreach from school personnel during the first two months of school—September and October—to hear any concerns about the safe return to school and to learn more about the steps schools are taking to prioritize student and staff safety. Communications were sent out about changes to food service policies, bussing availability, and how Covid-19 exposure would be communicated to the families. In the initial phases of the Continuity of Services Plan, there was a stakeholder meeting on where we gathered public opinion on how funding should be prioritized in our safe return to learning. In addition to this, we have sent out a draft version for the 2022-2023 school year to families and staff via email and accompanying survey so they can offer feedback on this document. Parents and guardians are always welcome to make an appointment with administration to discuss questions, concerns or suggestions regarding this plan and any COVID-19 related concerns.

This plan was finalized on \_\_\_\_\_

and will be revisited every six months through the school year 2022-2023



# Uniform Format

## 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.

## District response on uniform format and accessibility of the plan

Bilingual Assistance / ASISTENCIA BILINGÜE DE INGLÉS-ESPAÑOL/  
ESPAÑOL-INGLÉS - ARABIC:

Melvindale-Northern Allen Parks Public Schools accept a parent's assertion that he or she needs language assistance without requiring additional corroboration. For free help with understanding the content of this document, please call our Spanish Liaisons Ines Ucros #734 673 4562 or Nathaniel Carela (313) 279-8034, or our Arabic Liaisons Mohammed El-beshir #313 401 2808 , Hegga Nassr (313)241-4035, or Zaina Nassr #734-494-0892 for translation/interpretation assistance. Direct school numbers: Melvindale High School #313-389-3320 Strong Middle School #313-389-3330 Allendale Elementary School #313-389-4664 Rogers Early Elementary #313-277-5400

تؤكد مدارس ملفنديل وشمال الن بارك على توفير خدمات الترجمة بدون اي شروط . للحصول على هذه الخدمة المجانية وفهم هذه الاستمارة يرجى التواصل مع محمد البشير على

التلفون: ٨٠٨٢-١٠٤-٣١٣

البريد الإلكتروني: elbeshm@melnapschools.com

يمكنكم أيضاً التواصل معنا على

التلفون: ٥٣٠٤-١٤٢-٣١٣

البريد الإلكتروني: nassrh@melnapschools.com

شكراً على تعاونكم

Las Escuelas Públicas de Melvindale-North Allen Park, le comunican que si existe la necesidad de enviar a la casa cualquier clase de información escrita en el Idioma Español, puede comunicarlo a la oficina principal con el fin de suministrarle esta información en el idioma que usted entiende. Así mismo, si durante el proceso educativo de su hijo/hija usted requiere la asistencia de un intérprete para poder comunicarse con los maestros, este servicio se le ofrece de manera gratuita. Favor comunicarse a la oficina principal : (313) 389 - 3300 para pedir asistencia o si lo prefiere comuníquese con Inés Ucros (Intérprete) enviando mensaje de texto o haciendo llamada telefónica al (734) 673 4562. También puede enviarle un correo electrónico a [ucrosi@melnapschools.com](mailto:ucrosi@melnapschools.com). También puede comunicarse con Nathaniel Carela a (313)279-8034 y [carelag@melnapschools.com](mailto:carelag@melnapschools.com).