

McBain Rural Agricultural School

Back to School Plans for 2023-2024

September 14, 2023

Introduction and Background

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2. The ARP Act includes nearly \$122 billion for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER III) Fund that allows state and local education agencies (LEAs) to take additional steps for continued safe in-person instruction and to address unfinished teaching and learning to mitigate the COVID-19 Pandemic.

These resources will allow school districts to take additional measures to safely sustain their healthy operations, this includes using funds to enact appropriate measures to help schools to invest in mitigation strategies consistent with the Centers for Disease Control and Preventions' (CTC) Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools to the greatest extent practicable; address the many impacts of COVID-19 on students, including unfinished instruction; implement strategies to meet student's social, emotional, mental health, and academic needs; offer crucial summer, afterschool, and other extended learning and enrichment programs; support early childhood education; invest in staff capacity; and avoid devastating layoffs at this critical moment, ensuring that all students have access to teachers, counselors and other school personnel to support their needs.

Section 2001(i)(1) of the ARP Act requires that each LEA that receives ARP ESSER funds to develop and make publicly available on the LEA's website, no later than 30 days after receiving ARP ESSER funds, a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services for all schools (Safe Return Plan). A Safe Return Plan is required of all fund recipients, including those that have already returned to in-person instruction. Section 2001(i)(2) of the ARP act further requires that the LEA seek public comment on the Safe Return Plan and take these comments into account in finalization of the Safe Return Plan.

What will our instructional model look like this school year?

All students will attend school full-time five days per week following the published school calendar: [McBain Schools 2023-2024 School Calendar](#)

When does school start?

The Welcome Back Open House is on Tuesday, August 15, 2023, from 5:00-7:00PM. Our first day of school is on Tuesday, August 22, 2023.

What is the cost of breakfast and lunch for the 2022-2023 school year?

Due to the Community Eligibility Provision all students receive free breakfast and lunch.

Will McBain Schools offer a virtual option for students?

McBain schools will not be offering any virtual options. There was not enough demand nor resources to make it a viable option for the district. We will offer virtual credit recovery courses

for students on an as-needed basis. If you have questions or wonderings about options that may be available virtually for your child, please contact your child's school office.

Quality Evidence-Based Assessment Practices

McBain Rural Agricultural Schools believes benchmark assessment evidence can be used to monitor and evaluate patterns and trends in school/district academic performance and identify effective instructional programs. We believe it can guide standardizing or adjusting curriculum and instruction across grade levels, schools, and districts.

Using the formative assessment process, supported by an extensive body of research, provides in-time data for both our teachers and students to accelerate their learning and progress and gives us a more complete picture of what our students know and can do. NWEA Map Growth (Grade K-11) assessments in reading and mathematics will be administered to all students three times each year: once in the first six weeks of the school year, once in January, and again before the last day of school.

All teachers will use the formative assessment process to support adjustment to teaching and learning, to support meaningful student progress towards mastery of Reading and Mathematics academic standards.

Mental Health Supports

The district has increased mental health services by providing additional social workers. The funding for these additional services has come through 31o, Title I, and 31a grants and the general fund. We also have partnerships with various community agencies and were able to put a wellness clinic with a nurse and a social worker funded through District Health Department #10.

Extended Learning Schools

McBain Schools offered summer school programming for our elementary students with learning loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We also offered a credit recovery summer school to assist high school students in recovering credits that were not awarded during the pandemic. These positions were funded through categorical funds. The district was also able to provide transportation for attending students.

Specialized Services

The McBain School District and Wexford Missaukee Intermediate School District ensure a continuation of services for students receiving speech and language, occupational therapy, physical therapy, resource room, or social work services within their 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. The district also ensures that students of special populations are given additional considerations; these considerations vary by building and/or grade span.

The district will also provide access and additional opportunities to support English Learners with language development/acquisition. Parents and families will continue to be supported in their native language(s) through our staff and translated publications.

Students enrolled in the McBain School District with 504 plans in place, will continue to receive appropriate accommodations as specified through their 504 plans.

Face Masks

Face masks will be optional and provided by parents/guardians. The local or State Health Department may mandate masks if the community has an outbreak. If this happens, we will have to follow their rules.

Will my child be required to get the COVID-19 vaccine to attend school?

No. The COVID-19 vaccine is not listed on the School Required Vaccination List. For more information, please see: [School Required Vaccines for Parents by MDHHS](#).

Will you separate students who are vaccinated from unvaccinated students?

No. Vaccination status is a personal choice.

Will students be in cohorts in the classroom or on the playground?

No, but teachers may keep the same group together to aid with contract tracing if necessary. As of June 22, 2021, MDHHS has discontinued all gathering limits for residential and non-residential settings.

Will McBain Schools quarantine students?

Any quarantine restrictions will come from our local health department. We will continue to exclude staff and students suspected of having a communicable disease based on public health recommendations.

Will student-athletes need to be tested for COVID-19 to participate?

No, MDHHS and MHSAA lifted all requirements for student testing. This may change with new mandates and orders. McBain Schools will follow the required mandates for participation.

What will disinfection practices look like this year?

We will continue to be committed to high-level disinfection practices. McBain Schools custodial staff will continue to use EPA-approved antibacterial and antiviral products to disinfect commonly touched surfaces.

Additional Prevention Strategies:

Masks: Routine, daily masks are now optional for all staff and students. Students may choose to wear a mask due to underlying health conditions, immune system concerns, or any other individual factor.

Hand Washing: We strongly encourage frequent hand washing. Hand sanitizer will be readily available at school.

Social Distance: We recommend maintaining 3-6 feet of distance whenever feasible. Classroom group activities are permitted (carpet time, small group projects).

Visitors/Guests: Parents, Guardians, volunteers, and visitors will be permitted in all schools. Please follow the policies and procedures at each school. Activities/Field Trips: We will resume district wide field trips and extracurricular activities.

Thank you, McBain staff and families, for your attention to this message. I look forward to working together to have a wonderful school year.

Sincerely,

Scott Akom - Superintendent