



2023-2024 Safe Return to In-Person Instruction COVID-19 Guidelines

DISTRICT NAME: Lawrence Public Schools

REVISION DATE: February 12, 2024

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.

Lawrence Public Schools Continuity of Services Plan

Lawrence Public Schools is updating this document to meet the requirements as a recipient of ARP funds. (Section 2001(i) of the ARP Act) This document is subject to change with future orders or mandates from federal, state or county agencies. The Lawrence Board of Education remains committed to monitoring and responding to local data and making operational decisions in consultation with the Van Buren Cass County Health Department. The Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to make decisions adjusting this plan in response to local COVID-19 data and Health Department recommendations specific to Lawrence Public Schools. This plan will be reviewed no less frequently than every six months.



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Instructional Model

To best serve our students and families, Lawrence Public Schools will offer in-person instruction, five days per week. Credit redemption opportunities are also available for students in grades 9-12.

Quality Evidence-Based Assessment Practices

Lawrence 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. Lawrence Public Schools will continue the use of (and professional learning around the use of) effective Tier 1 instructional practices embedded in the teaching and learning process to continuously observe where our students are 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 and gives us a more complete picture of what our students know and can do.

Educational Goals

In the elementary, the Acadience and Delta 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 prior to the last day of school. The Jr. Sr. High School, iXL will be used to assess reading and mathematics three times each year. Formative assessments will provide information to inform our progress toward our goals over the course of the year. As a means of continuous improvement in teaching and learning, all teachers have received or will receive professional development in, and commit to the use of engaging and quality instructional practices.

- All teachers will use Thinking Maps as a Tier I Instructional Tool
- All teachers will use the formative and summative assessment processes to support adjustment to teaching and learning, to support meaningful student progress towards mastery of Reading and Mathematics identified essential standards.
- Results from Reading and Mathematics benchmark assessments, local Reading and Mathematics summative assessments, and formative assessment will be continuously discussed and analyzed by staff.



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Mental Health Supports

The district has increased mental health services by providing additional counselors, social workers and student support specialists. The funding for these additional services has come through 31a, Title I and ESSER grants as well as from the district's general fund. We also have partnerships with various community agencies to support our students and families with additional mental health services as needed.

Extended Learning

LPS offers additional educational learning opportunities for students with learning loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic. These positions are funded through Title I, ARP/ESSER grants, and general funds. The district was also able to offer an expanded summer school program for students in grades 9-12.

Specialized Services

Lawrence Public Schools ensures 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.

Lawrence Public Schools is committed to providing students with disabilities a free and appropriate public education and access to high quality general education and special education programs and services. Students with disabilities will receive special education and related services outlined in each Individualized Education Program (IEP). Each LPS team member will monitor students' progress while delivering appropriate services. Additionally, students with disabilities will be given the same opportunities as their non-disabled peers and can assure that standards-based, high-quality instruction will be provided across all instructional delivery models.

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. We have a certified ESL teacher, teachers who are SIOP trained and instructional assistants who assist our ELL students. Parents and families will continue to be supported in their native language(s) as needed.



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Students enrolled in Lawrence Public Schools with a 504 plan in place will continue to receive appropriate accommodations as specified through their 504 plans. Students that have social emotional needs will be provided with resources (personnel, curriculum and/or supplemental) to support those needs.

Professional Development

Opportunities will be provided to facilitate collaboration and professional development that safely supports the professional growth and development of all staff. Educators will receive ongoing professional learning related to the pedagogy and strategies to promote student learning, social-emotional wellness, and success. Professional development support for the implementation of instructional standards and priorities and updated curriculum maps will be customized for educators based on their grade-level assignments and/or specific content areas. Professional learning communities (grade level/department meetings) within and across schools will be utilized in an ongoing manner for the exchange of resources and best practices, as well as discussion of challenges and needs.

COVID-19 Prevention and Mitigation Strategies

Cleaning & Disinfecting
The district will continue to follow regular cleaning and disinfection procedures.
Hand Washing
We strongly encourage frequent hand washing. Hand sanitizer will be readily available.
Contact Tracing/Quarantines/Isolation
<p>In accordance with the new CDC and Van Buren/Cass District Health Department guidance, LPS will no longer provide contact tracing on an individual basis. Our current guidelines are as follows:</p> <p>If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19 (Isolation), everyone regardless of vaccination status is required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stay home for 5 days and isolate. After which, you may return if you are fever free for 24 hours and symptoms have improved.• Mask use is strongly recommended for days 6-10.



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If a **student or staff member** was exposed to someone with COVID-19, everyone regardless of vaccination status **is strongly recommended that they:**

- Monitor symptoms for 10 days
- Wear a mask for 10 days
- Test on day 5, if possible
- If you develop symptoms get a test and stay home

Our #1 priority is the health and safety of our staff and students, so if at any time you have a question regarding this topic, please reach out to Buildings Principals.

Extracurricular Activities/Field Trips

Extracurricular activities can be resumed at pre-pandemic levels.

Face Covering (Masks)

Facial coverings **are optional** for all staff, students, volunteers and visitors regardless of vaccination status. Individuals electing to wear masks should not be pressured or ridiculed.

Food Service

Normal food service operations.

Gatherings and Facility Use (school personnel or students)

Gathering size and facility use can be resumed at pre-pandemic levels with optional masking.



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Facial Covering/Masks
Face coverings are optional for all staff regardless of vaccination status.
Offices
District and building offices are open to the public.
Recess/Outdoor Activities
Resume pre-pandemic recess and outdoor activities.
Social Distancing
Social distancing continues to be encouraged as a method to reduce all transmissible diseases.
Staff and Students Health Screening
Staff and students are expected to stay home if they are sick.
Transportation
Normal transportation operations.
Vaccination
Vaccination information regarding vaccination information can be found at: Van Buren Cass County Health Department Website .



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Public Comment

Lawrence Public Schools applied to and received Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds (ESSER) to address learning recovery and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are designated for one-time or short-term expenditures to address the ongoing impact of the pandemic. Lawrence Public Schools requested public feedback from all district and community stakeholders to help determine how the district should best utilize these resources to address unfinished learning, ongoing COVID-19 recovery, and Federal Program grant funds. The district also shared results of the stakeholder feedback with the Board of Education. Periodic Review Process This Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services plan will be reviewed as necessary or at least every six months. This Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services plan will be available on the Lawrence Public Schools website at www.lawrencetigers.org.