

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



## The School District of Sturgeon Bay

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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 School District of Sturgeon Bay 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

## Description on maintaining the safety of staff and students

The School District of Sturgeon Bay will begin the 2021-22 school year with a five-day per week, face-to-face instructional model and adhere to the following health protocols. Accordingly, the District will:

- 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-essential purposes,
- provide sanitizing stations throughout the building.

## Description to continue to provide services regardless of the mode of instruction

The School District of Sturgeon Bay will offer in-person learning five days a week according to the Board adopted 2021-2022 Academic Year Calendar. The school district has also provided families the option to enroll their students in virtual learning. In the event of school closure due to the pandemic, the district purchased Chromebooks for all students to continue virtual learning.

Regardless of the mode of instruction, the School District of Sturgeon Bay will continue to provide meals under the community provision as long as USDA continues the allowance. Meals will be provided for all eligible youth during the school year. If school is closed due to a pandemic, the district will assess its ability to distribute meals utilizing the same process it used during the spring of 2020.

The School District of Sturgeon Bay contracts with the Door County Medical Center for school based nursing services; that nursing team will continue to offer health services in-person or virtually. The school district also partners with Wisconsin Mental Health, STRIDE and the local United Way to provide mental health support for families.

## Mitigation Measures

### Universal and correct wearing of masks

The School District of Sturgeon Bay School Board of Education voted at their regular meeting on September 15, 2021, to require all staff, students, and visitors wear a facial covering indoors, during the school day. The Board subsequently voted, at their regular meeting on November 17, 2021, to end the facial coverings requirement for 7th through 12th grade students and staff on November 22, 2021, and then January 3, 2022, for the rest of the preK-6th grade district staff and students.

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

**Example response:** Mitigation measures such as proper signage, the installation of floor decals and water bottle filling stations, and the promotion of social distancing have been implemented at each facility. Extended and/or staggered meal service will be implemented to support social distancing while ensuring adequate time for students to consume their meals. Individual schools will determine the cafeteria service that best suits the needs of their students. Cafeterias and/or classrooms may be used as settings for student meals.

### **Handwashing and respiratory etiquette**

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 and respiratory etiquette. In addition, hand sanitization stations/liquids are available in all classrooms.

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

Enhanced sanitation procedures have been implemented and continue at all schools focusing on high-touch surfaces. The District uses cleaning solutions that are rated to kill the SARS virus.

### **Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments**

**Example response:** The School District of Sturgeon Bay will continue contact tracing and transparent reporting to the public of COVID-19 cases and quarantines within the District.

The School District of Sturgeon Bay will guide parents/students, employees, and contractors on screening protocols for the daily pre-screening process, which all parties should complete before entering the campus/building. 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 stay home, and when they can return to school. Procedures for contact tracing can be found on the district website.

### **Diagnostic and screening testing**

The School District of Sturgeon Bay recommends students and staff get tested for COVID by their

medical provider or a local pharmacy. The District is also working with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services to coordinate COVID testing at our schools. Should the District see the need for on-site testing, students could have the option to be tested with parent permission when they are identified as close contacts or become symptomatic.

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

All eligible staff and students have been provided the opportunity to be vaccinated. Vaccine eligibility has been communicated with staff, students and families, in conjunction with our local health partners. Newly eligible staff and students will be given access to vaccinations by working with local healthcare partners and County Public Health.

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

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**

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. The School District of Sturgeon Bay continues to work with County Public Health 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

**The District will provide for continuity of services as follows:**

#### **Student Academic Needs**

The School District of Sturgeon Bay has implemented a summer school program to assist all K-12 students with academic recovery, although this had to be limited to remote or virtual support for the most part due to the construction at each school building related to a capital referendum approved by voters. The District plans to continue full-time, in-person instruction throughout the 2021-2022 school year, with limited exception. (Note: We did offer in-person learning every day of the 2020-2021 school year.)

#### **Student Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs**

The school district partners with Wisconsin Mental Health, STRIDE, and the local United Way, as well as various other local agencies, to provide mental health support for families.

#### **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 all eligible youth during the school year.

#### **Staff Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs**

The District has provided staff with opportunities for social and emotional supports through the Employee Assistance Program, which is provided as a part of the District's employee benefit package.

#### **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 School District of Sturgeon Bay 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

**Example response:** The School District of Sturgeon Bay has taken the following steps to make its plan available to the public:

- The plan is posted at <https://www.sturbay.k12.wi.us/family-parents/covid19information.cfm>
- The plan is available in multiple languages through the use of our web provider powered by Google Translate. The plan is available in more than ten languages.
- The plan was shared at the School District of Sturgeon Bay Board of Education meetings on December 15, 2021. An opportunity for public comment was available during that Board meeting.
- 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.