



Kimberly Area School District

DPI ESSER Required Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

District Name: Kimberly Area Schools

Contact: Robert Mayfield

Website: Kimberly.k12.wi.us

Phone: 920.788.7900

Address: 425 S Washington Combined Locks WI 54113

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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 Kimberly Area School 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.

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 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; hand washing and respiratory etiquette; cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation; contact tracing in combination with quarantine, in collaboration with the state, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments; 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 on maintaining the safety of staff and students

The Kimberly Area School District will begin the 2023-24 school year with a five-day per week, face-to-face instructional model and adhere to the following health protocols. Accordingly, the District will:

- utilize [Covid-19 Protocols](#) and [Covid-19 Protocol Continuum](#) adapted from Outagamie and Calumet Counties
- publish the COVID-19 health protocol
- 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

Description to continue to provide services regardless of the mode of instruction (for example, health and food services if the LEA must pivot to virtual or hybrid instruction)

The Kimberly Area School District 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 Kimberly Area School District 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 Kimberly Area School District employs 3 full-time school nurses who will continue to offer health services in-person or virtually. The school district also partners with United Way Path and has hired mental health therapists to provide mental health support for families.

Mitigation Measures

Universal and correct wearing of masks

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

The Kimberly Area School Board adopted optional mask use for all students, staff, and visitors. These decisions will be reviewed and are based on COVID activity in individual classrooms or schools, and the level of COVID transmission within the district's geographic boundaries. Details about these decisions can be found on the district website.

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

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

Mitigation measures are at minimal levels due to the low rate of Covid spread. Transportation will comply with CDC masking guidelines.

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette is taught to students. Signage is posted throughout buildings as reminders of handwashing and respiratory etiquette.

In addition, hand sanitizing stations/liquids are available in all buildings.

Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

The district conducts daily cleaning and uses solutions that are rated to kill the SARS virus. Additionally, HVAC units have been adjusted to increased airflow in all buildings.

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

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

The Kimberly Area School District will monitor virus spread and educate parents when quarantine is necessary. The Kimberly Area School District will provide resources online to educate families and visitors on Covid protocols. 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*Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable*

The Kimberly Area School District recommends students and staff get tested for COVID by their medical provider or a local pharmacy. District may consider on-site testing if Covid transmission increases. The district is not currently providing covid testing.

Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible*Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable*

Staff and students are encouraged to consult with their medical advisor to receive the vaccine and/or booster. Flu vaccines are offered to district staff through multiple events.

Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies and practices*Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable*

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*Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable*

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 Kimberly Area School District continues to work with Outagamie and Calumet County Public Health to implement recommendations 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 District plans to continue full-time in-person instruction beginning the fall of 2023, with limited exception. Instructional personnel target individual students to assist in academic recovery efforts in core curriculum areas. Specialists will be available during the instructional day and/or during before and after-school tutoring programs throughout the year. An online option is available for students who cannot attend in person. Additionally, the Kimberly Area School District provides a summer school program to assist all K-12 students with academic recovery.

Student Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs

United Way PATH mental health counseling and Triumph mental health counselors are available to support student mental health in grades K-12.

Other Student Needs (which may include student health and food services)

Food services will continue to provide free student meals based on free and reduced eligibility determined by FDA policy. Free meals will be provided for all eligible youth, or upon parental request, during the school year.

Staff Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs

The District has provided staff with opportunities for social and emotional support through the district's Staff Wellness Program. The staff's social, emotional, and mental health needs may also be addressed through the Employee Assistance Program provided through the District insurance program.

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 Kimberly Area School District 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

The Kimberly Area School District has taken the following steps to make its plan available to the public:

- The plan is posted at <http://www.kimberly.k12.wi.us>
- The mitigation plan was sent to parents, students, and employees via messaging system and newsletters.
- The initial plan was shared at the Kimberly Area School District Board of Education meetings on August 9 and 23, 2021. Additionally, the plan was reviewed at the October 25, 2021, August 8, 2022, and April 24, 2023 meeting. An opportunity for public comment was available at all five Board meetings.
- 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.