

Milan Area Schools Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

Milan Area Schools
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Community Input Sessions
September 26, 2022
March 14, 2023
September 12, 2023

Plan Revision Dates
September 27, 2022

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.

This plan describes how Milan Area Schools will provide the 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 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.

Milan Area Schools was in-person for the entire 2021-2022 school year. If new or continuing pandemic concerns arise, the district will make every effort to maintain in-person instruction during the 2022-2023 school year.

Section 1

Milan Area Schools plan regarding how it will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other school district staff. Specifically, adopted policies and district actions for the CDC's safety recommendations for: universal and correct wearing of masks, modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing, handwashing and respiratory etiquette, cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, improved ventilation, contact tracing / isolation / quarantining, diagnostic and screening testing, efforts to provide vaccinations, appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety practices, and coordination with state and local health officials.

Universal and Correct Wearing of Masks

Milan Area Schools will not require that masks be worn at school or during extracurricular activities. However, individuals may wear masks if they desire. Milan Area Schools will support anyone who wants to wear a mask for any reason (even when levels are low or moderate).

For those who are able (e.g., excluding children under 2 and certain children with conditions that make it difficult to mask), masking is strongly recommended when:

- The student or staff member lives in a household with a positive case or has had personal/social contact with a positive case.
- There is an outbreak or cluster.
- Community transmission is high.
- The student or staff is returning for days 6-10 after symptom onset or testing positive.

During times of elevated communicable disease community spread as determined by the Board in consultation with health professionals (CDC, MDHHS, WCHD, etc), the Board reserves the right to require masks in accordance with Board policies.

Modifying Facilities to Allow for Physical Distancing

If new or continuing pandemic concerns arise, Milan Area Schools will make every effort to maximize social distancing through daily operating procedures. However, due to square footage limitations, desks and other seating arrangements may not be able to be organized in a way that meets all social distancing guidelines. Extraneous furniture will be removed from classrooms to allow for maximum spacing of desks.

Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette

Milan Area Schools will continue to promote handwashing and good hygiene practices including respiratory etiquette to all students, staff, and visitors. Alcohol-based hand sanitizer will be available throughout the facilities.

Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities

Milan Area Schools will maintain increased facility cleaning schedules for the 2022-2023 academic school year. These schedules will include daily intensive cleaning and regular disinfecting.

Each classroom will have access to alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

Each classroom will have access to disinfectant products for desks and other shared objects.

Improved Ventilation

Milan Area Schools has upgraded ventilation system filters throughout the district. Milan Area Schools will continue to analyze and evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of the building's HVAC systems.

Contact Tracing / Isolation / Quarantining

Milan Area Schools will exclude student and staff COVID cases from school per state guidance. Currently, the district will exclude students and staff from school for 5 days after symptom onset and until symptoms have improved and the individual is fever-free for at least 24 hours. Mask use is recommended for days 6-10.

Milan Area Schools will notify the Washtenaw County Health Department of any outbreaks or clusters.

Milan Area Schools will notify smaller groups (e.g., a sports team or a classroom) when there is an outbreak or cluster. Further notification will not be made if additional cases are identified as part of the outbreak or cluster.

Milan Area Schools will not be providing notification for individual positive cases if there is no outbreak.

Milan Area Schools will retain required information regarding absences for illnesses.

Diagnostic and Screening Testing

Milan Area Schools may decide to provide testing for district employees and students when needed. Staff would only be tested upon request. Students will only be tested with parental permission. Notification will be made for confirmed cases.

Efforts to Provide Vaccinations

The district will continue to notify all stakeholders of vaccination opportunities and all relevant vaccine information. If feasible, Milan Area Schools may also provide voluntary vaccination clinics.

Appropriate Accommodations for Students with Disabilities with Respect to Health and Safety Practices

Milan Area Schools will provide students with disabilities the accommodations needed to meet the individual needs of the student to ensure safety.

Coordination with State and Local Health Officials

The district will continue to coordinate with state and local health officials.

Section 2

Milan Area Schools plan regarding how it will ensure the continuity of services. Specifically, services to address student academic needs, services to address student and staff social, emotional, and mental health needs, and student food service needs.

Services to Address Student Academic Needs

In addition to meeting the requirements of Michigan law, Milan Area Schools will continue to reassess remediation processes and programs to best meet the needs of our students.

Students will be assessed regularly using various local and standardized assessments.

Students requiring remediation and support or requiring tutorials will have designated opportunities throughout the school day.

Teachers and students will have the opportunity to schedule other times for remediation and tutorials, including before and after school.

The district will continue to monitor all student progress, including state assessment results, to identify areas of student need.

Summer learning opportunities will be provided for qualified students who are in need of credit recovery or remediation.

Services to Address Student and Staff Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs

Milan Area Schools has increased the number of Social Workers available to the students. Each building has a dedicated Social Worker for the students and the district has a Social Worker dedicated to helping students and families connect with outside agencies for additional support.

At Milan Middle School and Milan High School, school counselors are available for all students and staff and assist with providing guidance counseling and mental health support.

The district has increased the number of Behavior Specialists to help assist staff with students who are experiencing behavioral issues.

Milan Area Schools continues to provide professional development regarding Trauma Informed Instruction.

The district uses social emotional screeners as necessary.

The district uses the Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines (CSTAG) when evaluating students with social, emotional, and mental health concerns that can lead to threats.

The district employs a Student Resource Officer (SRO) that is available to assist students who may have personal safety concerns outside of school.

Student Food Service Needs

Milan Area Schools provides a comprehensive breakfast and lunch program for all students. The district has provided parents with information to apply for free/reduced meals and the application process is available on the district's website.

Section 3

Milan Area Schools plan regarding periodic (no less frequently than every six months until September 30, 2023) review and appropriate revisions of this plan. Including how the district will seek public comment and take such feedback into account when determining if the plan should be revised and the revisions that are necessary. This process should take into consideration the timing of significant changes to CDC guidance on reopening schools. Any revisions must address the aspects of safety currently recommended by the CDC.

How the District will Seek Public Comment

Milan Area Schools will continue to review and revise this plan as necessary and as required by law. The district may use the following methods to provide opportunities for public input:

- Community Zoom sessions
- Public Comment at Regularly Scheduled Board of Education Meetings
- Google Form Surveys

Taking Community Feedback into Account when Determining if the Plan Should be Revised and the Revisions that are Necessary

Milan Area Schools will consider all public input when reviewing and revising the plan. Specific recommendations from the public will be considered regarding the current plan, the need to revise the plan, and the revisions deemed necessary.

The district will review the plan no less frequently than every six months until September 30, 2023. The review process will also take into consideration the timing of significant changes to CDC guidance. Revisions made will address the aspects of safety currently recommended by the CDC.

The district will be hosting two additional community Zoom input sessions on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at 6:00 PM and Tuesday, September 14, 2023, at 6:00 PM. Other reviews may be scheduled, if needed.

Section 4

Milan Area Schools plan regarding the format and understandability of the plan. Specifically, the plan must be written in a language that parents can understand and must follow a uniform format. If necessary, upon request, the plan can be translated or provided in an alternative format accessible to parents with a disability.

Format and Understandability of the Plan

Milan Area Schools will make every effort to maintain a plan that is provided in a uniform format and is written in language that parents can understand. The plan will be divided into four sections that are designed to meet the requirements of the law. The community can always ask for clarification of the plan by contacting Bryan Girbach, the Superintendent of Schools.

Upon Request, the Plan can be Translated or Provided in an Alternative Format Accessible to Parents with a Disability

Upon request to the Superintendent, the District shall make reasonable accommodations for a person with disabilities to be able to participate in the public input meetings and to access the plan.