



# **PRAIRIE DU CHIEN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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

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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 LEA or 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 LEA 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 (e.g., use of cohorts/podding); hand washing and respiratory etiquette; cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation; contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the state, local health departments; diagnostic and screening testing; efforts to provide opportunities for 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 Prairie du Chien Area School District 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:

- publish the COVID-19 pre-screening checklist and strongly encourage students and staff members to utilize the checklist before entering a school facility,
- 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 (for example, health and food services if the LEA must pivot to virtual or hybrid instruction)

The Prairie du Chien Area School District will offer in-person learning five days a week according to the Board adopted 2021-2022 Academic Year Calendar. The District purchased additional Chromebooks and Hotspots for all students to continue virtual learning in the event of an extended school closure.

Regardless of the mode of instruction, the Prairie du Chien Area School District will continue to provide meals under the community provision as long as USDA continues the allowance. Meals will be provided for summer school attendees as well as 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 Prairie du Chien Area School District employs one full-time school nurse, two nursing assistants, and two (CNA) Certified Nursing Assistants, who will continue to offer health services in-person or virtually. The District also partners with Crawford County Mental Health Coalition to provide mental health support for families. The Prairie du Chien Area School District does provide mental health screening (Grades 5-12) in the school to develop a referral pathway to connect students and families to local or area mental health resources. The District is involved in a mental health grant to provide space and mental health support for all families.

## Mitigation Measures

### Universal and correct wearing of masks

The Prairie du Chien Area School Board meets bi-weekly to determine when students, staff, and visitors will be required to wear masks and when mask-wearing will be optional. These decisions are based on COVID activity in individual classrooms or schools, the level of COVID transmission within the district's geographic boundaries, and in Crawford County. Information can be found on the district website. <https://www.pdc.k12.wi.us/district/>

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

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.

Students will be assigned to classes in the Skyward student management system if public health conditions warrant the use of hybrid or distance instructional models. Transportation will comply with CDC guidelines regarding capacity that are in effect during the 2021-22 school year.

### 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. In addition to daily cleaning, all rooms and surfaces are treated with a ChlorKing HypoGen 2.0 on a daily basis.

The District has installed 16 - L.K. Bottle Fillers in the District. The Prairie du Chien Area School District did upgrade the HVAC filters from Merf 11 to Merf 13 for all buildings.

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

The Prairie du Chien Area School District will continue contact tracing and transparent reporting to the public of COVID-19 cases and staff quarantines within the District. To provide transparent reporting for our stakeholders, the District maintained a COVID-19 case dashboard throughout the 2020-21 school year and will continue to do so for the 2021-22 school year.

The Prairie du Chien Area School District 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.

<https://www.pdc.k12.wi.us/district/>

### **Diagnostic and screening testing**

The Prairie du Chien Area School District recommends students and staff get tested for COVID by their medical provider or a local pharmacy. The turnaround time for results at these sites has been reduced to within 48 hours.

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

All eligible staff employed in 2020-2021 were provided the opportunity to be vaccinated. Students ages 12 and older were provided access to vaccination clinics in the spring of 2021. The Prairie du Chien Area School District will collaborate with the Crawford County Health Department to host a

vaccine clinic during the 2021-2022 school year. New staff will be given access to vaccinations by working with local healthcare partners and Crawford 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 Prairie du Chien Area School District continues to work with Crawford County Public Health Department and the Wisconsin Department of Health and Safety 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 Prairie du Chien Area School District has implemented a summer school program to assist all K-12 students with academic recovery. The District plans to continue full-time, in-person instruction beginning the fall of 2021, with limited exception. Additional instructional personnel has been added to staffing to implement further academic recovery efforts in core curriculum areas. These specialists will be available during the instructional day and/or during before and after-school tutoring programs throughout the year.

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

Additional student service support staff has been added to the mental health staff to address our students' social and emotional learning needs. The additional staff is completing Zones of Regulation with students. In elementary, "Sources of Strength" has been introduced and in Middle School and High School, "Sources of Strength" has been enhanced with Regional Retreats.

#### **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 summer school attendees as well as all eligible youth during the school year. Summer meals will be provided for summer school and all children age 18 and under through July 30, 2021.

School meals did continue on Wednesday, September 1st. It is assumed that the USDA will continue community eligibility provision under the new school meal application.

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

The District has provided staff with opportunities for social and emotional support through pre/post-school hour meetings with a district counselor. We did provide rounds of Yoga for staff after school. 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

The Prairie du Chien Area School District will review and, as appropriate, revise the 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 Prairie du Chien 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 Crawford 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 Prairie du Chien Area School District has taken the following steps to make its plan available to the public:

- The plan is posted at <https://www.pdc.k12.wi.us/district/>
- 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 sent to parents, students, and employees via our Skylert messaging systems.
- The plan was shared at the Prairie du Chien Area District Board of Education meetings on February 28, 2022, and March 7, 2022. An opportunity for public comment is available during all bi-weekly school board meetings since August 9, 2021.
- 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.

[Community Input on Safe Return](#)