

# **School District of Shell Lake**

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

### **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 Shell Lake 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**

- The School District of Shell Lake will begin the 2023-2024 school year with a five-day per week, in-person instructional model. The 4K program will operate on a Monday-Thursday.
- Regardless of the mode of instruction, the School District of Shell Lake will continue to provide meals under the community provision if USDA reinstitutes this allowance.
- In the event of any school closure, the district provides a Chromebook for all students to continue learning virtually.
- The School District of Shell Lake employs a full-time school nurse who will continue to offer health services.
- The district has developed the 2023-2024 Guidelines for a Healthy School Plan. This plan addresses infection control protocols for students and staff.

### **Mitigation Measures**

- The wearing of masks is optional for students and staff.
- Signs promoting proper hand and respiratory hygiene are posted in all buildings.
- Hand sanitizing stations/liquids are located at building entry points, hallways and in all classrooms.
- The district has established daily and weekly protocols for cleaning and disinfecting.

- The district will follow the recommendation of the Washburn County Health Department regarding contact tracing and quarantine procedures.

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.

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 Shell Lake continues to work with Washburn County Health Department to implement mitigating strategies for the safety of students and staff.

## **Continuity of Services**

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.

The district plans to continue full-time, in-person instruction beginning the fall of 2023. Instructional/Intervention personnel will continue to be utilized to further academic recovery efforts in core curriculum areas. These specialists will be available during the instructional day and/or during before and after school.

## **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.

The School District of Shell Lake 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 consider public input during the review process. Plan revisions will address updated CDC and County Public Health guidance on safely remaining open or reopening schools if any are issued.

Reviewed and approved by the Shell Lake School Board on September 18, 2023.