

WINTON WOODS CITY SCHOOLS
SAFE RETURN TO IN-PERSON
INSTRUCTION AND CONTINUITY
OF SERVICE PLAN

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SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief fund is to help schools reopen safely and sustain the safe operation while addressing the impact of COVID-19 by addressing the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of students. The recently passed American Rescue Plan (ARP) provides significant federal resources to support states and local school districts. Recent federal guidance clarifies expectations for districts receiving American Rescue Plan funds must publish local “Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plans” by June 24, 2021. Each district and community school should also post the plan on its local website and then submit the website address to the Ohio Department of Education by June 24. Winton Woods has prepared this “Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plans” to include the existing and previous instructional plans and health and safety plans developed during the pandemic. The district currently has virtual learning plans; One Needs Assessment, One Plan, Covid-19 Safety Plans, and other similar plans that include various characteristics of these requirements. Some of the plans are linked within this document to address the federal assurances of the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan.

Summary of Response to COVID-19

During the 20-21 school year, Winton Woods City Schools provided virtual learning, blended learning, and face-to-face instruction. During the month of July 2020, nearly 17% of Winton Woods families surveyed said they will not send their child back to school until there is a vaccine/treatment. In our school system, this would represent an estimated 660 students. More than 40% of families stated that they were on the spectrum of being “comfortable” with sending their students back to school for face-to-face instruction. All students were scheduled to return to school in person on March 8th. In order for this transition to run smoothly, everyone was required to continue to wear masks, wash hands vigorously for 20 seconds, and follow the CDC guidelines and while maintaining proper physical distancing.

The Health and Safety Guidelines

The guidelines are structured to support the number one goal throughout the reopening process, which is to save lives. There are school personnel and students who may be at a higher health risk because of their age and/or compromised medical conditions, and simply following the guidelines may significantly lower their risk of exposure. Following the guidelines will also keep the number of COVID-19 cases below the health system’s (including hospitals) capacity to handle them. Specified precautions as set forth by the Ohio Department of Health and local health departments must be observed during the pandemic recovery phase to lower the rate of transmission and slow the spread of COVID-19. While any single precaution may not significantly impact minimizing the spread of COVID-19, the use of multiple safeguards is intended to have a cumulative effect on reducing the spread of the virus. (*Source: “Reset and Restart Education” Planning Guide for Ohio Schools and Districts, July 2020*)

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, Winton Woods City School District used ESSER funds to purchase Personalized Protective Equipment (PPE), including equipment for sanitation, masks, face shields, Hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, plexiglass dividers for classrooms, common areas, distributed dining area, and office areas. We also provided each building with handheld thermometers and standing tripods, and air purification systems in various settings, including ventilation systems on buses. We will soon update the HVAC system.

The school schedules were modified (during Warrior Blue and Green days). The entry and exit patterns at each building were changed, adjustments were made in the transportation department/bus route. Alterations to both the arrival and dismissal were made at each facility. The buildings' additional internal and external signage provided students and families with procedures, mask-wearing, and social distancing requirements. Chromebooks were provided to all K-12 students to allow access to virtual learning. Winton Woods City School District contracted with external mental health agencies to work with staff and students. Extensive contact tracing and compilation of data were done and will continue.

SECTION 2: MAINTAINING HEALTH AND SAFETY

In addition, Winton Woods City Schools has adopted policies on each of the following safety recommendations established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). WWCS will follow health and safety guidelines from the Ohio Health Department, Center of Disease Control and the Hamilton County Public Health Department and local officials to make sure students can safely come to school.

Universal and correct wearing of masks

Face coverings are covered in [Policy 8450.01 Protective Facial Coverings During Pandemic/Epidemic Events](#). We are requiring the wearing of masks in our Summer Enrichment Academy. Winton Woods City Schools will adhere to the Ohio Department of Health, CDC, and the Hamilton County Public Health Department guidelines.

Physical distancing

Winton Woods City Schools will adhere to the Ohio Department of Health, CDC, and the Hamilton County Public Health Department guidance on physical distancing.

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

In accordance with CDC guidelines Handwashing is one of the best ways to protect and reduce the spread of COVID-19 <https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html>. Staff and students are encouraged to wash their hands frequently for 20 seconds or hand sanitizer (60% alcohol). Sanitizing stations are placed throughout each building and hand sanitizing is provided for each classroom and learning space.

Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation
Winton Woods City Schools will continue to follow the CDC for cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities. Classrooms and busses will be disinfected as often as possible with appropriate disinfectant.

- Custodial staff will support during the day by regularly wiping down high-frequency touchpoints.
- Custodians will detail each night (disinfect desktops and touchpoints).
- Custodians will use electrostatic cleaning machines (such as Clorox 360 to disinfect common spaces weekly).
- Restrooms and Common Areas are cleaned three times a day (twice during the school day and once in the evening).
- Classroom furniture is arranged as far apart as possible to facilitate maximum social distancing, facing the same direction whenever possible.
- Water fountains are used to fill water bottles only.
- Increase ventilation as much as possible.
- The district will increase the frequency of air filter changes to help improve indoor air quality.
- Lockers are not to be used in the building (zip-tie).
- A spray bottle and paper towels will be provided to all classrooms and office areas for regular sanitization use throughout the school day (chemical provided to be SSS brand ACE-256 Quaternary Ammonia, registered on EPA List-N, Certified to counter SARS-2-COV virus).

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

Winton Woods City Schools will continue to follow the Ohio Department of Health, CDC, and the Hamilton County Public Health Department guidelines.

[COVID-19 Mandatory Protocol for Staff and Students with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19](#) link: <http://ow.ly/Dx0C50AAwWz>

Diagnostic and screening testing

The district collaborated with Hamilton County Educational Service Center and Kroger during the 2021 school year to make vaccinations available to all staff members.

The district collaborated with Mercy Health to provide vaccinations to students and families. The Ohio Department of Health website provides information and locations of testing sites within the state of Ohio. <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/home>

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

All district employees were offered vaccinations through the Kroger Pharmacy at Hamilton County Educational Service Center. Mercy Health has also offered vaccinations to Winton Woods students and families. Winton woods City Schools will continue to collaborate with health officials to provide opportunities for district employees, students and families to get vaccinated.

Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies

Winton Woods will continue follow CDC guidelines for appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities. Thus, added support will continue to be provided for students with disabilities.

SECTION 3: CONTINUITY OF SERVICES

Continuity of Services

A continuity of services plan addresses the students' academic needs, and student and staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services.

Academic

Virtual Learning Reopening Plan

As waves of infection continue to surge, the need for virtual learning is highly likely. Virtual learning provides an option for those who prefer not to send their student to a physical school setting, are concerned about potential changes during the school year due to health and government guidelines, and/or their student thrives in a virtual/distance setting. In addition, virtual learning:

- Reduces the number of students physically on school campuses thereby minimizing exposure to COVID-19 for both students and staff;
- May address the needs of students and staff in the high-risk groups;
- Sets a foundation to continue and expand virtual learning in the district for future years;
- Allows small group instruction in a more personalized way;
- Provides more certainty given the high probability of future outbreaks and the governmental regulations
- associated with such outbreaks (e.g., maximum occupancy in isolation rooms, contact tracing, quarantine in the
- event of suspected and confirmed exposure)
- Gives potentially the most consistent form of learning and instruction during this pandemic.
- Staff members would be required to be present at school each day to provide virtual instruction to students.

Blended Learning Reopening Plan

Blended learning is a hybrid of in-person and virtual learning. It is an instructional model that reduces physical presence, leverages technology, and encourages student agency. Below are other items to consider.

- Student and staff health is the priority in terms of COVID-19. Recommended safety protocols will be maintained.
- COVID-19 is a present concern nationally and locally. Consequently, schools will need to be flexible

- Guidance by state, local and school officials will drive any curtailment or expansion of educational services WWCS D is prepared to transition to all-digital model in the event of ordered school closure
- Schools and teachers are prepared for a continuum of instructional options for the school year 2020-21: from traditional in-person, blended (part digital, part in-person), full-time remote/virtual-only.

Full School Reopening Plan

As schools consider plans to return for the 2020 - 2021 school year, educational considerations should be made to ensure each student is challenged, prepared and empowered for his or her future by way of an excellent prekindergarten through grade 12 education. Academic expectations have not changed because of the pandemic; rather, schools should renew their commitment to upholding high standards of learning even though the learning environment may look different. (Source: “Reset and Restart Education” Planning Guide for Ohio Schools and Districts, July 2020)

In this model of instructional delivery, teaching and learning take place in-person. Remote learning is employed to promote technology skill development and assist with social distancing in the school but in the context of the brick & mortar school environment.

Families will be offered the choice of participating in a “Virtual Academy” if they choose to not have their student return to school. Parents would have to commit to this option for a semester or a quarter for a minimum without special appeal process to the superintendent or designee. The Virtual Academy could be staffed by licensed Winton Woods teaching staff who are certified as medically fragile or immuno-compromised by their medical provider. These teachers would work remotely with students.

Winton Woods Learning Recovery and Extended Learning Plan

Focus on intervention/supports during the regular school day (additional staff may be needed)

- HS Summer Credit Recovery
- Additional reading and math tutors to support student learning (K-6)
- Provide monthly professional development
- Offer after-school tutoring to students in 7th -8th grade
- CANVAS learning management system (K-6)
- Newsela instructional content tool that allows teachers to find articles with appropriate reading levels for students. (K-12)
- Heggerty Phonemic Awareness video
- Overdrive/ SORA Reading App for digital access to eBooks and audiobooks.
- Brain Pop (South Campus)
- Provide addition ELL support for the South Campus (i.e. ELL Coordinator)
- Summer Enrichment Program
- Develop an Elementary Summer Reading Calendar

- Develop an Elementary Summer Math Calendar

Partner with the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County to ignite summer reading with Overdrive SORA Reading App for digital access to eBooks and audiobooks.

- Expand summer learning to grade 1
- Extend summer school hours
- Include activity options

Summer Learning Opportunities 1st-6th

- Literacy and Math
- Capturing the Hearts of Readers
- Enrichment-Coding and S.T.E.A.M.
- English Language Program
- Cheerleading
- Dance and Movement
- Basketball
- Sports of all Sorts

Summer Learning Opportunities 7th-8th

- Credit recovery
- Wellness
- Creative Writing,
- STEM/STEAM, and other fields of study
- 10 Stars Trendsetters Character Building

Summer Learning Opportunities 9th-12th

- Algebra 1
- Credit recovery
- Art Portfolio
- Music Appreciation
- Spanish Prep
- Seal of Biliteracy Prep
- The district will provide a two-week professional development opportunity to staff on various topics to support the academic needs of our students.
- The district calendar allows for ongoing collaborative learning with two half day professional development days and four full day professional development days.

Social Emotional

Provide intense professional development for staff member to understand the social emotional traits of students.

Examine various screening assessment tools

Identify the SEL Universal Screener that will be utilized districtwide.

- Panaroma
- DESSA- Devereux Center for Resilient Children
- SEBRS-Social, Academic, and Emotional Behavior Risk Screener
- Provide professional development to staff members about the risk factors and

warning signs related to mental health.

- Continue to implement the Wellington Engagement (5-12)
- Continue to partner with Talbert-house
- Develop a more cohesive Districtwide MTSS Process
- MTSS team representative of internal stakeholders

Mental Health

The district will provide professional development for staff to become a trauma-informed school district, which will require a layered approach to creating an environment with clear academic and behavioral expectations for everyone, open communication, and sensitivity to others' feelings and emotions.

- Talbert house will support referred students and families
- Talbert house: School-Based Therapists will offer individualized support/counseling to referred students
- Provide ongoing professional development to staff on how to incorporate trauma informed approaches in a classroom environment.

Health Services

A school nurse serves the Winton Woods City School district in each building to meet students' health needs. The nurses follow the Hamilton County Department of Public Health and CDC Guidelines related to COVID-19. In addition, the school nurse will support building administrators and staff members in understanding and implementing COVID-19 guidelines.

Food

Our mission is to provide our students and staff with a variety of appetizing and nutritious meals that provide 1/3 of the USDA's (United States Department of Agriculture) Recommended Daily Allowances of important vitamins and minerals for a reasonable cost. When you choose a school meal, you choose variety, nutrition and great taste. The district will continue to offer food services to all students during all learning phases (i.e., virtual, blended, in-person). The district will continue to provide students with additional meals for weekends, working collaboratively with a local food bank.

SECTION 4: REVIEW AND INPUT

The Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan will be published on the district website at www.wintonwoods.org. The district will review all critical parts of this plan every six months for the duration of the ARP ESSER grant period and make necessary revisions to the plan accordingly. The Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan review will include but is not limited to collaborative efforts by the Executive Team, District Leadership Team, and Building Leadership Teams. We will seek input from the public by providing a link for additional questions and comments.

SECTION 5: Local Use Of Funds Plan

Over the course of three years the ARP ESSR Funds will be utilized as follows:

Curriculum Resources - Resources are designed to challenge, prepare and empower students using appropriate and culturally relevant materials from pre-kindergarten through high school graduation. Targeted literacy instruction, high school credit recovery, and social-emotional learning are areas of focus.

Purchased Services/Supplies - Purchased services and supplies will facilitate efficient and accurate use by educators of student academic performance data. Professional learning communities will meet regularly to analyze individual and group performance on standards-based learning measures.

Curriculum Tutoring & Tutors - Additional reading and math tutors will support student learning in kindergarten through grade 6. After-school tutoring opportunities to students in grades 7th -8th and tutoring opportunities for high school students will focus on core academic subjects.

EL Coordinator - Additional support for English Language Learners, targeted to 1 - 6 grades.

Technology & Curriculum Coaches - The coaches will build capacity for faculty around the use of technology for instruction, data analysis, and literacy. The coaches will provide ongoing and specialized professional development.

Supervisor of State & Federal Programs and Testing - The individual will oversee the often-changing regulatory guidance for State and Federal programs and testing. Efficient compliance will allow the organization to focus on teaching and student learning.

Health and Safety - WWCS will follow health and safety guidelines from the Ohio Health Department, Center of Disease Control, Hamilton County Public Health Department, and local officials to make sure students can safely come to school. Winton Woods City Schools will continue to follow the CDC for cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities.

Transportation - District will purchase additional buses to enhance the social distance available for students to and from school.

Facilities - The district will conduct a building renovation to a current facility to provide additional learning opportunities to students. The improvements will focus on creating safe and instructional-inviting space for students to learn socially and academically.