

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



District Name: Escuela Verde

District Contact: Kim Johnson and Laurel Cutright

Website: <https://escuelaverde.org>

Phone: 414-988-7960

Address: 3628 W Pierce St., Milwaukee, WI 53215

Table of Contents

Introduction	1
Maintaining Health and Safety	2
Overview	2
Description on maintaining the safety of staff and students	2
Description to continue to provide services regardless of the mode of instruction	2
Mitigation Measures	3
Universal and correct wearing of masks	3
Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing	3
Handwashing and respiratory etiquette	3
Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation	4
Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments	4
Diagnostic and screening testing	4
Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible	4
Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies and practices	5
Coordination with state and local health officials	5
Continuity of Services	6
Overview	6
District response on continuity of services	6
Periodic Review	7
Overview	7
District response on ensuring periodic updates to its plan	7
Public Input	8
Overview	8
District response on public input in the development of its plan	8

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, territorial, or Tribal health departments; diagnostic and screening 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

Escuela Verde began the 2021-2022 school year with a Hybrid and in-person option. Hybrid students attend in-person on Monday mornings and engage in on-line learning Tuesday - Friday. In-Person students engage in on-line learning on Monday morning and full school day in-person learning Tuesday - Friday. All in-person learning adhere to the following health protocols.

- Staff and students who are sick will stay home or go home if they are showing Covid-19 symptoms, if they have tested positive for Covid-19, or if they have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid-19
- All staff, students, and visitors must wear a mask at all times
- Visitors and activities for non-essential purposes will be limited
- As much as possible students and staff will socially distance (6 feet)
- Only one person at a time will be allowed in the bathrooms
- Signs in English and Spanish throughout the building with Covid protocols, cleaning, handwashing, and community resources
- Hand Sanitizing stations throughout the building
- The school has upgraded its HVAC filters from Merv 8 to Merv 13 and replaces the filters every three months. We have also set the air filtration system to circulate the outside air with inside air three times per hour.

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)

Escuela Verde began the 2021-2022 school year with a Hybrid and in-person option. Hybrid students attend in-person on Monday mornings and engage in on-line learning Tuesday - Friday. In-Person students engage in on-line learning on Monday morning and full school day in-person learning Tuesday - Friday.

In the event of school closure due to the pandemic, the district purchased additional Chromebooks and each student has a Chromebooks at home to continue virtual learning. Students who need wifi access are provided wifi hotspots.

Regardless of the mode of instruction, Escuela Verde will continue to provide meals under the community provision as long as USDA continues the allowance. 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.

Escuela Verde has hired a part time social worker to help students and families. The district contracts with CESA 1 if additional mental health services are needed for students. Escuela Verde is also working with Health Connections for Covid - 19 testing and vaccinations.

Mitigation Measures

Universal and correct wearing of masks

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

All students, staff, and visitors must properly wear a mask at all times (mouth and nose must be covered). Masks are provided if needed.

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

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

- New seating and desks were purchased to allow for physical distancing,
- Stickers are placed on the floor to identify 6 feet distancing in the lobby and reception area,
- Lunch seating is now available on both floors to support social distancing,
- Breakfast is served and eaten in Advisory (homeroom areas),
- Signage in Spanish and English reminding students of 6 feet social distancing.

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

- Handwashing and respiratory etiquette is taught to students,
- Signage is posted throughout the building as reminders of handwashing and respiratory etiquette,
- Frequent reminders to wash and sanitize hands throughout the day,
- Hand sanitizing stations/liquids are available in all classrooms, at the start of the lunch line, by doors, and in all common areas.
- Reminders to cough and sneeze in elbow,
- New masks if coughed or sneezed in.

Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

- Enhanced sanitation procedures have been implemented and continue at Escuela Verde focusing on high-touch surfaces. Desks and high-touch areas are wiped down with cleaner or wipes at the end of each class.
- Cleaning solutions that are used are rated to kill the SARS virus
- Cleaning supplies are found in each teaching space and common areas of the school building.
- Every night the vestibule, the reception area, each advisory space, and each office is sprayed down by an Electrostatic Sprayer.
- All touched surfaces will be sprayed with microban every night as part of the bathroom cleaning process.

HVAC - The school has upgraded its HVAC filters from Merv 8 to Merv 13 and will replace filters every three months. We have also set the air filtration system to circulate the outside air with inside air three times per hour.

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

- Escuela Verde continues 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.
- Escuela Verde completes a symptom tracking form when students present with any Covid-19 symptoms - including documenting who they have been in closed contact with during the school day.
- Escuela Verde continues contact tracing and transparent reporting to the families of COVID-19

- cases and staff quarantines.
- When anyone who has been in the building tests positive for Covid-19 Escuela Verde informs all families.
- Students who have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive will be notified that they will have to be in quarantine for 14 days.
- The City Health Department is notified when someone tests positive for Covid-19
- If a student becomes ill during the school day they stay in the isolation/sick room until they are picked up.

Diagnostic and screening testing

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

Escuela Verde provides weekly on site testing through Health Connections Clinic. Students and staff who have completed a consent for testing are randomly tested for COVID-19 as an extra precautionary effort.

Staff and students are also required to be tested using a PCR test if they have Covid-19 symptoms - they can be tested through Health Connections or testing facilities in the community.

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

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

- All eligible staff employed in 2020-2021 were provided information and the opportunity to be vaccinated.
- Students and family members ages 12 and older were provided access to an on-site vaccination clinic in the Fall of 2021.
- Students and families can contact the school if they wish to be vaccinated and Escuela Verde will connect them with the organization we are directly working with, Health Connections, to provide the vaccine.

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. Escuela Verde continues to work with the Milwaukee Health Department 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

Escuela Verde will provide for continuity of services as follows:

Student Academic Needs

Escuela Verde began the 2021-2022 school year with a Hybrid and in-person option. Hybrid students attend in-person on Monday mornings and will engage in on-line learning Tuesday - Friday. In-Person students engage in on-line learning on Monday morning and full school day in-person learning Tuesday - Friday.

Additional professional development has been implemented to support project based learning, literacy, and math supports to implement further academic recovery efforts in core curriculum areas.

All students have been provided with a Chromebook to use at home if they are quarantined or if the school has to move to on-line learning due to 3 or more positive Covid-19 cases in the building within a two week period. Students who need access to wifi are provided a hotspot.

Student Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs

A part time social worker and an Advisor has taken the lead to help support mental health staff to address our students' social and emotional learning needs.

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 all eligible youth during the school year.

It is assumed that the USDA will continue community eligibility provision under the new school meal application.

Staff Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs

Escuela Verde has hired a part time social worker to help students and families. The district contracts with CESA 1 if additional mental health services are needed for students.

Escuela Verde also provides daily/weekly proactive mental health wellness options such as yoga, meditation, and circle keepers.

Other Staff Needs

Escuela Verde 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

Escuela Verde periodically reviews and, as needed, revises the plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services. The plan is reviewed at least every six months, and the school system will seek and take into account public and family 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

Escuela Verde has taken the following steps to make its plan available to the public:

- The plan will be posted at <http://www.escuelaverde.org>
- The plan is available in Spanish and English
- The plan was sent to parents, students, and employees via our messaging systems.
- Parents were surveyed and the plan was shared at orientation.
- 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.