

# BOSCOBEL AREA SCHOOLS



## ESSER III

### *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, 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

Boscobel 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)

Boscobel Area School District will offer in-person learning five days a week according to the Board adopted 2021-2022 Academic Year Calendar. The school district has also provided families with the virtual learning option during quarantine. In the event of school closure due to the pandemic, the district purchased Chromebooks and I-pads for all students to continue virtual learning.

Regardless of the mode of instruction, Boscobel Area School District will continue to provide meals under the community provision as long as USDA continues the allowance. Meals were provided for students during the summer 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.

Boscobel Area School District employs one full-time school nurse and a nurse paraprofessional who

will continue to offer health services in-person or virtually. The school district also partners with Grant County Department of Health and Human Services to provide mental health and other support for families.

## Mitigation Measures

### Universal and correct wearing of masks

#### *Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable*

Boscobel Area School District adopted thresholds to determine when students, staff, and visitors will be required to wear masks and when mask-wearing will be optional. These thresholds are based on COVID activity in the Boscobel Area School District. Details about these thresholds can be found on the district website. [Boscobel Area School District- Website](#)

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

#### *Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable*

Mitigation measures such as proper signage, the installation of 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.

Transportation will comply with Federal and CDC guidelines regarding masking and capacity that are in effect during the 2021-22 school year. Classroom seating is designed to provide social distancing to the best of our ability. Seating charts for contact tracing are required.

### Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

#### *Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable*

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 sanitizing stations/liquids are available in all classrooms, common areas, and on buses.

### Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

#### *Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable*

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. We also

use mitigation spray throughout the district and on school transportation.

The District has installed new filters on all air intake ventilation units in all buildings. These units function at all times that ventilation units operate and are monitored electronically through HVAC computer systems.

### **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*

Boscobel Area School District will continue contact tracing and transparent reporting to the public of COVID-19 cases within the District. To provide transparent reporting for our stakeholders, the District maintained a COVID-19 case dashboard through the 2020-2021 school year and will continue this practice for the 2021-2022 school year. The COVID-19 Dashboard can be found on the school website. [Boscobel Area School District Website](#)

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. Signs are posted on entrances to inform visitors and contractors of masking requirements.

### **Diagnostic and screening testing**

#### *Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable*

Boscobel Area School District recommends students and staff get tested for COVID by their medical provider, Grant County Health Department or a local pharmacy.

### **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 the opportunity to be vaccinated. Students ages 12 and older were provided access to vaccination clinics in the spring of 2021. The Boscobel Area School District will collaborate with the Grant County Health Department and Boscobel Pharmacy to host a vaccine clinic for all eligible students and staff during the 2021-2022 school year. New staff will be given access to vaccinations by working with local healthcare partners and County Public Health.

### **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, ILP, 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. Boscobel Area School District continues to work with the Grant County 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

**Boscobel Area School District will provide for continuity of services as follows:**

#### **Student Academic Needs**

Boscobel 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. Teachers are also available for after-school tutoring programs throughout the year.

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

Counseling staff has been added to the 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. In partnership with the Boscobel Methodist Church, 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 students and all children age 18 and under through August 12, 2021.

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

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

The District has provided staff with opportunities for social and emotional support through staff professional development delivered through regularly scheduled faculty meetings and electronic communications. 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

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**

Boscobel Area Schools 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 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

Boscobel Area School District has taken the following steps to make its plan available to the public:

- The plan is posted at the [Boscobel Area Schools Website](https://www.boscobel.k12.wi.us)- [boscobel.k12.wi.us](https://www.boscobel.k12.wi.us)
- The plan is available on our website in the two most common languages spoken in our district; English and Spanish. The district will make the plan available in other languages or accessible formats upon request to the district office.
- The COVID-19 plan was sent to parents, students, and employees via our messaging systems.
- The plan will be shared at the Boscobel Board of Education meeting on February 14, 2022. An opportunity for public comment is available during the February and March Board meetings.
- 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.

[Boscobel Area Schools Stakeholders Engagement Survey for Public Comment](#)  
[ESSER III Stakeholder Engagement Presentation](#)