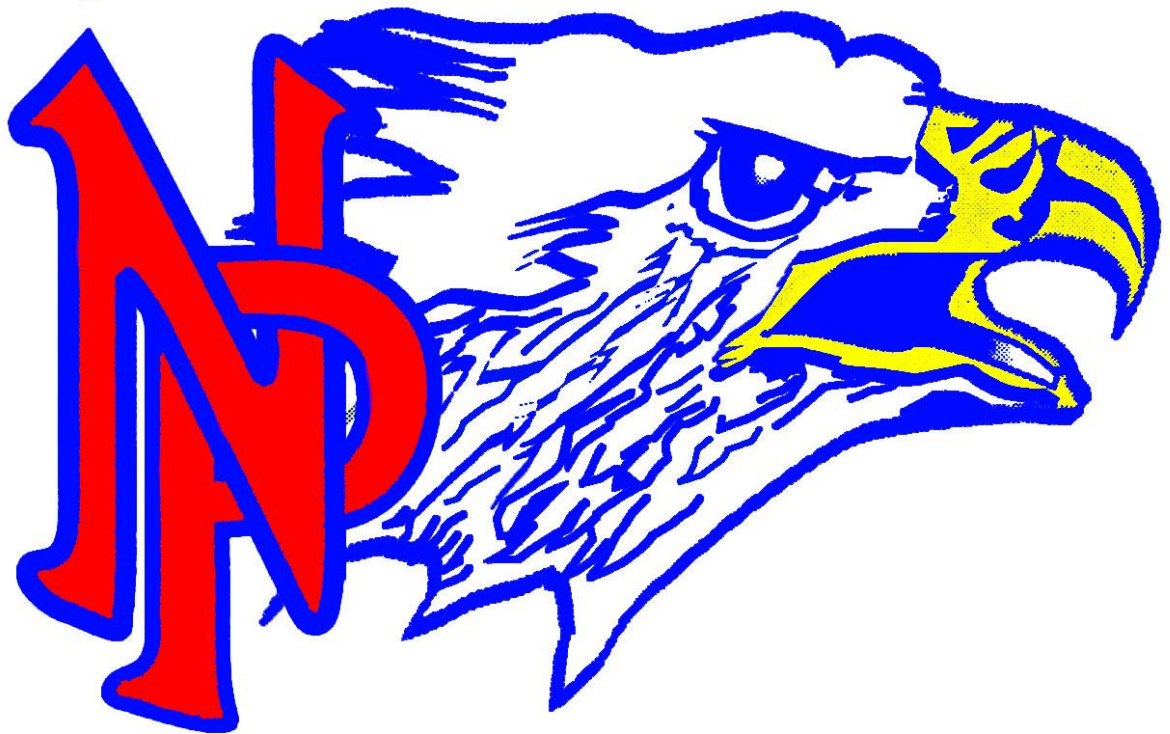


# Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan



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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

The Northland Pines School District plan, [Maintaining a Healthy School Environment](#) includes how we will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other school 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, and local 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.

### Maintaining the safety of staff and students

The Northland Pines School District will have a five-day per week, face-to-face instructional model and adhere to the following health protocols in the 2023-24 school year. Accordingly, the District will:

- Share guidelines for maintaining a healthy school environment.
- encourage staff members and students to stay home or go home if they are showing signs of illness or if they have tested positive communicable diseases
- provide sanitizing stations throughout the building

### Continue to provide services regardless of the mode of instruction

The Northland Pines School District will offer in-person learning five days a week according to the Board adopted 2023-2024 Academic Year Calendar. The school district has also provided families the option to enroll their students in virtual learning (PLP's). In the event of a school closure due to a communicable disease outbreak, the district will provide Chromebooks for all students to continue virtual learning.

Regardless of the mode of instruction, the Northland Pines School District will continue to provide meals under the community provision as long as USDA allows. Meals will be provided for summer school attendees as well as all eligible youth during the school year as long as USDA continues the allowance. If school is closed due to a communicable disease outbreak, the district will assess its ability to distribute meals utilizing the same process it used during the spring of 2020.

The Northland Pines School District employs a full-time school nurse and a full-time health aide who will continue to offer health services in-person or virtually. The school district also employs a school social worker and a mental health coordinator. The social worker and mental health coordinator provide direct support to students in the school as well as connect families to community-based

resources and support.

## Mitigation Measures

### Universal and correct wearing of masks

The Northland Pines School Board supports staff, students, and visitors wearing a mask to, however mask-wearing will be optional. Mask-wearing like all aspects of the plan will be constantly reviewed and changes made if administration and/or the board determines the necessity.

### Physical distancing

The district will continue to use measures such as water bottle filling stations and the promotion of physical distancing at each facility. Cafeteria services will continue to be monitored to ensure safety.

### Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette are 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.

### 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.

The District has installed MERV-13 Filters and added additional air movement 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

Each school will continue to provide current health information to staff, students, and families about the signs and symptoms of communicable illnesses, including COVID-19, when they should stay home, and when they can return to school.

The Northland Pines School District recommends and encourages following CDC guidelines for positive cases of Covid-19. That information can be found here:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/isolation.html>. Please also reference the

district's school health policies which can be found here:

<https://www.npsd.k12.wi.us/district/schoolhealthservices.cfm>

If you have any questions or concerns please reach out to Rachel Hicks, School Nurse at [rahicks@npsd.k12.wi.us](mailto:rahicks@npsd.k12.wi.us) or (715)479-6471 ext. 3112.

### **Diagnostic and screening testing**

The Northland Pines School District recommends students and staff get tested for communicable diseases, including COVID by their health care provider. The district also supports use of rapid antigen at-home tests.

### **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 and staff can get vaccinated per CDC Guidelines per a parent choice through their medical provider.

### **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 needs.

### **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 Northland Pines School District continues to work with the Vilas County Public Health Department on a frequent basis to implement mitigating strategies for the safety of students and staff.

# Continuity of Services

## Overview

The Northland Pines School District guarantees in our Mission Statement the 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 Northland Pines 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 2023, 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 possibly during before and after-school tutoring programs throughout the 2023/24 school year.

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

Additional counseling staff has been added to the mental health staff to address our students' social and emotional learning needs. Beginning in the 2023-2024 school year, the district will be offering school-linked mental health services for students on the NPSD campus.

#### **Other Student Needs**

Meals are returning to "normal" pay for breakfast and lunch for the 2023-24 school year. The district partners with multiple local churches, food pantries and organizations (ex. FORK) to supplement students and families food needs.

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

The District has supported staff's social, emotional, and mental health needs through the Employee Assistance Program provided through the District insurance program as well as a new school calendar.

#### **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

The Northland Pines 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 Vilas County Public Health Department guidance on safely reopening schools if any are issued.

#### Tentative Review of the Plan:

- June 14, 2022 - August 2022
- December 19, 2022 - December 2022
- June 26, 2023 - June 2023
- December 18, 2023 - December 2023
- June XX, 2024 (ends September 2024)



# 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 Northland Pines School District has taken the following steps to make its plan available to the public:

- The plan is posted at <http://www.npsd.k12.wi.us.com>
- The plan is available in multiple languages through the use of our web provider powered by Google Translate.
- The plan was sent to parents, students, and employees via our messaging systems.
- **The plan was shared at the Northland Pines School District Board of Education Committee meetings on December 5th and 18t , 2023.** An opportunity for public comment was available at each of these meetings and by phone and email.
- 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.