

Fairbury Public Schools

SAFE RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN

2023-24



Fairbury Public Schools

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Section I: A Safe Return Plan

General Information (Pursuant to the Federal American Rescue Plan)

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021, Public Law. The ARP Act includes nearly \$122 billion for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER III) Fund that allows state and local education agencies (LEAs) to take additional steps for continued safe in-person instruction and to address unfinished teaching and learning to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic. The ARP Act requires each school district that receives ARP ESSER funds to develop and make publicly available on the school district's website, no later than 30 days after receiving ARP ESSER funds, a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction, and continuity of services for all schools (Safe Return Plan). The ARP Act further requires that the district seek public comment on the Safe Return Plan and take those comments into account in finalization of the Safe Return Plan. A school district must periodically, but no less frequently than every six months through September 30, 2023, review and, as appropriate, revise its Safe Return Plan.

***Please Note:** The district plans to operate in a traditional learning environment during the 2023-24 school year unless there is a state or federal mandate that requires school districts to implement the protocols listed below or if there is a COVID-19 outbreak (10% or more of the student/staff population testing positive for COVID-19 or 110 individuals total). If a COVID-19 outbreak were to occur, the district would look to implement some or all of the safety protocols listed below for a short timeframe (1 to 10 consecutive days that school is in session).*

Universal & Correct Wearing of Masks

If there is a state or federal mandate that requires school districts to implement Universal & Correct Wearing of Masks or if there is a COVID outbreak (10% or more of the student/staff population testing positive for COVID-19 or 110 individuals total). If a COVID-19 outbreak were to occur, the district would look to implement some or all of the safety protocols listed below for a short timeframe (1 to 10 consecutive days that school is in session). Any staff, student or visitor who chooses to wear a mask will be permitted.

Modifying Facilities to Allow for Physical Distancing (e.g., Cohorts or Podding)

All students and staff will need to follow social distancing guidelines when required.

Handwashing & Respiratory Etiquette

Students will be encouraged to wash their hands frequently throughout the school day. In addition, the district will post signage about frequent hand washing, cough etiquette, and nose blowing. Signage will be widely posted, disseminated, and encouraged through various methods of communication.

Cleaning & Maintaining Healthy Facilities (Including Improving Ventilation)

The following essential actions will be taken to ensure that the facilities are safe for students and staff to inhabit. The district will:

- Change air filters regularly.
- Distribute wastebaskets, tissues, and CDC approved soap to every office and classroom so that these materials can be used upon entry and exit into any discrete location and during transition between classrooms (Pending availability).
- Post signage about frequent hand washing, cough etiquette, and nose blowing. Signage will be widely posted, disseminated, and encouraged through various methods of communication.
- Follow guidance from the CDC when performing all cleaning related duties.

Contact Tracing (Isolation & Quarantine)

In the event of a Directed Health Measure (DHM) from the governor, the district will follow the contact tracing (Isolation & Quarantine) guidelines from both the CDC and Public Health Solutions during the 2023-24 school year.

Diagnostic & Screening Testing

Any student with a fever of 100.4°F or higher (Or if the student is displaying other signs of illness) will need to stay home for up to 24 hours. We are advising all parents to take your children's temperature before they get on a bus or before you drop them off at school.

Efforts to Provide Vaccinations to School Communities

The administration will work with Public Health Solutions to offer local vaccination clinics in our region and allow Public Health Solutions the ability to use our facilities to provide vaccinations to all eligible students and patrons in our community.

Accommodations for Children with Disabilities

Students qualifying for extra support through an IEP or through a 504 plan will continue to receive services and support according to their plans throughout the 2023-24 school year. Accommodations, modifications, and related services will be provided as outlined in a student's plan.

Coordination with State & Local Health Officials

Similar to the 2022-23 school year, the superintendent will meet as needed on a regular basis with the state and local health officials.

Continuity of Services

The district has invested in electronic devices for all PK-12 students and provided our teachers with remote learning trainings to ensure continuity of instruction will still occur should in-person learning not be possible due to a COVID-19 outbreak.

In the event of a DHM related to a COVID-19 outbreak, regular communication, using all available modalities, with students will be required of administrators and teachers to ensure the safety, academic engagement, and wellness of students. If in-person instruction is not possible, breakfast and lunch may be provided to students through a USDA approved system. School based mental health professionals will be available online by appointment for any students or staff in need of assistance.

Closures

The Board of Education and Administration would like to personally thank all Fairbury Public Schools staff members, students, and parents for your dedication and efforts during the 2022-23 school year. Everyone worked tirelessly to ensure that students were being educated in-person during a global pandemic. The district is appreciative of everyone's flexibility and patience. It is possible that there will be some uncertainty regarding what lies ahead this school year concerning the COVID-19 pandemic, but the district's plan is to operate in a more traditional learning environment during the 2023-24 school year.