

Vicksburg Community Schools
Safe to Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan
2023-2024 - October

Under the interim final requirements, an LEA plan for safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services must describe how the LEA will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff and the extent to which it has adopted policies, and a description of any such policies, on each of the prevention and mitigation strategies recommended by the CDC.

Vicksburg Community Schools continues in the 2023-2024 school year without any special COVID protocols in place and have followed the Kalamazoo County Health Department COVID-19 guidance for isolation and quarantine.

Current CDC guidelines state that those with a positive COVID-19 test must isolate for 5 days following the onset of symptoms or a positive test and may return to school on day 6. Wearing a mask is recommended through day 10.

We are asking families to notify their child's school if their child tests positive for COVID-19 as they would with any other contagious illness.

We are aware that the virus is still prevalent and contagious. Although masks are not required, anyone who chooses to wear a mask may do so on a voluntary basis.

Continued Health and Safety Protocols include multiple hand sanitizing stations in buildings and classrooms and encouraging hand washing and covering of mouth while coughing or sneezing.

The plan must also describe how an LEA will ensure continuity of services, which must address students' academic needs and students' and staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, and which may include student health and food services.

To ensure continuity of learning and instructional services and to address learning loss, Vicksburg Community Schools provides full in-person instruction five days per week at all levels Pre-K through 12 with the exception of Vicksburg Pathways High School that runs on an alternative schedule as a part of its innovative programming. Full time substitute teachers have been provided in each building to minimize disruption of student learning when teachers need to be out of the classroom.

Benchmark Assessment data is reviewed in the fall, winter, and spring to ensure that students are showing progress in their learning. Adjustments deemed necessary by the data reviews have been and will continue to be implemented without delay. Based on an ongoing analysis of data (formative, benchmark, summative), students have been and will continue to be identified for and receive targeted interventions and support in addition to in-class instruction. The district framework for operating as a Professional Learning Community including a Multi-Tiered System of Supports continues to be an area of focus this school year to ensure high levels of learning for all students.

The social and emotional needs of both staff and students continues to be an area of focus in our district. Counselors are available in each building as well as behavior specialists and a school social worker. These

positions are assisting us with meeting the social, emotional, and academic needs of all students. A social-emotional screening tool was implemented last February as part of our ongoing MTSS work. This screening tool will provide data to help staff address needs of individual students as well as address needs through appropriate intervention and instruction. Additions in staffing last year include a Student Support Coordinator at Sunset Lake Elementary (1.0 FTE), a Student Services Coordinator at Vicksburg Pathways High School (.5 FTE), and an SEL Coordinator at Vicksburg High School (.5 FTE). Professional learning opportunities for all staff related to social emotional health and well being are available on-demand as well as scheduled in December and March. Implementation of the district framework for Social Emotional Learning continues to be refined at the building and district levels.

In addition, the LEA must regularly, but no less frequently than every six months (taking into consideration the timing of significant changes to CDC guidance on reopening schools), review and, as appropriate, revise its plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services, and must seek and take public input into account in determining whether and what revisions are necessary.

Plan Review Timeline *(dates are tentative and may change based on changes in CDC guidance)*

- By October 9, 2023 - Public Board Meeting
- By April 8, 2024 - Public Board Meeting