



Blanchester
Local
School
District

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2021-2022 Safe Return to In-Person Instruction & Continuity of Services Plan

Updated: June 21, 2021: Revised Aug 10, 2021

In- Person Instruction	<p>Blanchester Local Schools will begin the 2021-2022 academic year with 100% in-person instruction for five days a week. Ohio has also ended all health mandates related to the COVID-19 pandemic that impact schools.</p> <p>In the 2020-2021 school year the Ohio legislature provided schools with the necessary flexibility to implement remote instruction. As a result, Blanchester Local was able to offer 2 learning options for families. One option included in-person learning for five days a week, and the other was Virtual Learning Academy five days a week. However, the Ohio Department of Education notified districts in April 2021 that the Ohio legislature is not extending the remote learning flexibilities granted for the 2020-2021 school year, therefore, the district plans to return to in-person learning for all students during the 2021-2022 school year.</p>
Mitigation Strategies	<p><u>Universal and correct wearing of masks</u> Staff and students will be permitted to wear a mask if they deem it appropriate, but masks will not be required. <i>Effective June 2, 2021, The mask mandate for the State of Ohio expired.</i></p> <p><u>Physical distancing</u> Physical distancing will be strongly encouraged and maintained to the best of our ability.</p> <p><u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</u> Teach and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and increase monitoring to ensure adherence among students, teachers, and staff. If handwashing is not possible, hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol will be available and should be used. Furthermore, cough and sneeze etiquette will be taught, monitored, and reinforced.</p>

	<p><u>Facilities</u> Routine cleaning of the buildings will continue, including daily disinfection after school hours.</p> <p>Additional sanitizing may take place during times of increased illness among staff/students. The ventilation systems will continue to receive the necessary upgrades recommended by experts.</p> <p><u>Contact tracing</u> Contact tracing will occur as required based upon guidance from the Clinton County Health Department for all infectious diseases. School nurses and other District staff have been trained and are skilled at this process due to experience gained during the COVID- 19 pandemic.</p> <p><u>Diagnostic and screening testing</u> The district will promote the availability of the rapid COVID-19 tests distributed by the Ohio Department of Education. These tests will be available to any staff or student that is suspected of having COVID-19.</p> <p><u>Vaccinations</u> The district will continue to coordinate with the Clinton County Health Department to provide vaccinations for our staff and students. The district is willing to continue to be a host site for staff and student vaccinations in the future.</p> <p><u>Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies:</u> Students with disabilities who have health related concerns will have their IEP reviewed by an intervention specialist and/or the Director of Special Education. If it is determined that amendments are needed to the IEP, an IEP team will schedule a meeting to review the IEP and make the necessary changes.</p>
<p>Continuity of Services</p>	<p><u>Assessing and Responding to Student Learning Needs:</u> The district will use data collected through several sources including, but not limited to KRA, NWEA MAP Growth Tests (K-10 grade), IXL data, Reflex math assessments, 95% Group screeners, SIPPS Assessments, Ohio State Tests, End of Course Exams, OELPS/OELPA, ACT, curriculum-based unit assessments, classroom assessments, and ongoing RTI data. Testing data will be analyzed in order to identify gaps in learning.</p>

We have added additional staff for the 21-22 school year to address student learning needs. We have hired an additional Reading Specialist at Putman Elementary, 1 full time Reading Specialist at Blanchester Intermediate, and we have added an intervention specialist at the elementary building. We have made changes to the master schedule at Putman Elementary, Blanchester Intermediate, and Blanchester Middle School to allow daily, intensive Tier 2 interventions at each grade level. We used ESSER money to update and align our Tier 1 reading curriculum to the Science of Reading as well as added an evidence-based Tier 2 Intervention for our K-5 students.

The district offered a Summer Learning Program during the first 3 weeks in June 2021 to address learning loss. Teachers focused on closing learning gaps to assist with the transition to the 21-22 school year.

Social and Emotional Needs:

The district will continue to partner with the Counseling Source for contracted mental health support.

PBIS and PAX will continue to be implemented school-wide with building level teams facilitating implementation and ongoing monitoring.

The district plans to continue partnerships and enlist new partnerships with outside agencies that support social and emotional learning in grades K-12.

Food Service:

The district will ensure and promote continuity of food service programs with appropriate staffing. All buildings will continue offering daily food service that meets all federal requirements. All students are eligible to eat free breakfast and lunch at school through June of 2022

Blanchester Local School District developed this plan as a requirement set forth in the American Rescue plan (ARP). This plan was developed with stakeholder feedback and will be reviewed bi-annually through September 30, 2023.