

WILLOUGHBY-EASTLAKE CITY SCHOOLS

American Rescue Plan: Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

DISTRICT CONTACT: DR. STEPHEN L. THOMPSON, SUPERINTENDENT
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JUNE 2021



DISTRICT POLICIES FOR INCORPORATING CDC MITIGATION STRATEGIES

Willoughby-Eastlake City Schools has adopted [Reopening Guidelines](#) aligned with the [CDC Mitigation Strategies](#) and utilized these during the 2020-2021 school year. Prior to the opening of district properties, reopening guidelines were submitted and approved by Lake County General Health District (LCGHD). All mandates from the CDC, Lake County General Health District, Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Department of Health will be followed during the 2021-2022 school year.

- ⇒ Effective June 3, 2021, in accordance with the Lake County General Health District, it is not necessary for vaccinated persons to wear a mask while on district property. For those that are not vaccinated, it is recommended that they wear masks, but not required. In the event the Lake County General Health District change their recommendations and masks are required, the district will follow [Policy 845.01](#).
- ⇒ Physical distancing is maintained when possible on buses and on all campuses. The district will continue to follow recommended [CDC protocol for distancing in classrooms](#) and on school buses whenever possible.
- ⇒ Hand sanitizing stations have been added to all Willoughby-Eastlake buildings. Hand sanitizer is available in classrooms and school buses. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette adopted in [Willoughby-Eastlake guidelines](#) follow [CDC recommended procedures](#).
- ⇒ All district properties continue to be cleaned and maintained according to guidance from the CDC and local health departments. These procedures were paramount so that Willoughby-Eastlake could ensure the safety and well-being of all people on its campuses. Because of the recommendations made due to the presence of COVID-19, Willoughby-Eastlake implemented the following protocols and will continue these strategies unless instructed otherwise from local health officials.
 - Additional custodial staff utilized to clean high-traffic, high-touch areas
 - Clorox 360 machines utilized in all buildings for general cleaning and used when known exposure to COVID-19 occurred
 - During the 2020-2021 school year, all buses were cleaned on a daily basis with electrostatic cleaners
 - Ventilation systems in the buildings were modified during the 2020-2021 school year to include: replacement of Merv 8 filters with Merv 13 filters, addition of HEPA filters where possible, increased outside air flow, and accelerated rate of air filter replacements
- ⇒ When necessary, all contact tracing and quarantine procedures were completed according to the guidelines created by the CDC and in collaboration with the LCGHD. Parameters followed during the 2021-2022 school year will follow all current protocols created by these agencies.
- ⇒ All students and staff members were screened when entering W-E buildings each day during the 2020-2021 school year. Any person exhibiting symptoms were isolated in a pre-designated area in each building until they were able to exit the building. Free diagnostic tests were available in the community at community health agencies.
- ⇒ All staff members were given access to free vaccinations.
- ⇒ All eligible students have access to free vaccinations at community health agencies.
- ⇒ All appropriate and necessary accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies are in place and organized by the office of Special Education. During the 2020-2021 school year, individual I.E.P. teams collaborated with students, families and staff members to ensure that the educational needs of all special education students were met. This process will continue as necessary in 2021-2022.

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CONTINUITY OF ACADEMIC SERVICES

ACADEMIC SERVICES

The district has and will reinforce best instructional practices PreK-12. Continuity of academic services is focused on strong Tier I Core Instruction with a renewed emphasis on the Multi-Tiered Systems of Supports (MTSS). Our MTSS approach focuses on instruction, support and enrichment.

Focused Instruction Guidance for PreK-12

- ⇒ Maintain quality Tier I, II and III instruction
- ⇒ Implementation of evidence-based instructional materials and instructional strategies
- ⇒ Focus on standards-based instruction, including the extended standards
- ⇒ Ensure lessons follow the district's Five Step Instructional Framework
- ⇒ Increased focus on foundational skills in K-3 ELA and conceptual understanding of mathematics K-12
- ⇒ Focus on authentic reading and writing in ELA and all content areas K-12; incorporate Reading and Writing Across the Curriculum in all content areas
- ⇒ Maintain consistent Step Up to Quality 5 Star pre-school programming
- ⇒ Continue Summer School Programming K-12

Student Performance Data

District staff (teachers and principals with central office guidance and support) will review student performance data to identify the most vulnerable student populations and their intervention needs.

- ⇒ Strategic use of local and state testing to identify the most relevant student performance data for decision making
- ⇒ Assess and evaluate testing results
- ⇒ Utilize formative assessments and benchmark assessments for monitoring student progress
- ⇒ The buildings will use their structured building leadership teams, teacher-based teams and department teams to review student data and prioritize needs.
- ⇒ Tier II interventions will occur in the general education classroom as well as during specific intervention periods at each grade level.
- ⇒ Tier III interventions are provided during the daily designated intervention period
- ⇒ District-wide data includes:
 - MAP Fluency K-5
 - Exact Path Diagnostic and Learning Path K-12
 - District Benchmark Assessments aligned to Ohio's Learning Standards in core content areas (including standard writing prompts) in grades 3 – 12
 - Common formative and summative assessments by content and grade level

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CONTINUITY OF NON-ACADEMIC SERVICES

NON-ACADEMIC SERVICES

Social Emotional & Mental Health

- ⇒ Continue district initiatives for PBIS. The district has been recognized as an award-winning PBIS district.
- ⇒ Utilize data to establish Skillstreaming groups in the elementary buildings
- ⇒ Individual check-in/check-out meetings with Family Liaisons
- ⇒ Implement Second Step, a social-emotional curriculum embedded in core instruction and morning meetings
- ⇒ Implemented professional development for staff in the area of Trauma-Informed care and the Zones of Regulation
- ⇒ Continuation of the student mentoring program in secondary schools to build relationships between students and staff
- ⇒ An elementary school was selected to participate in the Ohio School Wellness Initiative as a collaborative school
- ⇒ Responsive Classroom was implemented in the elementary schools

Health

- ⇒ During the 2020-2021 school year, Willoughby-Eastlake identified a COVID Coordinator who was responsible for the following duties:
 - Coordinating with the Lake County General Health District to ensure that all state and local mandates were followed and implemented with fidelity
 - Assisted district administrators to identify and document persons exposed to or infected with COVID-19 while following CDC guidelines for necessary quarantines
 - Maintaining consistent communication with district families affected by COVID and educating them about current guidelines
 - Respond to questions from families and community members that were sent through the COVID Hotline established
 - Inform district families and employees of changes in state and local mandates as they were issued throughout the school year
- ⇒ During the 2020-2021 Willoughby-Eastlake nursing staff maintained a daily log of health concerns as they related to COVID-19 and consistently worked with families to ensure that they were aware of current health mandates

*All measures implemented in 2020-2021 will be continued during the 2021-2022 school year as necessary

Food

- ⇒ All food served during the 2020-2021 school year was done so in accordance with USDA requirements
- ⇒ Through participation in the USDA food grant, all students in the Willoughby-Eastlake City Schools District had access to free food. This program was offered to in-person students and virtual students during the 2020-2021 school year.
- ⇒ Families living in the district are permitted to pick up meals at North High School during the summer months for children under the age of 18. Meal distributions occur one time per week.
- ⇒ Willoughby-Eastlake will continue to offer free breakfast and lunch to all students during the 2021-2022 if the USDA grant is extended

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PERIODIC REVIEW

Willoughby-Eastlake City Schools will continue to maintain and review protocols and policies based on the following:

- ⇒ Changes in guidance from the CDC, Ohio Department of Health, Lake County General Health District and the Ohio Department of Education that impact student attendance and instruction
- ⇒ Suggestions and input given by staff and community members during open meetings that can be implemented while maintaining student, staff and community safety as well as adherence to federal, state and local mandates.
- ⇒ Semi-annual review completed at the start of each semester
- ⇒ Discussion and review completed by the district administrative team with necessary revisions as necessary

PUBLIC INPUT

- ⇒ During the 2020-2021 school year, virtual meetings were conducted with the public and Willoughby-Eastlake staff to review recommendations and mandates applied by the CDC, state and local health departments.
 - Input from staff and community members was utilized to adjust 2020-2021 protocols where possible
 - Decisions regarding programming options were guided when possible by input from staff, parents and students
- ⇒ During the 2020-2021 school year, administration met with union leadership teams to obtain feedback regarding daily operations
- ⇒ Community members were able to contact board members via email
- ⇒ As a result of community input, Willoughby-Eastlake will offer a virtual learning platform to families. This option is available to any student in grades 1 through 12 attending Willoughby-Eastlake.
- ⇒ During the 2021-2022 school year, virtual meetings will continue to be held with staff members and community members
- ⇒ Willoughby-Eastlake has established a dedicated hotline for COVID related concerns. This is available for any person to receive and give information and input,

