

Northwest Ohio ESC
Safe Continuation of In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan
District-based Programs and Services
Effective August 1, 2021

PREFACE

The recently passed American Rescue Plan (ARP) provides substantial federal resources to support states and local school districts. As a result, local school districts are required to develop a plan which details the safe return to in-person instruction and ensures the continuity of services. This plan is accessible to our stakeholders, and will be monitored and revised as necessary based on ongoing review through September 30, 2023.

MITIGATION STRATEGIES

Northwest Ohio ESC successfully operated in-person throughout the pandemic during the 2020-2021 school year, and will return to pre-pandemic practices. Should health conditions arise or stakeholder feedback necessitate, the NwOESC will reassess in collaboration with other public school districts in our service area along with local Health Departments to review conditions and mitigation strategies and make necessary revisions.

- **NwOESC Programs located in public school districts in our service area will align to the expectations of those districts in regards to health and safety protocol; assessing student academic needs; monitoring and assessing student and staff social, emotional and mental health needs; and meeting student nutritional needs.**

IMPLEMENTING BLENDED LEARNING DURING INSTANCES OF QUARANTINE, ISOLATION OR CLOSURE

1. For closures, teachers shall develop lessons equal to or greater than the amount of instructional time the student would receive for the days and hours of closure. Lessons shall be provided for courses scheduled to meet on a day that the school was closed. Students on quarantine or isolation shall have access to lessons through remote or other means.
2. For closures, teachers will provide their supervisor/building principal with access to lessons. The supervisor/building principal will ensure that the lessons are equal to or greater than the amount of instructional time the student missed.
3. The appropriate administrator will direct staff about how to make lessons available to students via virtual means. Technology and other programs and resources are available to support student learning.
4. The teacher will be responsible for providing instruction/posting materials relative to their classroom assignment.
5. Teachers will regularly assess the progress of students and will update or replace lessons and/or instructional delivery as necessary.

6. During closures, students will be granted time to complete lessons/assignments per teacher directive. If the student does not complete the lesson/assignment within the time communicated, the student may receive an incomplete or failing grade unless a sufficient reason is provided to the teacher justifying why they failed to complete the lesson/assignment. Students on isolation or quarantine are recommended this same requirement.
7. For students who experience difficulty accessing the online material or who do not have technology/connectivity access, “blizzard bags” will be used as needed, which are paper copies of the lessons/assignments. Teachers may prepare paper copies approximating the content of the lessons and shall update such paper copies when updating any of the online lessons. Students utilizing this option will be granted two weeks from the date of receiving the materials to return completed lessons/assignments to their teacher or building, if feasible. Packets may be picked up or mailed, as coordinated with families. If the student does not complete the lesson/assignment within this time period, the student may receive an incomplete or failing grade unless the student provides a sufficient reason to the teacher justifying why they failed to complete the lesson/assignment.
8. Licensed staff including intervention specialists will provide instructional support and related services within the scope of their practice by electronic delivery method or telehealth communication to any district students, including students who receive services under Individualized Education Plans or Section 504 Services Plans as necessary. Paraprofessionals will be used to assist in providing support.
9. We are committed to meet our obligation to provide all students, including children with disabilities, equal access to curriculum and services during an isolation, quarantine or school closure in accordance with state and federal law. Supervisors/building principals will encourage parents to reach out if students are unable to access or participate in the program remotely because of a disability-related or other reason so that we can explore alternative methods of instruction and possible accommodations.

The NwOESC’s Safe Continuation of In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan is subject to change through September 30, 2023. Continued collaboration and guidance will be sought from the Defiance County Health Department.

Respectfully submitted by:
Kerri Weir, NwOESC Superintendent