

# West Iron County Public School District Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan as Described in [Public Act 149, Section 98a](#)

## *Final* September 3, 2020 Clarifications

On August 20, 2020 Governor Whitmer signed House Bill 5913 into law as Public Act 149. Section 98a states that in order to receive state aid for 2020-2021, districts must provide for instruction under an extended COVID-19 Learning Plan (“Plan”) that has been approved by an intermediate district or authorizing body. The Plan does not replace the West Iron County Public Schools’ COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan, it is an additional plan that includes new assurances and sections on educational goals, instructional delivery, grading, and equitable access. PA 149 does not apply to districts that operate as a cyber school.

West Iron County Public Schools educational goals written for all students and all subgroups must be established no later than September 15, 2020 and submitted in their Plan to the ISD or Authorizing Body, as applicable, no later than October 1, 2020 for approval. ISDs and PSAs will transmit the approved plan to the state superintendent of public instruction and the state treasurer.



## **West Iron County Public Schools Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan**

Address of School District/PSA: 601 Nick Baumgartner Way, Iron River, MI 49935

District/PSA Code Number: 36025

District/PSA Website Address: [www.westiron.org](http://www.westiron.org)

District/PSA Contact and Title: 2021-24 Kevin Schmutzler, Superintendent  
2020-21 Chris Thomson, Superintendent

District/PSA Contact Email Address: [kschmutzler@westiron.org](mailto:kschmutzler@westiron.org)

Name of Intermediate School District/PSA: Dickinson/Iron Intermediate School District

Date of Approval by ISD/Authorizing Body: *Updated October 18, 2023, August 16, 2022 & April 18, 2023*

### **Assurances**

1. The District/PSA will make their ISD/Authorizing Body approved Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan accessible through the transparency reporting link located on the District's/PSA's website no later than October 1, 2020.
2. The District/PSA will create and make available on its transparency reporting link located on the District/PSA's website, a report concerning the progress made in meeting the educational goals contained in its Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan not later than February 1, 2021, for goals its expected would be achieved by the middle of the school year and not later than the last day of school of the 2020-2021 school year for goals the District/PSA expected would be achieved by the end of the school year.
3. Benchmark Assessments: The District/PSA will
  1. select a benchmark assessment or benchmark assessments that is/are aligned to state standards.
  2. administer the approved benchmark assessment, or local benchmark assessment, or any combination thereof, to all pupils in grades K to 8 to measure proficiency in reading and mathematics within the first nine weeks of the 2020-2021 school year and again not later than the last day of the of the 2020-2021 school year.
4. If delivering pupil instruction virtually, the District/PSA will
  1. provide pupils with equitable access to technology and the internet necessary to participate in instruction, and
  2. expose each pupil to the academic standards that apply for each pupil's grade level or courses in the same scope and sequence as the District/PSA had planned for that exposure to occur for in-person instruction.

5. The District/PSA, in consultation with a local health department will develop guidelines concerning appropriate methods for delivering pupil instruction for the 2023-2024 school year that are based on local data that are based on key metrics. Note: A determination concerning the method for delivering pupil instruction shall remain at the District/PSA Board's discretion. Key metrics that the District/PSA will consider shall include at least all of the following:
  - o COVID-19 Cases or Positive COVID-19 tests
  - o Hospitalizations due to COVID-19
  - o Number of deaths resulting from COVID-19 over a 14-day period
  - o COVID-19 cases for each day for each 1 million individuals
  - o The percentage of positive COVID-19 tests over a 4-week period
  - o Health capacity strength
  - o Testing, tracing, and containment infrastructure with regard to COVID-19
6. If the District/PSA determines that it is safe to provide in-person instruction to pupils, the District/PSA will prioritize providing in-person instruction to pupils in grades K to 5 who are enrolled in the District/PSA.
7. The District/PSA assures that
  - o instruction will be delivered as described in this plan and re-confirmed by the District/PSA Board,
  - o the description of instructional delivery in this plan matches the delivery of instruction to be delivered during the 2020-2021 school year,
  - o the District/PSA will reconfirm how instruction will be delivered during the 2020-2021 school year thirty days after ISD approval of the plan, and every 30 days thereafter at a meeting of the Board, and
  - o public comment will be solicited from the parents or legal guardians of the pupils enrolled in the District/PSA during a public meeting described in PA-149.
8. The District/PSA will ensure that students with disabilities will be provided with equitable access to instruction and accommodation in accordance with applicable state and federal laws, rules and regulations.
9. The District/PSA will ensure that two (2), 2-way interactions occur between a pupil enrolled in the District/PSA and the pupil's teacher or at least one (1) of the pupil's teachers during each week of the school year for at least 75% of the pupils enrolled in the District/PSA. The District/PSA will publicly announce its weekly interaction rates at each District/PSA Board meeting where it re-confirms how instruction is being delivered. The District/PSA will make those rates available through the transparency reporting link located on the District/PSA website each month for the 2020-2021 school year.

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District Superintendent or President of the Board of Education/Directors

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Date

# Learning Plan Narrative

## Opening Statement

- Please provide a statement indicating why an Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan is necessary to increase pupil engagement and achievement for the 2020-2021 school year.

The COVID-19 global pandemic is impacting our school community in a number of ways: we are experiencing a traumatic event, students may have significant gaps in their learning, and equity issues are more pronounced.

As we return to school in the fall, our first priority will be to ensure the well-being of all members of our school community. Because of the wide range of experiences students had during the remote learning portion of the 2019-20 school year and interruptions since returning to in person learning, we anticipate that some students will come to school in the fall of 2023 behind expected grade levels. We expect that many students will still be behind and will need to provide opportunities for them to catch up. Teachers will need opportunities to collaborate with each other as they examine student work and determine what comes next in the learning for each student.

As West Iron County begins the school year in a face to face environment, we will need to ensure that there are structures in place to ensure student engagement and achievement for all. This plan will focus on teaching and learning with an emphasis on equity for all learners and the well-being of students and staff.

## Educational Goals

- **Please outline and describe** the educational goals expected to be achieved for the 2020-2021 school year. The District/PSA must establish all of its goals no later than September 15, 2020. Authorizing bodies expect PSA educational goals will be aligned to the educational goal within your charter contract.
- **Specify** which goals are expected to be achieved by the middle of the school year and which goals are expected to be achieved by the end of the school year.
- **Ensure** that all of the following apply to the educational goals described in this section: (a) The goals include increased pupil achievement or, if growth can be validly and reliably measured using a benchmark assessment or benchmark assessments, growth on a benchmark assessment in the aggregate and for all subgroups of pupils; (b) The District/PSA benchmark assessment(s) are aligned to state standards and will be administered to all pupils K-8 at least once within the first 9 weeks of the 2020-2021 school year and not later than the last day of the 2020-2021 school year to determine whether pupils are making meaningful progress toward mastery of these standards; and (c) the District's/PSA's educational goals are measurable through a benchmark assessment or benchmark assessments.

- To the extent practicable, the District/PSA will administer the same benchmark assessment or benchmark assessments that it administered to pupils in previous years.

### **Evidence-Based Assessment**

The West Iron County School District believes that benchmark assessment evidence can be used to monitor and evaluate patterns and trends in school/district academic performance and to identify effective instructional programs. We believe it can provide guidance for standardizing or adjusting curriculum and instruction across grade levels, schools, and districts.

However, we will not use benchmark assessment data to make high-stakes instructional decisions about individual student learning. Rather, West Iron County Public School District will continue the use of formative assessments to guide student instruction and staff professional development.

We believe the use of the formative assessment process, which is supported by an extensive body of research, provides in-time data for both our teachers and students to accelerate their learning and progress and gives us a more complete picture of what our students know and are able to do.

### **Educational Goals**

NWEA MAP Growth in math and reading will be administered to students K-5 three times: once in the first nine weeks of the school year, once in January, and again prior to the last week of school. Progress reports will be available on our website in February and June. Teachers will continue to use the formative ARC IRLA reading assessment which relies on observation. This formative assessment will guide reading instruction for individual students.

All students 6-8 will receive NWEA assessment in math and reading three times: once in the first nine weeks of the school year, once in January, and again prior to the last week of school. Progress reports will be available on our website in February and June.

**Goal 1-** All students (K-8) will improve performance in Reading/ELA from Fall to Spring as measured by NWEA. Results from Reading/ELA benchmark assessments, local Reading/ELA summative assessments, and formative assessments will be continuously discussed and analyzed by staff. All students (9-12) will improve performance in ELA from Fall to Spring as measured by local assessments.

**Goal 2-** All students (K-8) will improve performance in Math from Fall to Spring as measured by NWEA. Results from Math benchmark assessments, local Math summative assessments, and formative assessments will be continuously discussed and analyzed by staff. All students (9-12) will improve performance in Math from Fall to Spring as measured by local assessments.

We will continue to engage our stakeholders in the district’s balanced assessment system, including publicly sharing aggregate and student subgroup performance reports on NWEA and local benchmark assessment results on our website.

## **Instructional Delivery & Exposure to Core Content**

- **Please describe** how and where instruction will be delivered during the 2020-2021 school year. (e.g. instruction may be delivered at school or a different location, in-person, online, digitally, by other remote means, in a synchronous or asynchronous format, or any combination thereof).

Note: The West Iron County School District’s full instructional plan can be found in the [MI Safe Schools Roadmap-District Preparedness Plan](#).

### **Mode of Instruction**

To start the school year, all K-8 students will attend school every day for face-to-face instruction.

High School students will attend school every day for face-to face instruction.

If necessary, students in K-5 will have the opportunity to participate in virtual learning via Google Classroom. The ARC reading curriculum, Bridges math curriculum, Mystery Science curriculum and Michigan Open Books social studies curriculum will be made available to all students. Music, Computers and Physical Education may also be provided virtually. Each teacher will provide this online platform to families choosing this route.

If necessary, students 6-12 will have the opportunity to participate virtually through Michigan Virtual High School and Apex Learning. These platforms are available for both core curriculum and electives.

- **Please describe** how instruction for core academic areas will expose each pupil to the academic standards that apply for each pupil’s grade level or course in the same scope and sequence as the District/PSA had planned for that exposure to occur for in-person instruction.

Note: The West Iron County School District’s full instructional plan can be found in the [MI Safe Schools Roadmap-District Preparedness Plan](#).

### **Curriculum and Instruction: Academic Standards**

The West Iron County School District curriculum for core academic areas is aligned to state standards. The curriculum incorporates well-being and SEL/trauma-informed practices into instruction. All instructional approaches will meet the range of student needs as they return to school in the fall, identify assessment ideas that allow students to demonstrate understanding in a

variety of ways, assess and provide instruction in the content areas in face-to-face (virtual if necessary) classroom environments

- **Please describe** how pupil progress toward mastery of the standards described within this section will be graded or otherwise reported to the pupil and the pupil's parent or legal guardian.

West Iron County School District bases its assessment system on the Michigan Standards. We regularly assess students at the district and classroom level to determine if they are making progress toward meeting those standards. We place a heavy emphasis on formative assessment. This is critical in the instructional process so that students receive timely feedback that helps them know what they need to do to improve. It also gives the teacher important information to know how to adjust the teaching and learning process to meet each student's needs.

We also have a system for delivering summative assessments at the district and classroom levels. These are given at the end of the period of learning as an evaluation of what has been learned and are part of our district grading process. For example, our teachers deliver summative assessments at the end of each unit of study in our curriculum. These assessments are based on a coherent set of standards in the subject area that focus on a related group of skills and disciplinary knowledge.

Our families are able to access PowerSchool, a web-based system that allows them to see their child's grades at any time. Our teachers keep up-to-date information on student grades in this system. We also send progress reports to parents and guardians during each marking period. This is in addition to the expectation we have for all teachers that they keep parents and guardians abreast of any concerns regarding a student grade through emails, phone calls, Remind, and DOJO. Finally, we send out to parents report cards at the end of each marking period.

### **Equitable Access**

- If delivering pupil instruction virtually, please **describe** how the District/PSA will provide pupils with equitable access to technology and the internet necessary to participate in instruction.

### **Technology**

The West Iron County School District ensures all students will be provided equitable access to technology and the internet as described in our Continuity of Learning Plan that was previously submitted to the state. The West Iron County School District's system for maintaining student access to technology devices and the internet is described in the Continuity of Learning Plan, and again in the MI Safe Schools Roadmap-District Preparedness Plan.

**Please describe** how the District/PSA will ensure that students with disabilities will be provided with equitable access to instruction and accommodation in accordance with applicable state and federal laws, rules and regulations.

### **Students with Identified Special Needs**

When school starts, students' IEP's and 504 plans will be reviewed in coordination with general and special education teachers and/or providers to address any data-driven accommodations and/or services that are needed due to known changes in students' needs.

The district has established structures for general and special education teachers and/or providers to collaborate and communicate regarding student performance and student needs on IEP goals and objectives with special consideration regarding assistive technology and accessibility.

The district ensures a continuation of services for students receiving speech and language, occupational therapy, physical therapy, or social work services within their IEP. The district also ensures a method for the continuation of evaluation for students suspected of having a disability as well as those requiring re-evaluation.

- **Optional Considerations for District/PSA Extended COVID-19 Learning Plans:**

1. In addition to the students with disabilities noted above, please describe how the District/PSA will ensure that the needs of other vulnerable student populations, such as but not limited to, early English Learners and Fledgling/struggling students, are met.

2. Please describe how the District/PSA will ensure that students will, during pandemic learning, have continued access to programs such as, but not limited to, Early Childhood, CTE, Early-Middle College, Dual Enrollment and Advanced Placement as applicable within the District/PSA.

The West Iron County School District's full instructional plan addresses the ways all learners are supported and can be found in the MI Safe Schools Roadmap-District Preparedness Plan.