

Watertown-Mayer Public Schools

Safe Return to In-Person Learning Plan for 2021-22

DRAFT

Recently, the federal government released the ARP Act, [Public Law 117-2](#), section 2001 to provide emergency funding to state and local education agencies to respond to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The purpose of these funds is to help schools safely return to in-person instruction, maximize in-person instructional time, sustain the safe operation of schools, and address the academic, social, emotional, and mental health impacts of the pandemic on students and staff.

As a requirement for this funding, the district must develop a "Safe Return to In-Person Learning Plan." This draft of the plan is intended to begin the discussion about how the school district can safely continue with in-person learning during the 2021-2022 school year.

The district will finalize this plan after receiving public comment and providing opportunities for community engagement. To provide public comment, please email darren.schuler@wm.k12.mn.us by Sunday, June 20, 2021. Please note all comments, by law, must be published on our school website along with this proposed plan.

Please note, this is a draft of the district's plan. The plan is subject to change, due to state and federal requirements and the ever changing circumstances related to COVID-19.

2021-2022 Learning Options for Students in K-12

Students at Watertown-Mayer will have the following learning options available to them:

- In-Person Learning for five days a week
- Online-Only Learning through Southwest Metro e-Learning Enterprise, a state approved online school. More details to come. Please complete this [survey](#) to indicate your interest in the program.

Young Royals Preschool

Preschool students will be learning in-person with several enrollment options available. For questions regarding programming, please contact Susie Retterath, Program Coordinator, at sretterath@wm.k12.mn.us. To register for preschool or other early childhood programs, please use our [online registration system](#).

K-12 School Information

Grade Configurations

- WM Elementary School will serve grades K-4
- WM Middle School will serve grades 5-8
- WM High School will serve grades 9-12

Classroom Placements

Parents of elementary students will be notified of classroom placements in August.

Daily Starting and Ending Times

WM schools will continue to follow the existing starting and ending times.

Student Support and Services

All student support programs and services will continue as usual next year for students attending school in-person and online. Students receiving special education, English Language, mental health, and other academic and/or social emotional support will continue to have access to these programs throughout the year.

Prevention and Mitigation Strategies

To prioritize the health and safety of students, employees, and community members, the following mitigation strategies are currently planned for the 2021-22 school year:

- The district will follow all requirements of State law, Executive Order, Minnesota Department of Education, Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Department of Human Services, and Minnesota State High School League.
- If mandated by the state of Minnesota, masks will be required.
- Students and staff are expected to stay home if sick. Families should continue to reference the [Daily Screening Checklist](#) and the [MDH COVID-19 Decision Tree](#).
- If the district is required to quarantine students due to close contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19, individuals may return after their 14th day of quarantine.
- COVID-19 tests and vaccinations will be encouraged and information will be provided to families on opportunities.
- Social distancing of 3 feet is encouraged when possible.
- Plexiglass barriers and personal protective equipment will be used as needed.
- Hand-washing and prevention strategies will continue to be prioritized.
- The district will follow all cleaning and sanitizing protocols required by the State.

Technology Services

Kindergarten - 4th Grade

- Students in grades K-4 will have school-issued devices at school
- Kindergarten -1st grade students will have iPads
- 2nd - 4th grade students will have Chromebooks

5th - 12th Grade

- 5th - 12th grade students will have three options for device obtainment:
 - Utilize a personal, family-owned device
 - Borrow a district-owned Chromebook.
 - Participate in the Best Buy dual-funded program and purchase a discounted device.

Students and Families will have access to a Google Form for technology help requests. More information regarding this will be shared in August.

Food Services

Due to additional funding and support from the state of Minnesota, the district will continue to offer breakfast and lunch to all students at no cost during the 21-22 school year. Despite funding from the State, families are encouraged to continue to apply for free and reduced meals through the [online portal](#) as this impacts future funding.

Meals will be served in the cafeteria and proper cleaning and sanitizing protocols will take place. More information regarding meal distribution for students participating in online learning will be shared later this summer. See the [Food Services website](#) for additional details.

Transportation Services

Bus transportation will be offered as usual for students during the 21-22 school year. The district will continue working closely with our transportation providers to follow the most up-to-date guidance from the CDC, MDH, and local health officials. Details regarding bus routes will be sent to families from Koch Bus Company in August. For questions relating to busing and transportation, please contact Koch Bus Company at 952-955-1866.

Kids Company and Caring Hands Childcare

Fee-based childcare will be available to all families depending on space and staffing during the 21-22 school year. Please access Kids Company Child Care Registration at <https://wm.ce.eleyo.com/>. For more information regarding programming, visit the [Kids Company Website](#) or call 952-955-0283.

Student and Family Resources

As you continue to navigate through these challenging times, please refer to this communication from the [District Mental Health Team](#), our list of [Carver Co. Community Resources](#) and the [Carver County Website](#) for support and resources.

Athletics and Activities

Athletics and activities will operate as usual and the district will continue to monitor guidance from the Minnesota State High School League and Minnesota Department of Education. Questions should be sent to Paul Szymanski, Athletic Director, at paul.szymanski@wm.k12.mn.us.

Requests for ADA Accommodations for Students and Employees

Requests for ADA accommodations can be emailed to Vicki Braegelmann at vbraegelmann@wm.k12.mn.us. If a staff member is at risk and feels he/she been denied a reasonable accommodation, they can call the Minnesota Department of Human Rights' Discrimination Helpline at 833-454-0148.