



# Wilber-Clatonia Return to School 2023-2024

## Introduction and Background

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021 includes nearly \$122 billion for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER III) Fund that allows state and local education agencies (LEAs) to take additional steps for continued safe in-person instruction and to address unfinished teaching and learning to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic.

These resources will allow school districts to take additional measures to safely sustain their healthy operations. This includes using funds to enact appropriate measures to help schools to invest in mitigation strategies consistent with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools to the greatest extent practicable; address the many impacts of COVID-19 on students, including unfinished instruction; implement strategies to meet students' social, emotional, mental health, and academic needs; offer crucial summer, afterschool, and other extended learning and enrichment programs; support early childhood education; invest in staff capacity; and avoid devastating layoffs at this critical moment, ensuring that all students have access to teachers, counselors, and other school personnel to support their needs.

## Wilber-Clatonia Safe Return to School Plan--2023-24 Addendum

Wilber-Clatonia personnel will continue to meet regularly and coordinate with local public health officials through regularly scheduled county-wide meetings, educational service unit collaboration, and the Nebraska Department of Education in making informed decisions regarding safe return to school planning. Wilber-Clatonia works with and takes direction from Public Health Solutions located in Crete, Nebraska, in the creation of a safe return to school plan utilizing guidance, information, and directives from the CDC as well as state health officials and other government agencies. Adjustments will be made based on local community conditions and feedback received from various groups. This work will be ongoing. The primary goal in this plan is to keep the highest number of students in school while providing the safest environment possible.

## Maintaining Health and Safety

Mitigation strategies listed below (a-i) are required in the District's plan.

### a) Universal and correct wearing of masks

At the present time masks will be optional. Depending upon the setting (e.g., indoor, outdoor, etc.), prevalence of the virus, an individual's vaccination status, or due to requirements in a directed health measure (DHM), face masks may be optional, recommended, or required at various times during the school year. Any school-wide or targeted (classroom, activity, etc.) requirements for masking which may be necessary will only be applied for the amount of time necessary to mitigate an elevated threat or

uncontrolled spread on campus. The following face mask wear and care procedures will be promoted to students and staff:

- Face coverings should be placed over the nose and mouth while being worn and secured with ties, ear loops or elastic bands that fit around the head.
- Face coverings should fit snugly and comfortably around the side of the face.
- Wash or sanitize hands before putting a face covering on and after taking it off.
- Try to avoid touching your face covering as much as possible.
- Remove face covering by lifting it off of ear loops without touching the front of the mask on your face.
- Regularly wash face coverings with soap and water or in the washing machine with detergent (or as otherwise directed by the manufacturer of the face covering). We recommend that cloth face coverings are washed daily.
- Mask Storage: Carefully fold the mask so the contaminated outside is folded inward and against itself. Place in a clean or new bag.

b) Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., including use of cohorts/podding)

Barriers will be used to help allow for distancing. In the event of a significant outbreak, the District may use an alternating day or cohort attendance strategy to improve the ability to physically distance or create learning pods.

c) Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Signage will continue to be posted throughout schools promoting good hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette practices. Hand sanitizer will continue to be readily available in classrooms, near school entrances, in or around high traffic school common spaces, and on school buses. Teachers with students in younger grade levels will continue to teach and practice routines for hand washing/sanitizing on regular intervals and at key times such as before and after lunch and will teach proper respiratory etiquette practices.

d) Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

Practices which emphasize more frequent cleaning of high touch surfaces will continue to be utilized by school staff. This includes continued employment of a daytime custodian who will clean high touch surfaces and restrooms multiple times daily. Cleaning solutions will be aligned with CDC recommendations. In the event of an outbreak classes may be suspended to allow for additional cleaning, sanitizing or disinfecting.

HVAC air filters will be changed more frequently than would be typical and the frequency of fresh air exchanges utilizing outdoor air will be increased. The feasibility of additional upgrades or needed replacement to the HVAC system will be explored.

e) Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments

District staff will collaborate with Local and State health officials to conduct contact tracing and will follow directives for isolation and quarantine.

f) Diagnostic and screening testing.

Screening measures such as daily temperature checks may be used for specific programs, activities, classrooms, or schools if determined necessary because of local conditions, the need to support self-monitoring due to COVID-19 exposure, or in response to a COVID-19 outbreak. Students and staff with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 will be referred to a local COVID-19 testing location.

**Self Screening:** All students, staff, and visitors entering Wilber-Clatonia facilities are expected to conduct a self screening prior to entry. Individuals with the following symptoms or conditions are not allowed to enter facilities.

Individuals with one or more of the following:

- a fever over 100.4
- shortness of breath or difficulty breathing,
- new onset of dry cough or loss of taste or smell

g) Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities

The District will advertise and share information on vaccination programs available to students, staff and the public. The District will coordinate with Public Health should there be a need for a local vaccination clinic site. The District will work with staff and students on absences and attendance should there be a need to be absent for vaccination purposes.

h) Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies.

Students receiving specialized services through an IEP or a 504 plan will continue to receive accommodations, modifications, and support consistent with their individualized plans. Protocols utilized during the 2020-21 school year for determining appropriate individualized accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies will be considered during the 2022-23 school year.

i) Coordination with State and local health officials. Including the needs for support and technical assistance to implement strategies consistent to the greatest extent practicable with relevant CDC guidance.

District personnel will continue to meet and coordinate regularly with local public health officials through regularly scheduled county-wide meetings, educational service unit collaboration, and web-briefings hosted by the Nebraska Department of Education. The main public health partner for Wilber-Clatonia Public Schools will be Public Health Solutions (PHS), Crete, Nebraska. Feedback, guidance, mitigation practices, or response steps proposed by other public health leaders or provided through the CDC will be filtered through PHS staff in an effort to create consistency, coherence, and stability for Wilber-Clatonia students, staff, and families.

### **External Collaboration Partner Websites:**

[Public Health Solutions](#)

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

[Nebraska Department and Health and Human Services](#)

[Nebraska Department of Education](#)

### **Ensuring Continuity of Services**

Describe how the district will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address students' academic needs and students' and staff's social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services.

Links to revised plans

[23-24 Wilber-Clatonia Elementary School Return to Learn Plan](#)

[23-24 Wilber-Clatonia Secondary Schools \(Grades 6-12\) Green/Red Learning Plan](#)

### **Public Comment Requirements**

Describe how the district sought public comment on its plan or plan revisions, and how it took those public comments into account in the development of its plan. Note, the ARP Act requires that the district seeks public comment for each six-month revision or revisions due to significant changes to CDC guidance.

The original plan was developed after a series of community focus group and staff meetings in the summer of 2020. The original version was also reviewed at Public Board meetings and surveys were conducted by the District. Operational aspects were amended during the school year as guidance and Directed Health Measures were changed. The current plan was developed from what was learned

during the school-year and after reviewing comments from parents, staff and students. Input will be sought at the July Public Board meeting, via email input from the original focus group members and via surveys. Additional input will be sought in January of 2022, July of 2022, January of 2023 and July of 2023 and anytime a significant revision is considered.

Hearing August 15, 2022

Hearing and review December 19, 2022

Hearing review July 17, 2023