

PLAN FOR SAFE RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION AND CONTINUITY OF SERVICES

Academy: NexTech High School Academy

Contact: Jeremy McClure

Title: School Leader

Email: jmclure@gr.nextechhigh.org

Phone: 616-458-4992

Introduction and Background

In March 2021, President Biden signed the Federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act, Public Law 117-2, into law. The ARP Act provides an additional \$122 billion in Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) to states and school districts to help safely reopen, sustain the safe operation of schools, and address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the nation's students. As with the previous ESSER funds available under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, and the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA), the purpose of the additional funding is to support local educational agencies (LEAs) in preparing for and responding to the impacts of COVID-19 on educators, students, and families.

Section 2001(i)(1) of the ARP Act requires each LEA that receives ARP ESSER funds to develop and make publicly available on the LEA's website, no later than 30 days after receiving ARP ESSER funds, a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services for all schools (Safe Return Plan). A Safe Return Plan is required of all fund recipients, including those that have already returned to in-person instruction. Section 2001(i)(2) of the ARP Act further requires that the LEA seek public comment on the Safe Return Plan and take those comments into account in the finalization of the Safe Return Plan. Under the interim final requirements published in Volume 86, No. 76 of the Federal Register by the U.S. Department of Education (USDE), an LEA must periodically, but no less frequently than every six months through September 30, 2023, review and, as appropriate, revise its Safe Return Plan.

Plan for the 2022-23 School Year

NexTech High School will offer the pre-pandemic blended learning model according to the Board adopted 2022-2023 Academic Year Calendar.

1. **Universal and Correct Wearing of Masks:** The NexTech High School Board of Directors is committed to providing students, staff, and visitors with a safe and healthy environment. During times of elevated communicable disease community spread (pandemic or epidemic), the Academy will issue periodic guidance in alignment with public health officials and/or in accordance with government orders. For the 2022-23 school year, the Academy will follow Michigan Department of Health and Humans Services (MDHHS) and Kent County orders regarding facial coverings. Students, staff and parents may choose to wear face coverings due to personal preference or health conditions. Mask are required while riding Academy buses.
2. **Physical Distancing:** 3 feet of physical distance will be encouraged when possible and utilized where feasible.
3. **Handwashing and Respiratory etiquette:** Handwashing will continue to be emphasized throughout the school day. Hand sanitizers will be placed throughout the buildings and students will be encouraged to sanitize their hands when entering and again when leaving a classroom. Cough and sneeze etiquette will be taught and reinforced.
4. **Cleaning and maintaining Health Facilities, including Improving Ventilation:** The Academy implemented several new cleaning procedures including use of electrostatic disinfectant sprayers frequent disinfection of high-touch surfaces and the installation of numerous hand sanitation stations. Ventilation will be continuously monitored to ensure necessary airflow.
5. **Contact Tracing in Combination with Isolation and Quarantine:** The Academy will follow all local and state regulations and policies with regards to isolation and quarantine and make necessary adjustments through the year when possible/necessary.
6. **Diagnostic and Screening Testing:** The Academy is not participating in any available diagnostic or screening programs for COVID-19, except for the option of antigen testing for staff as needed. However, families are expected to assess their student(s) health on a daily basis prior to attending school. If students/staff exhibit any COVID-19 related symptoms, particularly the loss of taste and/or smell, a temperature of over 100 degrees, and/or any shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, they should stay home. At any time, the Academy may take the temperature of students or employees upon arrival to school or at any time during the school day.
7. **Efforts to Provide Vaccinations to Educators, other staff and eligible Students:** Vaccine clinics will be publicized through Academy communication channels.

8. **Appropriate Accommodations for Children with Disabilities with Respect to the Health and Safety Policies:** The Academy will continue to provide health and safety accommodations in accordance with students' Individualized Educational Plans.

Ensuring Continuity of Services

The NexTech High School is committed to the highest academic and developmental outcomes for each student. As such, the Academy 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, including student health and food services.

Academic Services, Social-Emotional, Mental Health:

- Academy has returned to the pre-pandemic blended learning model.
- Social emotional screening and counseling support are available.

Health:

- Students and staff in the quarantine room will wear a mask, unless otherwise indicated.

Semi-Annual Review and Public Comment

This plan will be available on the Academy website at <https://www.nextechhigh.org/grand-rapids>.

In accordance with federal guidelines, any person electing to provide public comment for review and consideration regarding this plan may contact Jeremy McClure (School Leader) at jmclure@gr.nextechhigh.org or 616-458-4992.

This plan will be reviewed semi-annually through calendar year 2023. The plan will be available for public comment at the Academy's April and October Board meetings.