

St. Ignace Area Schools Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan

Address of School District/PSA: W429 Portage Road, St. Ignace MI 49781

District/PSA Code Number: 49010

District/PSA Website Address: stignace.eupschools.org

District/PSA Contact and Title: Don Gustafson, Superintendent

District/PSA Contact Email Address: dongus@eupschools.org

Name of Intermediate School District/PSA: Eastern Upper Peninsula ISD


Name of PSA Authorizing Body (if applicable):

Date of Approval by ISD/Authorizing Body:

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
 - o select a benchmark assessment or benchmark assessments that is/are aligned to state standards.
 - o 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
 - o provide pupils with equitable access to technology and the internet necessary to participate in instruction, and
 - o 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 2020-2021 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 re-confirm 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.



District Superintendent or President of the Board of Education/Directors
9/22/20

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 has affected and continues to impact the world, the nation, the state, our community, and our school district. We recognize that student achievement and engagement did not generally occur at the same level after school was cancelled statewide in March of 2020. There are curricular areas that were not taught and other areas that were taught but not mastered as would have occurred if students had completed the school year as scheduled.

Students are returning to school opportunities with a wide range of proficiency levels. Some students were able to be successful learning remotely, while others struggled with technology access and resources necessary for the student to succeed. The school district must address this larger than usual gap recognizing that some students are significantly behind in their academic progress.

For the 2020-2021 school year, St. Ignace Area Schools has instituted a total virtual option for students for the first time in response to the pandemic. Just over $\frac{1}{4}$ of our student population has chosen this means of education. We recognize that successful implementation of this alternative will require continuous monitoring and evaluation. Simultaneously, our school district will offer face to face instruction with the parameters established in our COVID-19 preparedness and response plan. With either mode of instruction, the plan must prioritize teaching and learning along with ensuring the well being and safety of our student population.

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.

St. Ignace Area Schools has established two goals for this process that are part of our current district improvement plan.

Goal 1: All St. Ignace Area Schools students will increase their NWEA MAP reading score by 5 RITs during the 2020-2021 school year.

Goal 2: All St. Ignace Area Schools students will increase their NWEA MAP mathematics score by 5 RITs during the 2020-2021 school year.

St. Ignace Area Schools has adopted the NWEA assessment which is a formative tool that assists teachers in directing and adjusting instruction as necessary. The NWEA assessments in English Language Arts and Mathematics will be administered three times during the 2020-2021 school year. The initial assessment will be accomplished during the first nine weeks of the school year. A midyear assessment will be administered in January/February to determine whether students are making sufficient progress. An end of the year assessment will take place in May to finalize and measure this year's academic growth.

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).

Students in St. Ignace Area Schools are provided two options of learning: face to face or virtual. Those students who choose a virtual option will utilize Accelerate Education, Eastern Upper Peninsula Virtual program, and/or Michigan Virtual High School. A highly qualified certified teacher will be assigned to facilitate this online experience. Attendance is required for each virtual session, and daily attendance will be recorded. All State of Michigan pupil accounting rules for virtual classes will be followed.

Those students who choose this face to face option will attend school every day. Likewise, attendance in all classes utilizing this traditional format will be recorded. Classroom seating will be spread out to the extent that it is feasible. Lunch periods are scheduled to limit the number of students in the cafeteria at any one time. Alternate locations for eating have been established that will promote physical distancing.

- **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.

The St. Ignace Area Schools district curriculum for core academic areas is aligned to state standards. St. Ignace Area Schools is one of the partner schools in the Eastern Upper Peninsula Virtual Collaborative program which uses the Accelerate Education platform as the primary linkage for schools throughout our region. St. Ignace Area Schools has likewise purchased the usage of Accelerate Education for our students who have chosen face to face instruction. This alignment will help to limit curricular discrepancies between the virtual model and the traditional model. All of our teachers will receive professional development throughout the school year to learn how to best implement this curriculum. Additionally, teachers will continue to be trained on best practices and analysis of data to positively impact instruction.

- **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.

The Power School program is a popular web based student information system that we have used for many years. Teachers keep student grades updated regularly in this system to allow parents and students to view student academic progress at any time. St. Ignace Area Schools also expects our teachers to promptly address any concerns regarding student progress as concerns arise through phone calls or emails. Formal progress reports are also sent to our parents halfway through each marking period. Report cards are issued at the end of each of the four marking periods throughout the year. At the K-5 level, St. Ignace Area Schools utilizes a standards based report card which delineates student progress toward mastery of the state standards. Report cards with letter grades are used from grades 6-12.

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.**

St. Ignace Area Schools will ensure that all students are provided with equitable access to technology and the Internet to participate in instruction. By use of CARES funding, additional devices have been purchased by the school district since the March school closure. Devices will be issued to students who have access to the Internet but do not have a device at home. Since school was closed in March of 2020, the Eastern Upper Peninsula Intermediate School District has now deployed WiFi hotspots in areas of our district (LaSalle High School parking lot, St. Ignace Public Library, Brevort Township Community Center, St. Ignace Township Hall, Sault Tribe Lambert Center) which allow Internet access to students who do not have service at home. Individualized plans for educational delivery will be made for the limited number of students who would not have Internet access at home or at one of the above listed locations.

- **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.**

St. Ignace Area Schools will ensure that students with disabilities will be provided with equitable access to instruction and accommodations in accordance with applicable state and federal laws, rules and regulations. Our special education staff will review all of our students' individualized educational plans and 504 plans and provide intervention and support services. In consultation with the Eastern Upper Peninsula Intermediate School District, any modifications to services and/or accommodations will be addressed on an individual basis. Our district will ensure a continuation of services for students receiving speech and language, occupational therapy, social work services, or physical therapy as specified in the IEP. We will also ensure a process is in place that continues the evaluations of students suspected of having a disability or students needing re-evaluations.

- **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.

St. Ignace Area Schools continues to offer Title I services to our early elementary students. The Response to Intervention (RtI) system has been implemented within our district. Our delivery model to assist struggling students includes tier 2 approaches of literacy group instruction and the research based Reading Recovery program.

High school students who are enrolled in dual enrollment courses or Advanced Placement courses will be provided the appropriate materials and support necessary to complete these courses. This same approach will be used for any of our students enrolled in career and technical education (CTE) courses through Cheboygan Schools.