



Safe Return to In Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

District Name: Michigan Great Lakes Virtual Academy

Revision Date: 10/01/2022

Introduction and Background

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2. The ARP Act 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 Preventions' (CTC) 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 student's 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.

Section 2001(i)(1) of the ARP Act requires that 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 these comments into account in finalization of the Safe Return Plan.

Michigan Great Lakes Virtual Academy Continuity of Services Plan

Michigan Great Lakes Virtual Academy is updating this document to meet the requirements as a recipient of ARP funds. (Section 2001(i) of the ARP Act) This document is subject to change with future orders or mandates from federal, state or county agencies. The MGLVA Board of Directors remains committed to monitoring and responding to local data and making operational decisions in consultation with the District Health Department #10. The Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent/Executive Director to make decisions adjusting this plan in response to local COVID-19 data and District #10 recommendations specific to Michigan Great Lakes Virtual Academy. This plan will be reviewed no less frequently than every six months.

Instructional Model

To best serve our community we will continue to offer an online instructional model with various in-person events throughout the state periodically and as conditions permit.

Michigan Great Lakes Virtual Academy is a fully online public-school academy serving students K-12 across the state of Michigan.

Quality Evidence-Based Assessment Practices

Michigan Great Lakes Virtual Academy 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.

Michigan Great Lakes Virtual Academy will continue the use of (and professional learning around the use of) the formative assessment process as a powerful practice embedded in the teaching and learning process to continuously observe where our students are to modify instruction.

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 can do.

Educational Goals

STAR 360 assessments in reading and mathematics will be administered to all students three times each year: once in the first six weeks of the school year, once in January, and again prior to the last day of school. Formative assessments will provide information to inform our progress toward our goals over the course of the year. Progress reports will be available on our website in February and June as part of the 98b reporting requirements.

As a means of continuous improvement in teaching and learning, all teachers have received or will receive professional development in, and commit to the use of, the formative assessment process.

- 50-61% of students in will achieve an SGP of 50 on the STAR 360 Reading and Math Assessment.
- All teachers will use the formative assessment process to support adjustment to teaching and learning, to support meaningful student progress towards mastery of Reading and Mathematics academic standards.
- Results from Reading and Mathematics benchmark assessments, local Reading and Mathematics summative assessments, and formative assessment will be continuously discussed and analyzed by staff.

Mental Health Supports

The district has increased mental health services by providing additional counselors, social workers and student support specialists. The funding for these additional services has come through 31a, Title I and ESSER grants as well as from the district's general fund. We also have partnerships with various community agencies to support our students and families with additional mental health services as needed.

Extended Learning

Schools have hired intervention teachers to assist students with learning loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic. These positions are funded through Title I, ESSER grants, and general funds. The district was also able to offer an expanded summer school program for all grade levels.

Specialized Services

Michigan Great Lakes Virtual Academy ensures a continuation of services for students receiving speech and language, occupational therapy, physical therapy, resource room 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. The district also ensures that students of special populations are given additional considerations; these considerations vary by building and/or grade span.

The district will also provide access and additional opportunities to support English Learners with language development/acquisition. We have certified EL teachers, teachers who are SIOP trained and instructional assistants who assist our EL students. Parents and families will continue to be supported in their native language(s) as needed.

Students enrolled in Michigan Great Lakes Virtual Academy with 504 plans in place will continue to receive appropriate accommodations as specified through their 504 plans.

Students that have social emotional needs will be provided with resources (personnel, curriculum and/or supplemental) to support those needs.

Food Service

As a fully online public-school academy, Michigan Great Lakes Virtual Academy does not offer food services.

COVID-19 Prevention and Mitigation Strategies

Vaccination: We strongly encourage all eligible students to be fully vaccinated. Although vaccinated people may still become infected with COVID, they are far less likely to become seriously ill and often recover in fewer days. We will continue to partner with the county health departments across the state to support vaccine administration where needed.

Masks: Routine, daily masks are now optional for all staff and students as in-person events. Students may choose to wear a mask if attending an in-person event due to underlying health conditions, immune system concerns, or any other individual factor. Masks are still required in cases of COVID infection or household exposure at all in-person events.

Hand Washing: We strongly encourage frequent hand washing. Hand sanitizer will be readily available at in-person events.

Social Distance: We recommend maintaining 3-6 feet of distance whenever feasible at in-person events. Classroom group activities are permitted at in-person events.

Volunteers/Guests: Parents, Guardians, and volunteers will be permitted to attend in-person events where appropriate. Please follow the policies and procedures pertaining to specific events.

Activities/Field Trips/Other In-Person Events: We will continue to provide in-person events throughout the state where appropriate.

MDHHS
Michigan Department of Health & Human Services

	Who is Impacted	Public Health Recommendations
COVID-19 Infection	Any individual who tests positive for COVID-19 and/or displays COVID-19 symptoms (without an alternate diagnosis or negative COVID-19 test) regardless of vaccination status.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isolate at home for 5 days (day "0" is day symptoms begin or day test was taken for those without symptoms); and If symptoms have improved or no symptoms developed, may leave isolation after day 5 and wear a well-fitting mask, for 5 more days (ending after day 10).*
COVID-19 Exposure	Close contact exposed to someone with COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor symptoms for 10 days. Wear a well-fitting mask around others for 10 days after exposure. Test 5 days after exposure and if symptoms develop. Avoid unmasked activities or activities with higher risk of exposing vulnerable individuals.**

* You may remove your mask sooner than day 10 with two sequential negative antigen tests 48 hours apart. If a mask cannot be worn, 10 days of home isolation is recommended.
 ** Activities with immunocompromised or other high-risk individuals, social/recreational activities in congregate settings or when community levels are high.

Public Comment

MGLVA applied to and received Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds (ESSER) to address learning recovery and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are designated for one-time or short-term expenditures to address the ongoing impact of the pandemic. MGLVA requested public feedback from all district and community stakeholders to help determine how the district should best utilize these resources to address unfinished learning, ongoing COVID-19 recovery, and Federal Program grant funds. The district also shared results of the stakeholder feedback with the MGLVA Board of Directors at its June 2022 meeting.

Periodic Review Process

This *Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services* plan will be reviewed as necessary or at least every six months.

Understandable and Uniform Format

This *Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services* plan will be available on the MGLVA website at <https://mglva.k12.com>.