

Wrangell Public Schools American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act Mitigation Plan

August 2021 - Last Revision 2/28/22
Effective March 2, 2022

Note to Districts

Districts may use the sample template below as a framework for the information to be included in their ARP Act Mitigation Plan. Districts are not required to follow this sample template or framework, but if they include all of the items listed below, they will have incorporated the information required by section 2001(i)(1) of the ARP Act.

Wrangell Public Schools American Rescue Plan Act Mitigation Plan



Contact Information

District Information

Name of District: Wrangell Public Schools

District Point of Contact Name: Bill Burr, Superintendent

Address (Street, City, State, Zip): 350 Bennett Street/PO Box 2319; Wrangell, AK 99929-2319

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Assurance Agreement for ARP Act Mitigation Plan

The district assures either:

- a) It will, within 30 days of receiving ARP ESSER funds, develop and make publicly available on the district's website a mitigation plan for the safe return and/or continuation of in-person instruction and continuity of services as required in section 2001(i)(1) of the ARP and in the U.S. Department of Education's [Interim Final Requirements](#), or
- b) It developed and made publicly available on the district's website such a mitigation plan that meets statutory requirements before the enactment of the ARP Act that meets federal requirements. (The ARP Act was enacted on March 11, 2021)

The district assures that:

- a) It will periodically review and revise its mitigation plan, as appropriate, no less frequently than every six months for the duration of the ARP ESSER grant period (i.e., through September 30, 2023); and
- b) It will seek public input, and take such input into account, on (1) whether revisions are necessary and, if so, (2) the proposed revisions to the mitigation plan.

Before making the mitigation plan publicly available, the district **must seek public comment on the mitigation plan** and take such comments into account in the development of the plan.

Name of Superintendent: Bill Burr

Signature: _____

Date: 08/16/2021

Mitigation Plan

Plan Components

Districts must implement, to the greatest extent practicable, prevention and mitigation policies in line with the most up-to-date guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for the reopening and operation of school facilities to effectively maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff. Describe the extent to which the district adopted policies and a description of such policies on each of the strategies listed below:

1. [Masks](#)

Masks will be required for students, staff, and guests while in school or at school events if interacting with people outside of the immediate home. During outdoor school activities masks are required if unable to social distance, based upon the latest CDC guidance, as well as local risk level information, community and school active case counts, and vaccination percentage rates. **Current mask and mitigation protocols will be reviewed and submitted to the School Board monthly.**

All visitors and volunteers will be required to wear masks when working directly with staff and students. Visitors and volunteers may be limited by the administration based on community and school risk factors.

Update: Masks will become optional under certain circumstances:

1. The district and schools adopt a random testing program at school sites to access possible outbreaks at school.
2. The CDC rates Wrangell in "Low" or "Moderate" with significant evidence of a return to "Low"
3. The vaccination rate (w/ Booster if beyond 5 months) at the school and community is in the top 35% of the state or 70% (with steady increases).
4. Recognition that other mitigation measures could be put in place to limit spread during optional masking even when counts are low.

2. [Physical distancing \(e.g., including use of cohorts/pods\)](#)

Forward-facing desks and tables will be placed a minimum of 3 feet apart, with 6 feet preferred, when possible.

Elementary classes will be in class cohorts. Middle School students will not be in cohorts this year. Lunch will be served in settings that allow for the physical distancing of students.

Wrangell Public Schools American Rescue Plan Act Mitigation Plan



Students, staff, and visitors will be encouraged to maintain 6' social distancing in hallways, common areas, and whenever possible in other locations.

In the morning, staff will monitor students entering the building to ensure social distancing, masking, and handwashing/sanitation procedures are followed.

3. [Handwashing and respiratory etiquette](#)

- Teach and reinforce correct hand washing methods/respiratory etiquette among children and staff. Visual reminders are placed throughout the school.
- Sanitation/Hygiene materials are provided for every classroom or shared workspace.
- After using the restroom, students and staff must wash hands with soap and water for 20 seconds. Hand sanitizer does not substitute in this situation.
- Before and after using playground equipment, starting recess, or starting a sports practice or event, students must wash hands or use hand sanitizer.
- Staff and students will be educated that they should wash or sanitize their hands any time they touch their face covering, including putting it on or removing it.
- In middle school and high school, classroom desks, chairs, etc. will be wiped down between each class period.
- All students and staff will wash or sanitize their hands upon entering a classroom.
- Soap and water or hand sanitizer will be easily accessible near all entry doors, all high traffic areas, in every classroom or other learning space, and anywhere where food or drink is consumed.

4. [Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation](#)

- Check classroom cleaning supplies, wipes, and towels daily. Fill or replace as needed.
- Hypochlorous Electrostatic spray is used nightly throughout classrooms and hallways.
- Check hand sanitizer daily. Fill dispensers as needed. (e.g., library, office, commons, entry ways, cafeteria, kitchen)
- Maintain and clean all cleaning supplies; rags (microfiber), vacuum cleaners & filters, wet mops, and dry mops.
- Hand washing and gloves to be used during cleaning.
- Maintain at minimum a one-month supply of all cleaning and sanitizing supplies on-site (take into consideration possible delayed shipping times).

Ventilation:

- Change filters in HVAC systems more frequently and review increased MERV rating on the current ventilation in buildings to meet air movement requirements of the current system.
- Adjust intake and air replacement cycle to increase uptake of fresh air and leave windows and doors open (as permitted by temperatures during the school year).
- Air purification units with HEPA filters are used in some offices, and learning spaces for additional air flow protection.

Wrangell Public Schools American Rescue Plan Act Mitigation Plan



5. [Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments](#)

All schools will maintain a **“symptom free”** school environment throughout the school year.

All Students/Staff With COVID Symptoms

If symptoms first appear at home, stay home and contact the school secretary or your supervisor. If symptoms first appear at school or the workplace, advise your teacher or supervisor immediately. Isolate as soon as possible after the first symptom appears. Test as soon as possible.

With negative test results, return to school or work 24 hours after the last symptom is resolved.

With positive test results, follow Public Health Guidelines/Recommendations:

- isolate for 5 days
- return to work or school on the 6th day if symptoms have been resolved for 24 hours.

Have a medical provider complete the *Return to School After Symptoms Medical Provider* form **if possible**.

Return to School/Work After Contact with Covid

The Wrangell Public School District is implementing a “Test to Stay” Protocol for Close Contacts to Positive COVID cases.

Wrangell Public Schools still recommends that families consider each close contact situation, vaccination status, and whether to quarantine for 5 days. To minimize disruption to learning, WPSD allows individuals identified as close contacts to participate in a “Test and Stay” program. With this option, as an alternative to quarantine, a family may choose to have the student take a COVID-19 test daily. When available, families may use at-home antigen tests to test prior to coming to school. Students are also welcome to test upon arrival at school. Testing begins the day after exposure and continues through up to five (5) days through the CDC recommended quarantine period. If the result of that day’s test is negative, the student may attend in-person learning, provided the student is symptom-free.

During times of optional masking, we strongly encourage parents to evaluate vaccination status and/or COVID recovery in their decision to participate in the “Test to Stay” program or to quarantine for 5 days.

With positive results, follow the above *“positive”* protocols.

Wrangell Public Schools American Rescue Plan Act Mitigation Plan



ALL STUDENTS AND STAFF ARE EXPECTED TO FOLLOW STATE AND LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIALS MANDATES AND COOPERATE WITH CONTACT TRACING.

Return to School After Travel Protocol:

Students and staff returning to Wrangell after travel should follow the "Test To Stay" guidelines listed above or Quarantine for at least 5 days and can return on day 6 as long as they are not symptomatic.

During times of optional masking, we strongly encourage parents to evaluate vaccination status and/or COVID recovery in their decision to participate in the "Test to Stay" program or to quarantine for 5 days.

Students and staff who participate in Wrangell School's activities, follow WPS's weekly testing protocols and mitigation plans during travel are exempt from the above items for in-state travel only.

WPS Sports and Activities teams will test upon return from travel events (Including in-state travel.) According to proposed ASAA rules, athletes that are ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING in a sanctioned or extra-curricular Wrangell Public School District game, training, practice, or class will have the option of wearing a mask during the activity but if possible or applicable remain 6 feet apart if unmasked. Other mitigation measures remain in place during times outside of the field of play (such as the bench, full team huddles, or other non-court or mat activities).

6. [Diagnostic and screening testing](#)

All WPS students, staff, and community members have free access to COVID asymptomatic testing at the SEARHC Health Clinic and have access to Take Home Test Kits (When available at the school or Fire Department)

WPS will continue to require minimum weekly antigen or molecular testing for all students and coaches/chaperones participating in extra-curricular activities. There may be allowances for fully vaccinated students and coaches/chaperones, based on CDC guidance.

Student and staff travel to other Alaskan communities will be determined on a case by case basis and will include the current COVID-19 risk level of the community and school and will include the local EOC in travel discussions.

WPS will consider ASAA COVID-19 Practice Guidelines and ASAA COVID-19 Event Guidelines for athletics and extracurricular activities in WPS.

City and Borough Travel and Community-Wide Proclamations will supersede current travel or local mitigation guidelines in this document when required mitigation measures are more strictly declared.

7. [Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible](#)

WPS has partnered with the SEARHC to provide staff, students, parents, and community members information about vaccinations. WPS has sent out communications to staff, students, and parents regarding the availability of vaccinations and how to sign up for them.

WPS will engage in any discussion with the local health providers to offer a free vaccination clinics and will continue to encourage our school community to take advantage of vaccination opportunities.

8. [Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies](#)

Individual needs for students with special needs will be met through consultation with the special education teacher, special education coordinator, and/or principal.

Students with disabilities will be considered for modification to the health and safety practices of the school with amendments to IEPs or implementation of a 504 plan, as appropriate.

Consideration for in-person attendance with additional mitigations and safety measures will be considered for high-needs special education students or specialized programs if remote learning is required at the district or building level.

Continuity of Services

Describe how the district will ensure continuity of services including, but not limited to, services to address students' academic needs, as well as the social, emotional, mental health, and other needs of students and staff (e.g., student health and food service).

- The WPS counselor and/or SEL Teacher will work with school teams and administrators to determine when their services will be provided in-person or remotely. Emphasis will be placed on schoolwide trauma-informed practices to support students, families, and staff members.
- WPS has a one-to-one electronic device program for all K-12 students. In the event the district, school, or students has to move to a remote learning option, students are able to access classroom content through their electronic devices. Middle and High School students will utilize an electronic learning platform to provide distance instructional support. Evergreen Elementary School will utilize Google Classroom, Zoom, and/or SeeSaw for content and communication as well as teacher-developed instructional packets, and one-on-one teacher check-ins with individual students and families. In the event the district or a specific school has to move to a remote learning option, WPS will provide food service for pickup in the case of a school closure.

Wrangell Public Schools American Rescue Plan Act Mitigation Plan



Periodic Review

Describe how the district will periodically review and revise its mitigation plan, as appropriate, including a description of how the district will seek public input and take such input into account on (1) whether revisions are necessary and, if so, (2) the proposed revisions to the plan. Important Note: The district must review its mitigation plan no less frequently than every six months for the duration of the ARP ESSER grant period (i.e., through September 30, 2023).

- WPS conducted surveys with students, parents, and all staff members this summer to solicit feedback about the current protocols, academic challenges/successes, and social/emotional concerns as we plan during the 2021-2022 school year.
- The WPS Mitigation Plan is a living document and is based on the changing landscape and guidance of state and local regulations as well as the CDC, and medical community. The plan will be reviewed for updates on a regular basis during monthly public WPS School Board Meetings.