

## **Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan**

**Address of School District:** Hope Academy of West Michigan

**District Code Number:** 41926

**Building Code Number(s):** 00709

**District Contact Person:** Arthur Garner

**District Contact Person Email Address:** [agarner@hopeacademywm.org](mailto:agarner@hopeacademywm.org)

**Local Public Health Department:** Kent County Health Department

**Local Public Health Department Contact Person Email Address:**

[Christopher.Eakin@kentcountymi.gov](mailto:Christopher.Eakin@kentcountymi.gov)

**Name of Intermediate School District:** Kent Intermediate School District

**Name of Authorizing Body:** Ferris State University

**Date of Adoption by Board of Directors:** December 4, 2023

## Assurances

§ The Academy will administer NWEA MAP to all pupils in grades K to 8 to measure proficiency in reading and mathematics within the first nine weeks of the 2023-24school year.

§ Within thirty days after the approval of its Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan, and every 30 days thereafter, the Academy, at a meeting of its board of directors, will reconfirm how instruction is delivered during the 2023-24school year and will solicit public comment, at a public meeting, from the parents or legal guardians enrolled in the Academy.

§ If delivering pupil instruction virtually, the Academy will 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 Academy had planned for that exposure to occur for in-person instruction.

§ If delivering pupil instruction virtually, the Academy will provide pupils with equitable access to technology and the internet necessary to participate in instruction.

§ The Academy 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.

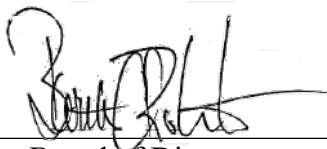
§ The Academy, in consultation with a local health department, and district employees, will develop guidelines concerning appropriate methods for delivering pupil instruction for the 2023-24school year that are based on local data that are based on key metrics. A determination concerning the method for delivering pupil instruction shall remain at the Academy Board's discretion. Key metrics that the Academy will consider shall include at least all of the following:

- COVID-19 Cases or Positive COVID-19 tests
- Hospitalizations due to COVID-19
- Number of deaths resulting from COVID-19 over a 14-day period
- COVID-19 cases for each day for each 1 million individuals
- The percentage of positive COVID-19 tests over a 4-week period
- Health capacity strength
- Testing, tracing, and containment infrastructure with regard to COVID-19

§ If the Academy determines that it is safe to provide in-person pupil instruction to pupils, the Academy will prioritize providing in-person pupil instruction to pupils in grades K to 5 who are enrolled in the Academy.

§ The Academy will create and make available on its transparency reporting link located on the Academy's website, a report concerning the progress made in meeting the educational goals contained in its Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan not later than **February 1, 2024**, 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 2023-24 school year for goals the Academy expected would be achieved by the end of the school year.

Barth Roberts



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President of the Board of Directors

12/4/2023

Date

## Introduction and Overview

- Provide a statement indicating why a Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan is necessary to increase pupil engagement and achievement for the 2023-24 school year.

### **Academy Statement:**

Hope Academy of West Michigan is a Pre-K -12 charter academy authorized by Ferris State University. When Governor Gretchen Whitmer closed all schools in Michigan in March, 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Hope Academy remained committed to our mission and vision to provide a safe place for all students to learn and grow. All stakeholders remained focused on helping each student to reach his or her full potential by embracing the whole child, providing meaningful and relevant learning opportunities for students, and partnering with families and the community to support student learning. Even though the method of teaching and learning changed from face-to-face instruction to remote learning, staff remained committed to assuring academic excellence for all students.

The staff and administration at Hope Academy of West Michigan learned a lot during the most recent school closure, including what worked and what did not work for our students and families. Through individual interviews, review of student work during the school closure, student, parent, and staff surveys, and town hall meetings with parents, leadership was able to better identify and plan for meeting the academic and social-emotional needs of our students and families. This COVID-19 Preparedness and Response plan was developed with the support and feedback of all stakeholders and ensures that the safety and well-being of all students was at the forefront of the decision making process as we prepare and implement this return to school plan for the 2023-24 school year. The principles that guided the development of this plan align to the core values of Hope Academy of West Michigan, and include the following:

- Common Focus
- High Expectations
- Personalized Instruction
- Respect and Responsibility
- Collaboration
- Performance-based instruction
- Student growth and proficiency
- Integrity
- Accountability
- **SAFETY**

In addition, weekly monitoring of the communications between teachers/staff/students/families will assure that students are remaining engaged throughout the 2023-24 school year whether they are face-to-face, hybrid, or virtual throughout the year due to COVID. Lastly, administration of the district assessment, NWEA MAP, in the Fall of 2022 (within 9 weeks of the start of the school year) and in the Spring, and reporting out to the board and public (via the school's website) progress towards the school's growth and achievement goals will assure students achieve this school year.

## Educational Goals

- **Outline and describe** the educational goals expected to be achieved for the 2023-24 school year. It is the expectation of your authorizing body that your educational goal is 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 must 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 goals must select a benchmark assessment or benchmark assessments that are aligned to state standards and an assurance that the Academy shall administer the benchmark assessment or benchmark assessments to all pupils to determine whether pupils are making meaningful progress toward mastery of these standards; and (c) The goals must be measurable through a benchmark assessment or benchmark assessments.
- **Ensure** that the benchmark assessment used to measure progress toward attainment of the goals is approved by the Michigan Department of Education and meets all of the following: (a) Is one of the most commonly administered benchmark assessments in the state; (b) Is aligned to the content standards of the state; (c) Complements the state's summative assessment system; (d) Is internet-delivered and includes a standards-based assessment using a computer-adaptive model to target the instructional level of each pupil; (e) Provides information on pupil achievement with regard to learning content required in a given year or grade span; (f) Provides immediate feedback to pupils and teachers; (g) Is nationally normed; and (h) Provides multiple measures of growth and provide for multiple testing opportunities.
- To the extent practicable, the Academy shall administer the same benchmark assessment or benchmark assessments that it administered to pupils in previous years.

### **Academy Statement:**

Hope Academy will administer the NWEA MAP reading and math Fall and Spring assessments in the 2023-24 school year. This is the district assessment that the

academy has used in previous school years. The NWEA MAP assessment is valid, reliable, aligned to MI State Standards for reading and math, and is approved by MDE and meets all of the requirements of HB 5913 outlined above: (a) Is one of the most commonly administered benchmark assessments in the state; (b) Is aligned to the content standards of the state; (c) Complements the state's summative assessment system; (d) Is internet-delivered and includes a standards-based assessment using a computer-adaptive model to target the instructional level of each pupil; (e) Provides information on pupil achievement with regard to learning content required in a given year or grade span; (f) Provides immediate feedback to pupils and teachers; (g) Is nationally normed; and (h) Provides multiple measures of growth and provide for multiple testing opportunities.

The results of the Fall and Spring benchmark assessments will be used by Hope educators to adjust each student's learning plan, as needed, and will be shared with the student and parent/guardian.

A progress report will be written that reviews the Fall-to-Winter assessment results and how they compare to meeting 50% of the FSU-CSO contract goal for Hope Academy which states:

\*The Fall to Spring growth rate for all students in Reading and Math of each grade and subject area as measured by the CSO designated nationally norm-referenced test will fall at or above the 50th percentile.

\*The average Spring percentile ranking for the Academy on a nationally normed assessment will be at the 50th percentile in both Math and Reading.

A progress report will be written that reviews the Fall-to-Spring assessment results and how they compare to meeting 100% of the FSU-CSO contract goal for Hope Academy which states:

\*The Fall to Spring growth rate for all students in Reading and Math of each grade and subject area as measured by the CSO designated nationally norm-referenced test will fall at or above the 50th percentile.

\*The average Spring percentile ranking for the Academy on a nationally normed assessment will be at the 50th percentile in both Math and Reading.

## Instructional Delivery & Exposure to Core Content

- **Describe** how and where instruction will be delivered during the 2023-24 school year. (E.G., in-person, online, digitally, by other remote means, in a synchronous or asynchronous format, or any combination thereof).
- **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 Academy had planned for that exposure to occur for in-person instruction.
- **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.

### **Academy Statement:**

Hope Academy of West Michigan is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for students to learn. During this time of COVID-19 the health and safety of our students, families and staff are paramount. We will provide face-to-face instruction unless COVID cases surge at which point we will provide remote instruction. Remote instruction will include: use of Online platforms (such as Google Class room), Virtual Learning (such as Edgenuity), Remote Live Instruction, and/or Virtual Meetings. The school building will not be used by licensed child care providers, and no athletics, busing, or extracurricular activities will be held. Hope Academy will continue to partner with Grand Rapids Food Service and Kids Food Basket to provide students and families with access to breakfast, lunch, and a sack dinner.

Students will receive course work which is aligned to Michigan Common Core Standards for all K-12 courses in all subject areas (ie, math, ELA, Social Studies, science, visual and performing arts, physical education and health, and World Languages). Hope Academy students will receive instruction aligned to the same district-approved curriculum, including all standards per subject per grade level in the same scope and sequence, whether fully remote, hybrid, or fully face-to-face in the 2023-24 school year as the students would have received prior to COVID-19.

Monitoring of students' progress toward mastery of the standards:

- Attendance will be taken by:
  - Face-to-face contact logged by teacher
- Student work will be:
  - Graded and entered into the Empower or PowerTeacher gradebooks weekly. Parents/guardians are given access to

the grades via Powerschool Parent Portal and/or through written progress reports given during conferences and other meetings with parents.

- Training documents for accessing online content and instruction will be provided to families

### **Equitable Access**

- If delivering pupil instruction virtually, **describe** how the Academy will provide pupils with equitable access to technology and the internet necessary to participate in instruction.
- **Describe** how the Academy 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.

#### **Academy Statement:**

##### **Connectivity and Access:**

- Chromebooks, Desktops, and Laptops are available for every student in the district if the parent/guardian does not have a device available for the students to use.
- Hope Academy assures that all students have, or are provided, safe and secure access to the internet in their home or at the facility, whichever is applicable.

##### **Students with disabilities and equitable access:**

- A Contingency Plan will be written for students with disabilities in MiPSE to provide support for virtual learning in addition to IEP supports provided for in-person instruction.
- Instruction will include social-emotional learning opportunities for students.
- Hope Academy will remain connected with MDE about policies and guidance about applicable state and federal laws, rules, and regulations.
- Hope Academy has developed (during implementation of the COL Plan) and will continue to implement a continuation of services plan for students needing either occupational, physical, and/or speech and language therapy, including evaluations by school psychologists and social workers.

##### **COVID-health mitigation:**

CARES ACT, ESSER II, and ESSER III funds will be used to prevent and mitigate COVID-19 at the school, while providing every opportunity for students to participate in in-person learning. First, information about access to the vaccine for COVID-19 has been provided to staff, students, and families to encourage vaccination. We provide hand sanitizer and



encourage frequent hand-washing. In addition, all students and staff are encouraged to stay home if they are ill. If they report having COVID-19 symptoms, they are asked to go get a COVID-19 test and return only when they are cleared. Last, school administration remain in close contact with local health departments to receive updates on the level of community transmission and to receive guidance on continued efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

**Addressing lost instructional time:**

At least 20% of CARES ACT and ESSER II and III funds will be used to address lost instructional time due to COVID. The following resources will be funded to address the academic impact of lost instructional time:

- In-school acceleration through provision of paraprofessionals and academic and behavior interventionists to address the needs of those students who have MTSS-Tier 2 and 3 level needs.
- Out-of-school time programs through provision of additional time after-school and days beyond the 180 day school year to address the academic gaps identified in the students through NWEA MAP assessments.

Spending of ESSER funds will also be consistent with 2001 (e) (2):

- Provide devices to all students and internet access (via hotspots) to students whose homes lack this resource.

**How will meet needs of students (especially those disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 like special ed, EL, at-risk, minority) academic, social, emotional, etc:**

- Paraprofessionals to address both academic, behavioral, and English Language acquisition needs as identified through data from academic (NWEA MAP, WIDA, M-STEP, SAT, etc) and behavioral and emotional (SRSS, SWISS, anecdotal data, etc)
- Trauma-informed practices training for all school staff.





