



Hope Academy of West Michigan School District  
Return to Learn and Continuity of Services Plan 2023-2024

The Hope Academy of West Michigan School District will continue to prioritize full, in-person teaching and learning which provides the greatest benefit to our students. The 2023-2024 Return to Learn Plan provides detailed guidance to ensure that COVID-19 prevention and mitigation strategies are implemented in a way that furthers optimal learning environments while simultaneously ensuring the health and safety for students and staff in our services and programs. This plan was developed by Hope Academy of West Michigan and supported by guidance from the Kent County Health Department to ensure that our school district has a detailed plan for a successful and safe school environment.

*Please Note: This plan may change and evolve as knowledge changes surrounding current and potential variants or if the risks of severe disease, hospitalizations, or death increase. The plan may also need to vary based on in-school/building COVID-19 activity and outbreaks. If such changes are necessary, transition time may be needed to allow the District or specific building to adjust mitigation strategies. This plan will be reviewed at least every six months, and updates will be completed and communicated as necessary.*

Supporting Documents:

[MDE and MDHHS “Managing Communicable Diseases in Schools”](#)

[MDHHS Readiness, Response, Recovery Cycle CDC Community Levels Mi Safe Start Map](#)

The CDC will determine the COVID-19 community level for the county. Based on the community COVID-19 level, in consultation with the applicable Health Department, Hope Academy of West Michigan will determine the number of mitigation strategies to implement to advance optimal learning environments while simultaneously ensuring the health and safety of students and staff.

Hope Academy of West Michigan will comply with any and all local, state, and federal mandates/orders.

- Kent County Health Department (KCHP)
- Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)
- Centers for Disease Control (CDC)

### **Instructional Format**

In an effort to accommodate the desires for our community and return as many students as possible to face-to-face instruction, which the District believes is the best place for students to be, the District plans to continue face-to-face in-person instruction for the vast majority of our

students. Students will have the option to take online courses as outlined in section 21(f) of the Michigan School Code.

### **Educational Goals**

NWEA 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.

It is the goal of Hope Academy of West Michigan that:

- The Ferris State University Charter School Office Academic K-8 student growth targets will be achieved.
- The Ferris State University Charter School Office Academic K-8 student achievement targets will be achieved.
- The Ferris State University Charter School Office Academic 9-12 student growth and achievement targets will be achieved.

### **Mental Health Supports**

The district has increased mental health services by providing behavior interventionists and social workers.

### **Addressing Learning Loss**

The district will offer after school support and summer programming. Furthermore, the district hired a part-time ML director, a part-time curriculum director and a part-time whole child support director to address learning loss.

### **Special Services**

Hope Academy of West Michigan has dedicated special education staff to serve all special education students. The teacher and school social worker will provide support for students in reaching their IEP goals and accessing the general education curriculum. Staff will support general education online teachers, face-to-face teachers, as well as families needing additional resources in the home.

### **Cleaning and Disinfecting**

Hope Academy of West Michigan will continue to follow regular cleaning and disinfection procedures. Additional cleaning and disinfecting procedures may be implemented in classrooms if needed.

### **COVID-19 Testing**

Testing will not be required but may be offered to staff and families.

### **Extracurricular and Field Trips**

Extracurricular activities and/or field trips may occur as scheduled.

### **Face Coverings (Masks)**

Masks are available for all staff, students, volunteers, and visitors but are not required.

### **Food Service**

The District through its SFA, GRPS, will continue normal food service operations.

### **Gathering and Facility Use**

No restrictions on gatherings or use of facilities.

### **Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette**

Hand Hygiene will be encouraged and Hand Sanitation Stations will be utilized.

### **Isolation and Quarantine**

In-district/out-of-district meetings and conferences will be permitted.

### **Offices**

All district offices and buildings will be open for normal school business. Visitors and guests are allowed in buildings per Hope Academy of West Michigan policy.

### **Remote/Virtual Learning**

Face-to-face instruction continues to be a priority for all students. The District will do its best to provide resources for students who are unable to attend in person learning due to isolation or quarantine. If a classroom or school is closed, all students impacted by the closure may be provided remote learning opportunities throughout the duration of the closure.

### **Social Distancing**

Social distancing measures are currently not required.

### **Health Screening**

Parents/guardians should conduct a daily student wellness check prior to sending students to school. See the student illness section.

### **Student Illness**

Students exhibiting the following symptoms that are new or may experience a change from baseline health or chronic illness, should remain home or may be excluded from school until the student is symptom-free for 24 hours without the aid of medication or as indicated for their illness. ([See GCHD COVID-19 Response Guidance 2022-2023](#))

- Temperature 100.4+ or signs of fever (chills/sweating)
- Sore throat
- New onset of cough
- Diarrhea

- Vomiting
- Abdominal pain
- New onset of headache
- Loss of taste or smell
- Congestion or runny nose
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches

### **Transportation**

Normal transportation operations will occur.

### **Vaccinations**

The district is not requiring staff or students to be vaccinated. MMDHD, MDHHS, and CDC recommend COVID-19 vaccination as the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic as well as keep schools, extracurricular activities, and sports safely operational and in person.

### **Revision History**

11/23/2021

5/24/2022

12/06/2022

6/27/2023

12/5/2023

6/24/2024