

Continuity of Learning and COVID-19 Response Plan ("Plan")

The goal of a Continuity of Learning Plan and COVID-19 Response Plan is to ensure that each District or Public School Academy is providing, to the best of its ability, each student with alternative modes of instruction to help them stay on pace in their learning. This application recognizes that there is no "one-size-fits-all" solution; multiple means of engaging students and supporting families may be necessary that may vary by grade level, school building, or student population served.

For the purposes of the Plan, "district" refers to school districts and public school academies.

Date Submitted: April 9, 2020

Name of District: Gladstone Area Schools

Address of District: 400 S. 10th Street

District Code Number: 21025

Email Address of the District Superintendent: jkulbert@gladstone.k12.mi.us

Name of Intermediate School District: Delta-Schoolcraft

Name of Authorizing Body (if applicable):

In accordance with Executive Order 2020-35 a Plan must include all of the following parts:

- i. Please describe the methods the district will use to provide alternative modes of instruction other than in-person instruction and a summary of materials each pupil and the pupil's parents or guardians will need to access meaningfully the alternative modes of instruction included in the Plan. If the Plan relies on electronic instruction, the Plan must ensure to the extent feasible that pupils have access to a connected device capable of accessing the electronic instruction and must not penalize a pupil for the pupil's inability to fully participate.

"Alternative modes of instruction" means modes of pupil instruction, other than in-person instruction, that may include, without limitation, partnerships with other districts or intermediate districts or community colleges or institutions of higher education, use of vendors, use of online learning, telephone communications, email, virtual instruction, videos, slideshows, project-based learning, use of instructional packets, or a hybrid of multiple modes of learning that still promote recommended practices for social distancing to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

District/ PSA Response:

Please see attached for detailed response.

2. Please describe the methods the district will use to keep pupils at the center of educational activities, including outreach to continue building relationships and maintain connections, and to help pupils feel safe and valued.

District/ PSA Response:

Students have been and will remain the focus of our district's educational efforts. Each student in the district will be contacted by at least one school staff member each week. These connections may occur via telephone, online meeting, email, or some other form of communication that promotes responsible social distancing.

In addition to collecting family information about connectivity and devices, the district also gathered information about families' needs related to students' mental health. The families who identified immediate needs related to students' mental health have been contacted first to offer resources, strategies, and additional support. These same students will be contacted more frequently by school staff to ensure continued connection to trusted adults.

The elementary behavioral interventionist and specialist have maintained their connections (virtually) with students with behavioral needs. Moving forward, these staff members will continue contacting these students and their families to ensure a regular connection with school staff.

Students enrolled in the DSISD Learning Center will be serviced by the Learning Center staff.

3. Please describe the district's plans to deliver content in multiple ways so that all pupils can access learning.

District/ PSA Response:

The district will use a variety of methods to deliver content to students throughout the district. Google apps like Google Classroom or Google Drive will be one set of strategies that will make content available to students. Content will be delivered using videos, apps, online meetings, phone calls, slide shows, and more. Paper packets with content will also be made available to students.

4. Please describe the district's plans to manage and monitor learning by pupils.

District/ PSA Response:

District staff will be making regular, weekly connections with students. During these teacher-student interactions, teachers will check in about where students are with their learning and what supports or tools are needed. For those students using Google Classroom, teachers are able to carefully monitor the time of student engagement. Teachers will post virtual office hours of availability each day, and will make personal contact with each student at least weekly. Completed tasks or assignments will be checked for student understanding. Teachers will provide feedback on these assignments and use student understanding to plan and guide future instruction. For all of our students who will be receiving packets of work, their progress will be monitored via phone communication, at least weekly.

Students enrolled in the DSISD Learning Center will be serviced by the Learning Center staff.

5. Please attach a budget outline estimating additional expenditures associated with the Plan and sources of revenue to pay for those expenditures.

District/ PSA Response:

Home connectivity-

Staff: \$500

Students: \$2,000

Home devices-

Staff: \$1000

Students: \$45,000

Materials, Supplies, Postage- \$8,000

Food, Distribution, Delivery - \$40,000

We have not identified any additional sources of revenue to cover these \$96,500 in added costs. At this time, these expenses will be covered by the Genral Fund.

[Detail attached]

6. Please describe the manner in which district administrators, board members, teachers, and any representatives of teachers collaborated in development of the Plan.

District/ PSA Response:

District staff made contact with all district families to discuss needs and preferences. In collaboration with ISD-wide stakeholders, strategies were discussed, and guidance from the state was considered. Board members, community members, family members, and educators played a role in developing this plan.

7. Please describe the methods the district will use to notify pupils and parents or guardians of the Plan.

District/ PSA Response:

This plan, once approved, will be posted on the district's website and social media sites. Additional methods for communicating this plan will occur using the district's Power Announcement system which will text, email, and call parents/guardians, based on their communication preferences.

8. Please provide an estimate of the date on which the district will begin implementation of the Plan, which must be no later than April 28, 2008.

District/ PSA Response:

The target date for implementation is April 13, 2020.

9. Please describe the assistance, to the extent feasible, to pupils enrolled in any postsecondary dual enrollment courses under Public Act 160 of 1996, as amended, MCL 388.511 to 388.524, and Career and Technical Preparation Act, 258 PA 2000, as amended, MCL 388.1901 to 388.1913, in completing the courses during the 2019-2020 school year.

District/ PSA Response:

Students who are currently dual-enrolled will be contacted by the Dean, who will determine students' progress in their course(s) and what services or supports are needed in order to complete the course(s). Like other students, devices may be made available in order to support the student. For all students enrolled in CTE course, we continue to collaborate with the DSISD staff to ensure students are able to progress in their CTE coursework.

10. Please describe how the district will continue to provide or arrange for continuation of food distribution to eligible pupils.

District/ PSA Response:

The district will continue to have breakfasts and lunches available for pick-up for all students within the district. Additionally, those families who are unable to pick up food can have food delivered to their homes. Families who are experiencing food insecurity have been identified and receive weekly food deliveries.

11. Please confirm that the district will continue to pay school employees while redeploying staff to provide meaningful work in the context of the Plan, subject to any applicable requirements of a collective bargaining agreement.

District/ PSA Response:

Yes, we are maintaining our staffing levels and will continue to pay employees, reassigning individuals to areas of need as necessary and appropriate.

12. Provide describe how the district will evaluate the participation of pupils in the Plan.

District/ PSA Response:

The district's primary focus will be on remaining connected with students and meeting their basic needs, like safety, nutrition, and social-emotional well-being. If students' needs in these areas are met, the district will consider students' participation in the provided learning opportunities. The evaluation of these activities will focus on students' learning and growth. Focused outreach and direct contact will be utilized for any student who struggles with participation.

13. Please describe how the district will provide mental health supports to pupils affected by a state of emergency or state of disaster prompted by COVID-19.

District/ PSA Response:

In cooperation with the Delta-Schoolcraft Intermediate School District, the district will provide mental health supports to students. These services and supports will be offered to students, who were identified by a parent as having a need, had a need prior to the school closure, and/or were identified by a school staff member as having a need. Supports will be provided via phone call, online meeting, or in another way that is in compliance with social distancing best practices. The district will also provide resources to families about stress relief, physical education, and social-emotional activities, which may provide some positive supports for all students' mental health. Additionally, elementary students will be further supported by the behavioral interventionist and behavioral specialist.

14. Please describe how the district will support the efforts of the intermediate district in which the district is located to mobilize disaster relief child care centers as described in Executive Order 2020-16 or any executive order that follow it.

District/ PSA Response:

The district's preschool classroom has been identified as a potential disaster relief child care center if needed.

Optional question:

15. Does the District to adopt a balanced calendar instructional program for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year? Does the District plan to adopt a balanced calendar instructional program for the 2020-2021 school year?

District/ PSA Response:

We do not plan to adopt a balanced calendar for either year at this time, but we have been granted a Post-Labor School Start waiver for the next three years.

Response #1

The Gladstone Area Schools collected information from our families about their internet connectivity and access to devices: 87% of our families have some form of internet connectivity, while 81% have a device to use. The district plans to deliver instruction, K-12, using a hybrid model of online instruction using Google apps and instructional packets. For those students without internet connectivity, the district will provide these students with instruction on a USB flash drive, DVD, personal phone calls from teachers, or using Chromebooks, which can operate in offline mode, and will sync upon being connected back to the network. Students without devices may be loaned a district Chromebook in order to have access to online content. Additionally, packets of materials will be delivered to homes, K-12, if the student's location or circumstances do not support the use of the other available forms of instruction. These measures will be implemented following recommended practices for social distancing.

For grading, all students will pass their assignments during remote learning as this is a new and unprecedented set of circumstances. This is not a time for failing students or adversely impacting student learning progress. Students are expected to continue with the learning activities assigned during remote learning. Of course, no student will be penalized for an inability to fully participate.

Senior Specific Information

1. Any senior who was failing a course as of March 11th will be given the opportunity to demonstrate learning and earn credit.
2. On a course by course basis, credit will be awarded based upon:
 - a) Award grades and credits based on coursework through March 11th (considering #1)
 - b) Provide an optional final exam or culminating activity
 - c) Certify students as eligible to graduate based on portfolio, prior learning assessment, or a resume approach
 - d) Offer an interdisciplinary culminating activity that encompasses essential standards.

Detail for response #5

Home connectivity-

Staff: \$500 April/May/June for 6 staff [\$25+fees]

Students: \$2,000 April/May/June for 24 families [\$25+fees]

Home devices-

Staff: \$1,000 two laptops with LMS, camera/video, necessary software

Students: \$45,000 up to 180 chromebooks

Materials, Supplies, Postage-

\$8,000 copying and printing, packaging, sanitizing, mailing for three months

Food, Distribution, Delivery –

\$40,000 Breakfast and Lunch for up to 1000 students for 3 months

Name of District Leader Submitting Application: Jay Kuibertis

Date Approved: April 10, 2020

Name of ISD Superintendent/Authorizer Designee:

Doug Leisenring, Doug Leisenring

Date Submitted to Superintendent and State Treasurer:

April 13, 2020

Confirmation approved Plan is posted on District/PSA website:

April 13, 2020