



Sparta Area Schools Updated/Reconfirmed - November 13, 2023

Continuity of Services Plan *as described in Public Act 149, Section 98a*

On August 20, 2020, Governor Whitmer signed House Bill 5913 into law as Public Act 149. Section 98a states that in order to receive state aid for 2020-2021, districts must provide for instruction under an Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan that has been approved by an intermediate district or authorizing body. The Plan does not replace the District's COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan (Return to School), but is an additional plan that includes new assurances and sections on educational goals, instructional delivery, grading, and equitable access.

District educational goals written for all students and all subgroups must be established no later than September 15, 2020, and submitted in our Plan to the ISD no later than October 1, 2020, for approval. Kent ISD will transmit the approved plan to the superintendent of public instruction and the state treasurer.

Sparta Area Schools Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan

Address of School District/PSA: **465 S. Union, Sparta, MI 49345**

District/PSA Code Number: **41240**

District/PSA Website Address: www.spartaschools.org

District/PSA Contact and Title: **Joel Stoner, Superintendent**

District/PSA Contact Email Address: joel.stoner@spartaschools.org

Name of Intermediate School District/PSA: **Kent ISD**

Date of Approval by ISD/Authorizing Body: **October 9, 2020**

Assurances

1. Sparta Area Schools will make their approved Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan accessible through the transparency reporting link located on the District's website no later than October 12, 2020.
2. By not later than January 15, 2021, the district shall create a report that includes information regarding both of the following and shall ensure that the report under this subdivision can be accessed through the transparency reporting link located on the district's website:
 - The amount and type of training provided during the current school year as of the date of the report to teachers of the district through professional development that focuses on how to deliver virtual content.
 - The amount and type of training provided during the current school year as of the date of the report to the parents and legal guardians of pupils and to pupils on how to access and use virtual content provided by the district.
3. Sparta Area Schools will create and make available on its transparency reporting link located on the District's website, a report concerning the progress made in meeting the educational goals contained in its Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan no later than February 1, 2021, for goals it's expected would be achieved by the middle of the school year, and not later than the last day of school of the 2020-2021 school year for goals the District is expected would be achieved by the end of the school year.
4. Benchmark Assessments: Sparta Area Schools will:
 - select a benchmark assessment that is aligned to state standards (NWEA).
 - administer the approved benchmark assessment to all pupils in grades K - 8 to measure proficiency in reading and mathematics within the first nine weeks of the 2020-2021 school year and again not later than the last day of the 2020-2021 school year.
5. Since we are delivering some pupil instruction virtually, Sparta Area Schools will:
 - provide pupils with equitable access to technology and ensure that families have the internet access necessary to participate in instruction, and
 - expose each pupil to the academic standards that apply for each pupil's grade level or courses in a similar scope and sequence as the District had planned for that exposure to occur for in-person instruction.
6. The District, in consultation with the Kent County Health Department (KCHD), will develop guidelines concerning appropriate methods for delivering pupil instruction for the 2020-2021 school 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 District/Board of Education's discretion.

Key metrics that the District 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
7. If Sparta Area Schools determines that it is safe to provide in-person instruction to pupils, the District will prioritize providing in-person instruction to pupils in grades K - 5 who are enrolled in the District.
8. Sparta Area Schools assures that:
- instruction will be delivered as described in this plan and re-confirmed by the District/Board of Education,
 - the description of instructional delivery in this plan matches the delivery of instruction to be delivered during the 2020-2021 school year,
 - the District/Board of Education will reconfirm how instruction will be delivered during the 2020-2021 school year within thirty days after the approval of the plan, and every month thereafter at a meeting of the Board, and
 - For each reconfirmation described in this subdivision, the district shall report, in a form and manner prescribed,
 - the instructional delivery method that was reconfirmed;
 - how that instruction will be delivered for each grade level offered by the district, including pre-kindergarten, as applicable; and
 - whether or not, as determined by the Department of Education, the district is offering higher levels of in-person instruction for English language learners, special education students, or other special populations.
 - public comment will be solicited from parents/legal guardians of the pupils enrolled in the District during a public meeting described in PA-149.
9. Sparta Area Schools 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.
10. Sparta Area Schools will ensure that two (2), two-way interactions occur between a pupil enrolled in the District and the pupil's teacher/mentor or at least one (1) of the pupil's teachers/mentors, or another district employee who has responsibility for the pupil's learning, grade progression, or academic progress, during each week of the school year for at least 75% of the pupils enrolled in the District. The District will publicly announce its weekly interaction rates at each Board meeting where it re-confirms how instruction is being delivered. The District will make those rates available through the transparency reporting link located on the District website each month for the 2020-2021 school year.

Clarification of Assurance 10: "2-way interaction" means a communication that occurs between a pupil and the pupil's teacher or at least 1 of the pupil's teachers or another district employee who has responsibility for the pupil's learning, grade progression, or academic progress, where 1 party initiates communication and a response from the other party follows that communication, and that is relevant to course progress or course content for at least 1 of the courses in which the pupil is enrolled or relevant to the pupil's overall academic progress or grade progression. Responses, as described in this subdivision, must be to communication initiated by the teacher, by another district employee who has responsibility for the pupil's learning, grade progression, or academic progress, or by the pupil, and not some other action taken.

Joel A. Stoner

District Superintendent

Andy Jensen

President of the Board of Education

11-13-2023

Date

Continuity of Learning Plan Narrative

Instructional Delivery & Exposure to Core Content

- **Reconfirm the instructional delivery method:**

Sparta Area Schools will provide face-to-face learning for all students five days per week.

DK-5th Grade - Face-to-Face Learning

All students attend school in-person, every day. This learning model is our traditional K-5 school experience. Students participate in recess, lunch, specials, and will receive pull-out or push-in support services as needed. Required health and safety protocols will be in place.

6th-12th Grade - Face-to-Face Learning

All students attend in person. Students will rotate through a schedule of three blocked classes. Students will eat lunch with their 3rd block class in their classroom. The block schedule allows for fewer transitions, adequate class sizes and ample time between secondary and elementary bus runs for our bus fleet. The block schedule also embeds flexibility for differentiation and intervention to support students' individual needs.

- **Reconfirm whether or not the district is offering higher levels of face-to-face instruction for our Special Populations, i.e., special education, Multi-Language Learners, etc.**

Students with identified special needs

Sparta Area Schools continues to recognize that supporting the whole child is imperative to student growth and learning. Through our Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS), we will continue to implement programs and interventions to address the academic, behavioral, and wellness needs of our students. Academic support through whole-group and small-group instruction (Tier 1) will be provided. If needed, students will receive more intensive small group or individual student intervention (Tiers 2 and 3). Our schools will leverage resources and tools for systematic data collection, ongoing progress monitoring, and timely intervention. Support staff and resource teachers, including school counselors, psychologists, and social workers, will work flexibly across the school to address student needs.

Students with disabilities, students with Section 504 plans, and English Language Learners will be given special consideration to ensure appropriate instruction while complying with federal and state requirements.

Students with Disabilities

Special education services for students with disabilities will include increased time for synchronous instruction and explicit expectations for greater student engagement and consistency. Instructional delivery will be designed to ensure the least restrictive environment

(LRE) as required by the individualized education program (IEP). Based on the student's IEP, specialized instruction will be provided in-person, when possible. Students will continue to receive access to instructional materials for use at home, as needed, including assistive technology tools.

The district ensures a continuation of services for students receiving speech and language, occupational therapy, physical therapy, or social work services within their IFSP or 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.

Students with Section 504 & Medical/Health Plans

In synchronous learning settings, students eligible for Section 504 plans will continue receiving their accommodations and other supports needed including additional time for small group or individual instruction. Students will continue to receive access to instructional materials for use at home, as needed. The school will continue to support students with specific medical/health plans.

English Language Learners

Children who speak a language other than English in their home, or have a different native language, are given the opportunity to enrich their learning with a highly qualified teacher of English Language Learners (ELL). Individual and group support is provided to help our students become acclimated both socially and academically. English Language Learner support and services will continue during all learning models.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public Comments from Board Meeting |
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