



West Branch Rose City Area School District

Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan
as described in Public Act 149, Section 98a
Final

September 18, 2023

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 ("Plan") that has been approved by an intermediate district or authorizing body. The Plan does not replace the District's/PSA's COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan, it is an additional plan that includes new assurances and sections on educational goals, instructional delivery, grading, and equitable access. PA 149 does not apply to districts that operate as a cyber school.

**West Branch Rose City Area School District Extended COVID-19
Learning Plan**

Address of School District/PSA: 960 M- 33, West Branch, Michigan 48661

District/PSA Code Number: 65045

District/PSA Website Address: www.wbrc.k12.mi.us

District/PSA Contact and Title: Gail Hughey, Superintendent

District/PSA Contact Email Address: hugheyg@wbrc.k12.mi.us

Name of Intermediate School District/PSA: C.O.O.R. ISD

Date of Approval by ISD/Authorizing Body:

Assurances

1. The District/PSA will make their ISD/Authorizing Body approved Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan accessible through the transparency reporting link located on the District's/PSA's website no later than October 1, 2023.
2. Benchmark Assessments: The District/PSA will
 - select a benchmark assessment that is aligned to state standards.
 - administer the approved benchmark assessment, or local benchmark assessment, or any combination thereof, to all pupils in grades K to 8 to measure proficiency in reading and mathematics within the first nine weeks of the 2023-2024 school year and again not later than the last day of the 2023-2024 school year.
3. If delivering pupil instruction virtually, the District/PSA will
 - provide pupils with equitable access to technology and the internet necessary to participate in instruction, and
 - 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 District/PSA had planned for that exposure to occur for in-person instruction.
4. The District/PSA, in consultation with a local health department will develop guidelines concerning appropriate methods for delivering pupil instruction for the 2023-2024 school year that is based on local data that are based on key metrics. Note: A determination concerning the method for delivering pupil instruction shall remain at the District/PSA Board's discretion. Key metrics that the District/PSA 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
5. If the District/PSA determines that it is safe to provide in-person instruction to pupils, the District/PSA will prioritize providing in-person instruction to pupils in grades K to 5 who are enrolled in the District/PSA.
6. The District/PSA assures that
 - instruction will be delivered as described in this plan and re-confirmed by the District/PSA Board,
 - the description of instructional delivery in this plan matches the delivery of instruction to be delivered during the 2023-2024 school year,

7. The District/PSA 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.



District Superintendent or President of the Board of Education/Directors

10.1.23

Date

Learning Plan Narrative

Opening Statement

- Please provide a statement indicating why an Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan is necessary to increase pupil engagement and achievement for the 2023-2024 school year.

The COVID-19 global pandemic is impacting our school community in a number of ways: we are experiencing a traumatic event, many students may have significant gaps in their learning, and equity issues are more pronounced.

As we return to school in the fall, our first priority will be to ensure the well-being of all members of our school community. Because of the wide range of experiences students had during the remote learning portion of the 19-20 and 20-21 school year, we anticipate that students may still come to school with a wider than usual range of competencies. We expect that many students will be behind and will need opportunities to catch up. We expect that numerous staff and student absences will continue due to positive COVID cases and quarantines. Teachers will need opportunities to collaborate with each other as they examine student work and determine what comes next in the learning for each student as the school year progresses.

As West Branch Rose City Area Schools plan to begin the school year in a face to face learning environment, we will need to ensure that there are structures in place to ensure student engagement and achievement for all. This plan will focus on teaching and learning with an emphasis on equity for all learners and the well-being of students and staff.

Our school district meets regularly with the local health department for guidance and updates to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Educational Goals

- **Educational goals** are listed in the district MICIP plan.
- **Ensure** that the District/PSA benchmark assessment(s) are aligned to state standards and will be administered to all pupils K-8 at least once within the first 9 weeks of the 2023-2024 school year and not later than the last day of the 2023-2024 school year to determine whether pupils are making meaningful progress toward mastery of these standards.
- To the extent practicable, the District/PSA will administer the same benchmark assessment or benchmark assessments that was administered to pupils in previous years.

Quality Evidence-Based Assessment Practices

The West Branch Rose City Area School District believes that benchmark assessment evidence can be used to monitor and evaluate patterns and trends in school/district academic performance and to identify effective instructional programs. We believe it can provide guidance for standardizing or adjusting curriculum and instruction across grade levels, schools, and districts.

However, we will not use benchmark assessment data to make high-stakes instructional decisions about individual student learning. Rather, West Branch Rose City Area School District will continue the use of (and professional learning around the use of) the formative assessment process as a powerful practice embedded in the teaching and learning process to continuously observe where our students are in order to modify instruction.

We believe the use of the formative assessment process, which is supported by an extensive body of research, provides in-time data for both our teachers and students to accelerate their learning and progress and gives us a more complete picture of what our students know and are able to do.

Educational Goals

The NWEA assessments in reading and mathematics will be administered to K-8 students three times: once in the first nine weeks of the school year, 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.

As a means of continuous improvement in teaching & learning, all teachers will receive professional development in, and commit to the use of, the formative assessment process.

Additionally, we will continue to engage stakeholders in the district's balanced assessment system, including publicly sharing aggregate and student subgroup performance reports on NWEA results.

Instructional Delivery & Exposure to Core Content

- **Please describe** how and where instruction will be delivered during the 2022-2023 school year. (e.g. instruction may be delivered at school or a different location, in-person, online, digitally, by other remote means, in a synchronous or asynchronous format, or any combination thereof).

Mode of Instruction

To start the school year, all K-12 students will have the opportunity to attend school every day for face-to-face instruction or take part in 100% virtual learning if there is a medical diagnosis/concern.

Remote Delivery for normally In-Person Students:

We anticipate there will be times during this school year that students will not be able to attend school in-person. This could occur due to direct or indirect COVID-19 exposure, positive test results, symptoms requiring the student to stay home, or a temporary closure of the school. When this occurs, teachers will continue to post course content on Google Classroom for our 9-12 students. Elementary and middle school students meet remote learning needs in various ways. Those methods include: printed packets, Google Classroom with, phone calls, Class Dojo/Remind messaging, and includes Chromebook check out as needed. The goal during this learning will be to ensure the students continue to progress through our district curriculum, on pace with their peers as guided, directed, and assessed by the teacher. This will ensure each student is prepared to resume in-person instruction from a common learning point when circumstances allow.

Virtual Delivery Option:

For students whose families have decided with their family physician to have their child learn entirely from home, our district will offer a virtual learning option. This option makes standards aligned course content available to the student through a third party vendor, Edmentum. The student is able to access the content remotely at their own time and place, and work through content at a pace and schedule of their choosing, provided they complete prescribed units within an established period of time, at least by semester. Each course will have a certified Edmentum teacher assigned who will monitor student progress, assess student work, provide feedback on the work, and provide additional guidance and support during the course based on the assessments. Students will have weekly or bi-weekly contact with a designated district staff member who is responsible for coordinating between families and Edmentum.

- **Please 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 District/PSA had planned for that exposure to occur for in-person instruction.

Curriculum and Instruction: Academic Standards

The West Branch Rose City Area School District will use the our district curriculum for core academic areas for face-to-face instruction. It is aligned to state standards and benchmarks. Identified assessments will allow students to demonstrate understanding in a variety of ways, assess and provide instruction in the content areas in face-to-face, virtual, and blended classroom environments, and incorporate well-being and SEL/trauma-informed practices into instruction.

- **Please 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.

Assessment and Grading

West Branch Rose City Area School District bases its assessment system on the Michigan Standards. We regularly assess students at the district and classroom level to determine if they are making progress toward meeting those standards. We place a heavy emphasis on formative assessment. This is critical in the instructional process so that students receive timely feedback that helps them know what they need to do to improve. It also gives the teacher important information to know how to adjust the teaching and learning process to meet each student's needs.

We also have a system for delivering summative assessments at the district and classroom levels. These are given at the end of a period of learning as an evaluation of what has been learned and are part of our district grading process. For example, our teachers deliver summative assessments at the end of each unit of study in our curriculum. These assessments are based on a coherent set of standards in the subject area that focus on a related group of skills and disciplinary knowledge.

We make available to our parents and legal guardians a web-based system, Skyward, that allows them to see their children's grades at any time. Our teachers keep up-to-date information on student grades in this system. We also send progress reports to our parents and guardians during each marking period. This is in addition to the expectation we have for all teachers that they keep parents and guardians abreast of any concerns regarding a student's grade through emails and phone calls. Finally, we send out to parents report cards at the end of each marking period and host parent teacher conferences twice per year.

Equitable Access

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

Technology

The West Branch Rose City Area School District ensures all students will be provided equitable access to technology and the internet as described in our Continuity of Learning Plan that was previously submitted to the state. The West Branch Rose City Area School District system for maintaining student access to technology devices and the internet is described in the Continuity of Learning Plan, and again in the [MI Safe Schools Roadmap--Sample District Preparedness Plan](#).

- **Please describe** how the District/PSA 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.

Students with identified special needs

Students' IEPs and 504 plans will be reviewed in coordination with general and special education teachers and/or providers to address any data-driven accommodations and/or services that are needed due to known changes in students' needs.

For students from birth to five, those with identified special needs, and those attending CTE programming, intervention and support services will be integrated into the student's program immediately upon the start of school.

The district has established structures for general and special education teachers and/or providers to collaborate and communicate regarding student performance and student needs on IEP goals and objectives with special consideration regarding assistive technology and accessibility.

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.

- **Optional Considerations for District/PSA Extended COVID-19 Learning Plans:**

- 1. In addition to the students with disabilities noted above, please describe how the District/PSA will ensure that the needs of other vulnerable student populations, such as but not limited to, early English Learners and Fledgling/struggling students, are met.

- 2. Please describe how the District/PSA will ensure that students will, during pandemic learning, have continued access to programs such as, but not limited to, Early Childhood, CTE, Early-Middle College, Dual Enrollment, and Advanced Placement as applicable within the District/PSA.

The West Branch Rose City Area School District full instructional plan addresses ways all learners are supported and can be found in the [MI Safe Schools Roadmap--Sample District Preparedness Plan](#).

