



Marion City Schools Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity Plan

District Name:	Marion City Schools
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The recently passed American Rescue Plan (ARP) provides substantial federal resources to support states and local school districts. As a result, local school districts are required to develop a plan, which details the safe return to in-person instruction and the continuity of services. This plan is developed with stakeholder feedback and will be monitored and revised based on ongoing review through September 30, 2023.

Mitigation Strategies

A message from our Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Ron Iarussi:

Our Mission in Marion City Schools is to *Inspire A Community of Achievement*. The district serves almost 4500 students and employs a staff of over 700.

We have four pillars that will help us carry out the mission. Each pillar has goals and action steps that we will continue to monitor to ensure success. Marion City Schools four pillars are:

Literacy - We will meet the state standard for literacy achievement

Legacy - Our students will be prepared to become enlisted, enrolled or employed

Learning - We will meet the state standards for academic and social and emotional learning

Leadership - We will create a culture of authenticity that will build character and leadership

By 2024, we hope to accomplish all of the goals we have set for our students around the four pillars. The pandemic has definitely set us back on our quest to provide every opportunity for our students to be successful. The District COVID Recovery Plan is a collaborative effort by all staff to determine the gaps in learning that have been created by the pandemic and provide a multi-tiered system of support that will serve each child's needs.

Marion City Schools is committed to making sure the effects of the pandemic are not everlasting and we will do our part to erase those effects.

The District will return to pre-pandemic mitigation strategies. Should health conditions shift or stakeholder feedback necessitate, the district will assemble its Safe Return Team to review conditions and mitigation strategies and offer necessary revisions.

- Physical distancing: The District will return to pre-pandemic protocols. Physical distancing will be recommended, but not required.
- Handwashing: Handwashing will be emphasized throughout the school day. Hand sanitizers will be placed throughout the buildings and students will be encouraged to sanitize their hand when entering and again when leaving a classroom. Cough and sneeze etiquette will be taught, monitored, and reinforced.
- Facilities: District cleaning protocols will return to pre-COVID routines. Ventilation systems will be updated wherever necessary
- Contact tracing: Contact tracing will occur based upon Marion Public Health guidance for all highly infectious diseases. District nurses have all been trained in this process. The district will strategically utilize test kits for COVID concerns in order to keep students safely in school as much as possible.
- Vaccinations: The district will continue to encourage faculty, staff, and students to be vaccinated. The district has served as a host site and will continue to do so whenever possible.
- Accommodations for children with disabilities: The district will build a health plan to meet the unique health needs of students. This could include home instruction or further mitigation efforts in the school setting.
- Masks: Mask wearing is recommended for those not vaccinated but not required

Plan for the 2021-22 School Year

Marion City Schools is planning to return to in-person instruction for the 2021-22 school year the week of August 16, 2021. In-person learning will be the default learning model for all students. We know that students learn best when they are in the classroom with their teachers and their peers.

Ensuring Continuity of Services

Summer Learning

Students have the opportunity to participate in various summer school experiences over the summer. Grades K-8 students had the opportunity to participate in a six week summer learning program designed to identify, support, and close learning gaps for each individual student. Students received instruction in their home schools and received transportation to and from all locations. Students were also given the opportunity to participate in afternoon day camps with local community partners. Grades 9-12 students had the opportunity to engage in different opportunities based on their needs. Students were able to receive support and instruction in specific courses or subject areas in order to receive course credit that may have been missed over the past year. Students also were able to participate in other credit recovery opportunities and engage in summer coursework. All pre-k-12 students in Marion City Schools were given the opportunity to participate in week-long summer enrichments camps throughout the summer. All summer learning opportunities were designed to re-engage and close learning gaps for students. Robust summer learning opportunities will continue to be planned for students in 2022, 2023, and beyond.

Returning to School

As students return to all-in programming in August of 2021, teachers will formally and informally assess students to identify individual student goals and needs. Administrators, instructional coaches, and teacher-leaders will administer and analyze data from multiple sources throughout the school year through the Ohio Improvement Process to ensure timely identification and response to observed gap areas. Additionally, teachers will identify students from daily observations of engagement and performance. All staff will utilize a data management system to observe student progress and achievement over time to identify shifts in progress or concerns. School leaders, instructional coaches, department leaders, and MTSS teams will work with teachers to develop personalized goals that address students' specific learning gaps. They will monitor student progress, achievement, and daily engagement through various data sources and intentionally select high impact researched strategies to address student needs. The impact of implemented interventions will be reviewed to determine the necessity of new or modified interventions.

School MTSS teams will continue to review the mental health concerns identified by students, families, and teachers. Principals and counselors will continue to reach out through wellness calls to families to discuss student engagement, social-emotional wellness, and mental health concerns. Through this partnership, school teams will identify needed family support. School personnel will intentionally engage with students to identify students needing extended support

through the summer months and identify summer school sessions that may address observed needs. We are committed to meeting the needs of the whole child and understand that student learning is best supported by maintaining positive relationships between family, school, and community within a safe, caring, and supportive learning environment.

Students in Marion City will continue to have support in the numerous college and career pathway options available to them. Marion City is a leader in the state with programming options for students to pursue and be prepared for future careers. These pathways ensure multiple avenues to graduation for students based on their interests and needs.

Periodic Review

This plan will be reviewed regularly and as new guidelines are released by state and federal agencies. Adjustments to programming, practices, and policies will be made based on data, impact of programming, and local, state, and/or federal guidelines.

Public Input

Marion City Schools utilize multiple means of gaining public input, including, but not limited to;

- Family Surveys
- Key Communicators Group
- Parent Advisory Committee
- MAWAC- Business Advisory Council
- Parent Teacher Organizations

For additional comments and/or feedback, please email to info@mcspresidents.org