

DRAFT LEA Plan on the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

2021-2022 School Year

I. General Information

LEA Name: Somersworth School District/SAU 56

Date of Publication: The Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan for 2021-2022 school year has not been published. It will be published at the beginning of August 2021 as we get closer to the start of the 2021-2022 school year.

II. Transparency and Accessibility

Public Availability: As mentioned, the completed Plan for the 2021-2022 school year will be published at the beginning of August.

At a workshop session of the Somersworth School Board held on June 19, 2021, the elements of the Plan including proposed Health and Safety Measures and Continuity of Services were reviewed. With the recent recommendations from the Governor and NH DHHS essentially relaxing all health and safety requirements, the Plan at this time is to follow this guidance and return to traditional in-person learning for the 2021-2022 school year.

However, as we have seen, the COVID-19 health pandemic has been very fluid and dynamic where the situation can change very rapidly. With that in mind, releasing a Return to In-Person Instruction Plan over two months prior to the start of the 2021-2022 school year is premature.

The School Board will reconvene on August 4, 2021 and will take the matter of the Re-Opening Plan up at that time. The school district will make the Plan available on its website and will use the electronic messenger system to notify parents that it exists and that public input is welcome.

Public Accessibility: As with all documents provided, translation services will be available as well as the opportunity document could be provided in different formats, if requested.

The District's English Language Learner (ELL) teachers and the special education staff are in regular contact with families to help eliminate any communication barriers.

III. Health and Safety

Maintenance of health for students and staff: Once finalized, copies of the District and each school's re-opening plans will be submitted to the DOE.

Pending any shift in CDC guidance and/or change in the direction of the pandemic, the School District plans to enter the 2021-2022 school year with all schools and programs fully open for in-person learning.

The following Health and Safety protocols were recommended to the School Board for consideration on June 19, 2021:

- Wearing of an approved mask (Policy EBCF), both inside and outside will be optional.
- Physical/social distancing, contact tracing, diagnostic screening (i.e., symptoms checklist, temperature taking) will not be required practice in the schools.
- Staff will review handwashing and respiratory etiquette procedures with all students and provide time for students to engage in handwashing. Hand sanitizer will continue to be available for all students and staff.
- Normal cleaning protocols by custodial staff will take place. Use of additional measures (i.e., ultra violet cleaning) will only be used should there be a confirmed COVID case.
- Planned building ventilation improvement projects will occur when approved by the NH DOE.
- The District will work with local and state public health officials to provide opportunities for vaccinations for students and staff and to disseminate the most current information on illness management.
- Parents will be encouraged to keep children home when they are ill. Staff will also be encouraged to stay home when they are sick.
- Students with certain diagnosed medical conditions may require the implementation of additional safety measures. This will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
- There will not be additional safety protocols for extra-curricular activities (i.e., sports, clubs).
- SAU admin and building admin will review pertinent pandemic-related data along with City officials and make recommendations for any needed changes to the Re-Opening Plan.

IV. Continuity of Services

Continuity of Services for Students: Each school's re-opening plan will describe how they will provide continuity of services during the 2021-2022 school year. The School District will provide continuity of services in the following ways:

- All In-Person educational opportunities will be re-instituted, including academic supports for students, all identified special education services, and afterschool and extra-curricular activities.
- Schools will review data collected on student academic progress and revision support delivery models as is necessary.
- Provide additional opportunities for afterschool academic support (i.e., afterschool tutoring) and/or additional extra-curricular/intramurals activities.
- Professional development will be offered to staff as identified by building and district administration. Topics to include, but not limited to: mental health support/stress management, specific academic strategies implementation (i.e. training on reading skills development), data use (i.e., NWEA data use training), RTI and PBIS implementation and other identified professional development/training needed to refocus on In-Person learning.
- Continuation of free food service program – meals for all students because of the federal waiver for the 2021-2022 school year. Food will also be available during summer 2021 programs.
- Expand summer school opportunities K-12 for summer 2021.
- Implement restructured school counseling program. Middle school crisis counselor position has been expanded to include the elementary schools. Grade 9 transition support services have

been added to the 8th grade counselor. The SAU Administration will oversee a comprehensive “wrap around” services team for the neediest students and families.

- Continue to work with Goodwin Community Health on the school-based health clinic concept.
- Work with Goodwin to provide additional on-site student services next year.
- Continue to move forward as a partner as the Somersworth Mental Health Alliance is formed in June 2021. The Alliance will build mental health support systems for students, families and for staff as employees of the district.
- Determination of additional student and staff needs once school resumes in fall 2021.
- Rebuild the District’s existing relationship with the Somersworth Ready Together Coalition focused on early childhood education and school preparedness.
- Continue to explore the role of Remote Learning to create opportunities for identified students in order to create student voice, student engagement in learning, create individual student learning paths that may allow students to continue learning while working through various issues/challenges.
- Provide additional resources for each school’s community days - a strategy used in our schools to engage students in the culture and climate of each school.
- Expand course offerings at Somersworth High School/Career Tech Center to include night courses.
- Provide additional opportunities to show appreciation to the staff.
- Continue to plan allowable facilities projects that will allow our district to sustain safe in-person learning.
- Expand career and technical education programming into the middle school.
- Launch new website in August 2021 with integrated social media and electronic messaging.
- Work with the local bus company and the local community action program to provide free remote meals for students throughout the summer.
- When appropriate, continue to provide virtual access for parents to meetings via google meet to hold parent conferences and individual student meetings.

Continuity of Services for Staff

The SAU Administration and members of the School Board will meet with representatives of the three bargaining units to determine if there is a need to continue with all or some elements of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that was in place during the 2020-2021 school year

V. Plan Review


The Somersworth School District will review and revise its Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan every six months through September 30, 2023 and/or as needed.

This process will include:

- Create final Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan for the 2021-2022 school year. The Plan will include:
 - Adoption of health and safety protocols as required by the CDC and NH DHHS.

- Provide information on how the district will provide a continuity of services for students and for staff.
 - Any and all adjustments to school operations protocols and procedures.
- Gathering stakeholder input regarding the 2021-2022 School Year Plan in the following ways:
 - Make the proposed 2021-2022 School Year Plan available on the SAU 56 website for stakeholder review and consider all feedback.
 - Make the proposed 2021-2022 School Year Plan an agenda item for the Somersworth School Board to approve in August 2021 and make sure that the school board reviews the plan every six months and when necessary through September 2023.
- Align any identified needs in the 2021-2022 School Year plan with the “Use of Funds” Plan that is required for submission by August 23, 2021. Provide Plan alignment in subsequent years if required.

VI. Authorization



Somersworth School District Superintendent

6-22-21
Date