West De Pere School Reopening Plan Fall 2020-21

Board Approved on 8/17/2020

School District of West De Pere

This plan is based on the information we have available at this time and subject to change based on guidance from the CDC, DPI, and local health departments

Message from the District

As we look forward to the 2020-21 school year, we are committed to providing quality academic learning experiences for children, while meeting social/emotional needs in a setting that is safe and engaging. We have created a framework for instruction, safety, operations, and other considerations. This framework was created based on collaboration with and/or information from the De Pere Health Department, Brown County Health Department, DPI models, the CDC, and many other individuals and organizations within our communities. We will continue our work to prepare positive experiences for students within an environment where they learn and succeed.

We are planning to bring students back to a traditional classroom learning model with enhanced safety and health protocols in place to reduce the risk of virus exposure. Based on the feedback we have received, we know that for some of our families and staff, the thought of returning to school creates fear and anxiety. For others, the thought of returning to a year of remote learning creates impossible questions about employment and the educational success of your child(ren).

Message from the District

Planning for reopening will continue to require a flexible approach. We know the information may change between now and September 1, or even after the school year has started.

As we continue to analyze details of how these frameworks are implemented, we want to thank those who have personally reached out to share their perspectives. This continues to be new ground for schools and we know that we are stronger and more effective for students and our community when we work together.

In the coming weeks and months, we remain committed to keeping you informed of any changes that may be required. Please continue to watch your email and our website for additional updates as we plan for students' return.

Thank you for your understanding, your flexibility, and your ongoing support for our community and schools.

Current Plan to Open Schools Safely

(August 3, 2020)

- Grades 4K-12: All students will have the option to return to school five days per week (following the school calendar) beginning on September 1st with safety precautions and mitigation strategies in place.

- A remote learning option will be available for those who choose it.

Flexibility - We will be nimble in our ability to move among 3 scenarios based on evolving health data and guidelines.
(The plan could change prior to Sept. 1.)

Our Commitments

- **Academic Progress -** We are committed to providing high-quality instruction to all students.

- **Social-Emotional Well-Being -** We are committed to ensuring student and staff emotional needs are being met.

- **Physical Safety -** We are committed to prevention strategies that will maximize health and safety of all students and staff.

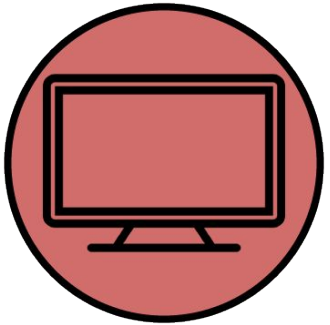
Instructional Scenarios

A

At school

B

Blended

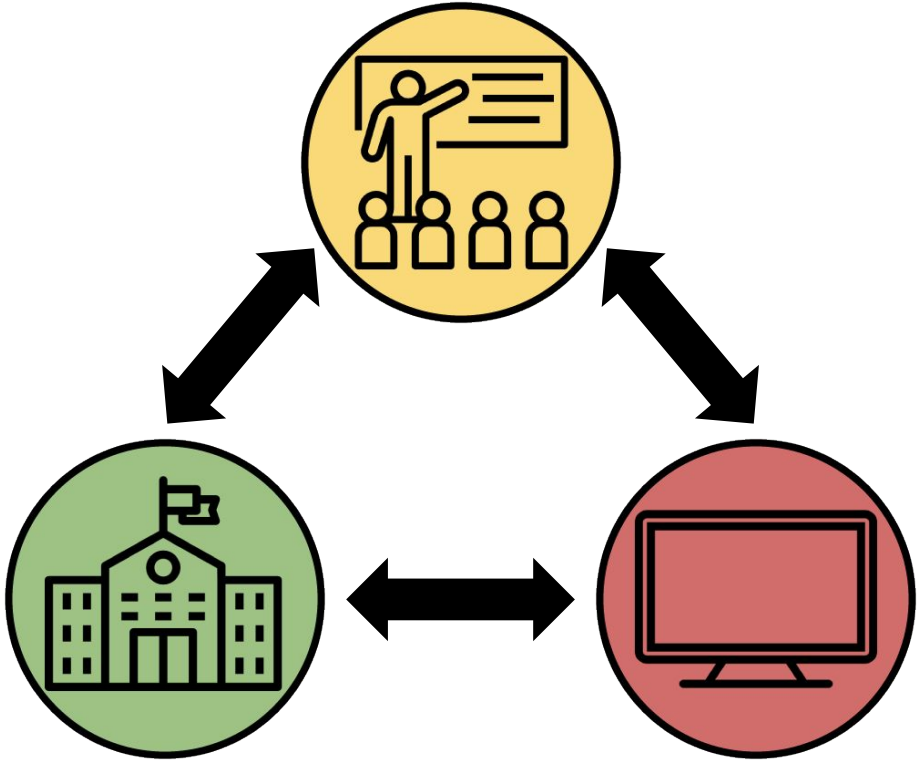


C

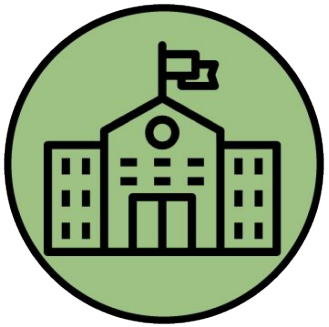
Computer-based/
Remote

Scenario Options

Flexibility - We will be nimble in our ability to move among the 3 scenarios based on evolving health data and guidelines. Changes to instructional programming may occur at the classroom, building, or district level.



Scenario A



A

At school

Scenario **A** - **A**ll students in session at school.

- In-person attendance at school supports the emotional health needs of our students.
- The majority of our families prefer this scenario.
- We will provide a remote option for families who choose it.
- We will use many recommended mitigation strategies to increase safety.

Scenario B

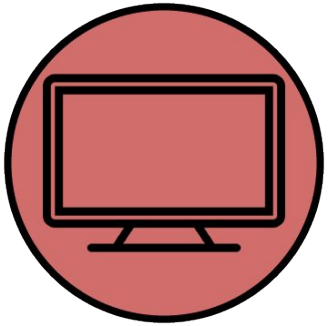
B

Blended

Scenario **B** - **B**lended

- Potential exposure to the virus may be further minimized by having fewer students in the building each day, especially at the middle school/high school levels where students are not as easily self-contained.
- We will provide a remote option for families who choose it.
- We will use many recommended mitigation strategies to further increase safety.

Scenario C



C

Computer-based/
Remote

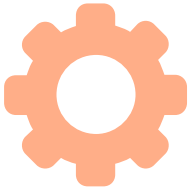
Scenario **C** - **C**omputer-based/Remote instruction

- The health needs of the school community may require short or long-term closures of classrooms, schools, and/or the district.

Mitigation Strategies

Multiple mitigation strategies will be put in place to slow the spread of the virus. (Social distancing is not always possible in a school setting.) Our mitigation strategies may include, but are not limited to:

School/ Physical Structure



School Operations

Food Services

Student/Staff Physical Health

School Physical Structure

Risk Mitigation Strategies

- **Physical Barriers**
  - Plexiglass barriers in offices
- **Floor Adhesives**
  - 6' separation markers in high traffic areas
- **Safety Signage**
  - Hand hygiene
  - Social distancing
  - Symptoms
- **Drinking Water**
  - Bottle filling only

School Physical Structure

Risk Mitigation Strategies

- **Sanitation Stations**
  - Placement in common areas and encouraged usage
- **Creating Space for Distancing**
  - Reconfiguration of teaching spaces and work spaces
- **Isolation Rooms for Students/Staff with COVID 19 Symptoms**
  - Identification of space and protocols for use
- **Cleaning and Disinfecting**
  - Increased daily and weekly protocols

School Operations

Risk Mitigation Strategies

- **Shared Objects**
  - Individual supplies or disinfecting between users
- **Hand Hygiene**
  - Teach and reinforce
- **Modify Building Layouts**
  - Adjusted pedestrian patterns
- **Visitors/Volunteers**
  - Limit non-essential visitors and visits
  - Drop off tables in each vestibule
  - No volunteers at this time

School Operations

Risk Mitigation Strategies

- **Cohorts**
  - Elementary students stay within classroom and with same peers as much as possible
- **Entrances and exits**
  - Regulate access and directional flow
- **Field Trips**
  - Will not take place at this time
- **Transportation**
  - Masks required while on the bus
  - Assigned seating with one child per seat with the exception of family members who will be seated together

School Operations

Risk Mitigation Strategies

- **Extracurricular Activities**
  - To be determined with input from WIAA and/or health department
- **Recess/Lunch**
  - Student interaction minimized via distancing, assigned seating, and/or staggered times
- **Meetings/Open House/Conferences**
  - Held virtually
- **Shared Snacks**
  - Individual, commercially-wrapped food
  - Distributed by teacher

Food Service

Risk Mitigation Strategies

- **Grab and Go Bags**
  - Breakfast and lunch
  - No self-serve options
- **Scanning ID badges**
  - In place of keypad for payment
- **Plexiglass barriers**
  - Between students and food service workers
- **Floor Adhesives**
  - 6' separation stickers in high traffic areas
- **Visitors**
  - Parents and other visitors may not join students for lunch

Student/Staff Physical Health

Risk Mitigation Strategies

- **Face coverings**
  - Required for staff and students, 4K - 12
    - Mask breaks may occur when social distancing is possible and will occur while eating and during vigorous physical activity
    - Masks must cover nose and mouth
    - Masks reduce the risk of transmission in areas where distancing is difficult
  - Visitors must wear face coverings
- **Health Aides**
  - 1 per school building

Scenario A Information

At School

- In person attendance for all students in grades 4K - 12, 5 days per week, following the established school calendar.
- Risk mitigation procedures in place.
- Parents commit to one trimester at a time for the remote learning option.

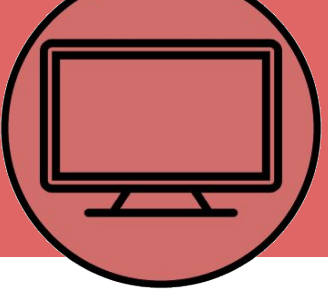
  Note: Remote learning will be an option for any student(s) whose family chooses it.

Scenario B Information

Blended

Universal guidelines 4K-12:

- Monday/Tuesday and Thursday/Friday cohorts for in person learning. Remote learning on the other three days.
  - Students divided by alphabet, with exceptions for families with multiple last names in the household (A-L on Monday/Tuesday; M-Z on Thursday/Friday)
- Wednesdays primarily utilized for cleaning and teacher planning.



Scenario C Information

Computer-based/Remote

Elementary: Asynchronous (not following a specified daily schedule)
Secondary: Synchronous (following a specified daily schedule)

- Instruction
  - Quality online instruction, consistency among staff, and regular student/teacher interactions
  - Standard grading
- Technology
  - Grades 5-12 will have school-issued Chromebooks.
  - Grades K-4 students who need a device will be provided with one.
- Pupil Service Staff
  - Modified working schedule so someone is available in evening for parents.
  - Mental health resources available for students/parents to access.

Communication

- District website has a dedicated page for school reopening plans and other information related to COVID-19.
  - Parent and staff survey summary data
  - Frequently Asked Questions document

- Emails, text messages, and phone calls via School Messenger

- District Facebook (School District of West De Pere)

Next Steps

- Continual review of the status of the virus and refinement of details as needed
- August 17 - final School Board review
- Monthly updates to the School Board throughout the school year

Resources

- Center for Disease Control (CDC)
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- De Pere Health Department
- Wisconsin Department of Health Services
- Department of Public Instruction
- Bellin Health
- Aurora/Baycare
- Prevea/HSHS

Thank you!

Thank you for your patience as we continue to work toward our three commitments to academic progress, social-emotional well-being, and physical safety.