



**District/PSA Template for the  
Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan  
as Described in Public Act 149, Section 98a**

**August 27, 2020**

**September 3, 2020 Clarifications**

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.

District/PSA educational goals written for all students and all subgroups must be established no later than September 15, 2020 and submitted in their Plan to the ISD or Authorizing Body, as applicable, no later than October 1, 2020 for approval. ISDs and PSAs will transmit the approved plan to the state superintendent of public instruction and the state treasurer.

This is a Review Only document. Please download it as a Microsoft Word document to add your own District/PSA logo and Extended Covid-19 Learning Plan.

District/PSA Extended COVID-19 Learning Plans should be submitted to the ISD or Authorizing Body as a PDF file.



## **Ithaca Public Schools/GSRP Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan**

Address of School District/PSA: 710 N. Union St. Ithaca, MI 48847

District/PSA Code Number: 29060

District/PSA Website Address: [www.ithacaschools.net](http://www.ithacaschools.net)

District/PSA Contact and Title: Sarah Kettelhohn, Interim Superintendent

District/PSA Contact Email Address: [skettelhohn@ithacaschools.net](mailto:skettelhohn@ithacaschools.net)

Name of Intermediate School District/PSA: Gratiot-Isabella RESD

Name of PSA Authorizing Body (if applicable):

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, 2020.
2. The District/PSA will create and make available on its transparency reporting link located on the District/PSA's website, a report concerning the progress made in meeting the educational goals contained in its Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan not later than February 1, 2021, for goals its 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/PSA expected would be achieved by the end of the school year.
3. Benchmark Assessments: The District/PSA will
  - select a benchmark assessment or benchmark assessments that is/are 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 2020-2021 school year and again not later than the last day of the of the 2020-2021 school year.
4. 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.
5. The District/PSA, in consultation with a local health department 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. 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
6. 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.
7. 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 2020-2021 school year,
  - the District/PSA will re-confirm how instruction will be delivered during the 2020-2021 school year thirty days after ISD approval of the plan, and every 30 days thereafter at a meeting of the Board, and
  - public comment will be solicited from the parents or legal guardians of the pupils enrolled in the District/PSA during a public meeting described in PA-149.
8. 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.
9. The District/PSA will ensure that two (2), 2-way interactions occur between a pupil enrolled in the District/PSA and the pupil's teacher or at least one (1) of the pupil's teachers during each week of the school year for at least 75% of the pupils enrolled in the District/PSA. The District/PSA will publicly announce its weekly interaction rates at each District/PSA Board meeting where it re-confirms how instruction is being delivered. The District/PSA will make those rates available through the transparency reporting link located on the District/PSA website each month for the 2020-2021 school year.

Sarah Kettelhohn, Interim Superintendent  
District Superintendent or President of the Board of Education/Directors

September 21, 2020  
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 2020-2021 school year.

The COVID-19 global pandemic has had a major impact on 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 number one priority is the education of our students. Because of the wide range of experiences students had during the remote learning portion of the 19-20 school year, we anticipate that students will come to school in the fall of 2020 with a wider than usual range of competencies. We expect that many students will be behind and will need opportunities to catch up. 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 Ithaca Public Schools/GSRP plans to begin the school year in a combination of face-to-face and virtual 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.

## Educational Goals

- **Please outline and describe** the educational goals expected to be achieved for the 2020-2021 school year. The District/PSA must establish all of its goals no later than September 15, 2020. Authorizing bodies expect PSA educational goals will be aligned to the educational goal within your charter contract.
- **Specify** which goals are expected to be achieved by the middle of the school year and which goals are expected to be achieved by the end of the school year.
- **Ensure** that all of the following apply to the educational goals described in this section: (a) The goals include increased pupil achievement or, if growth can be validly and reliably measured using a benchmark assessment or benchmark assessments, growth on a benchmark assessment in the aggregate and for all subgroups of pupils; (b) 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 2020-2021 school year and not later than the last day of the 2020-2021 school year to determine whether pupils are making meaningful progress toward mastery of these standards; and (c) the District's/PSA's educational goals are measurable through a benchmark assessment or benchmark assessments.
- To the extent practicable, the District/PSA will administer the same benchmark assessment or benchmark assessments that it administered to pupils in previous years.

### Quality Evidence-Based Assessment Practices

Ithaca Public School District believes 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 all students twice: once in the first nine weeks of the school year, 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. Progress reports will be available on our website in February and June.

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.

**Goal 1** - All students (K-8) will improve performance in Reading/ELA from Fall to Spring as measured by NWEA\*.

- All teachers will use the formative assessment process to support adjustment to teaching & learning, to support meaningful student progress towards mastery of Reading/ELA academic standards.

- Results from Reading/ELA benchmark assessments, local Reading/ELA summative assessments, and formative assessment will be continuously discussed and analyzed by staff.

**Goal 2** - All students (K-8) will improve performance in Mathematics from Fall to Spring as measured by NWEA.

- All teachers will use the formative assessment process to support adjustment to teaching & learning, to support meaningful student progress towards mastery of Math academic standards.
- Results from Math benchmark assessments, local Math summative assessments, and formative assessment will be continuously discussed and analyzed by staff.

## Instructional Delivery & Exposure to Core Content

- **Please describe** how and where instruction will be delivered during the 2020-2021 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).

Ithaca Public Schools/GSRP will be using a combination of face-to-face and virtual. If a student chooses to do virtual education, one chromebook will be issued per family to help the need of devices in order for students to be able to continue their education. At grades Y5-2nd teachers will be using the online platform Seesaw along with videos of the teacher's instruction and assignments to send out to students doing virtual. In grades 3-12 staff will be recording their lectures, instructions of assignments and using Google Classroom to send out those virtual. Hotspots will be strategically placed throughout the district to allow students and staff internet access if they cannot access from home. For students that are still unable to do virtual learning, due to internet access, they will be provided instructional materials through weekly instructional packets. Instructional materials (i.e. paper, pencils, etc) will be made available to families, and will be located in a designated area of each school. All students will have access to grade-level/course textbooks/resources as needed to complete their work. The district will do everything it can to meet student/family needs and allow for full participation.

Teachers will be accessible every day for the first trimester between 1:55-2:55 for grades 3-6 and 2:15-3:15 for grades PK-2 to communicate, answer student's question, and help virtual students. This communication maybe through email, phone, Zoom, google website. Virtual students will be required to come in to the school building between 1:55-2:55 for grades 3-12to take any state required test and classroom final examination. For PK-2 grades will determine and notify parents of virtual students testing dates and times.

Teachers will monitor and use the same timeline for completion of assignments whether student is fact – to-face or virtual.

- **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.

All teachers in core academic areas at Ithaca Public Schools/GSRP must meet the “highly qualified” federal requirements. Staff at north and south elementary use the MAISA units for best practice and implementing instructional strategies to align to state standards. Staff have also collaborated in grade level meetings to discuss the alignment and implementation of scope and sequence for virtual students as the same for in-person education. This allows staff to implement instructional approaches to meet the range of student needs as they return to school in the fall, identify assessment ideas that 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

All staff will work to engage students whether face-to-face or virtual by:

- Nurture positive climate for learning
- Establish and maintain classroom norms and learning routines
- Implement culturally responsive teaching practices
- Encourage student collaboration
- Engage students in meaningful learning opportunities

- **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**

Ithaca Public School District/GSRP 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. One way we determine if students are making progress is use of 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.

In grades PK-2 progress reports and report cards as well as the dibels and NWEA results are sent to parents.

At grades 3-12 we make available to our parents and legal guardians a web-based system 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 trimester 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 trimester.

## 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

Ithaca Public Schools ensures all students equitable access to technology and internet by offering a student who chooses to do virtual education one chromebook per family to help the need of devices in order for students to be able to continue their education. At grades Y5-2nd grade the virtual program (LMS) teachers will be using to educate their students is Seesaw. In grades 3-12 students and staff will be using Google Classroom. Hotspots will be strategically placed throughout the district to allow students and staff internet access if they cannot access from home. This was described in our Continuity of Learning Plan previously submitted to the state.

- **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

When school starts, students' IEPs, IFSPs, 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. Resources to consider: [www.ithacaschools.net](http://www.ithacaschools.net)

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 Ithaca Public School District full instructional plan addresses ways all learners are supported and can be found in the [www.ithacaschools.net](http://www.ithacaschools.net)