



Forest Area Community Schools Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan *as described in Public Act 149, Section 98a*

September 28, 2020

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 superintendent of public instruction and the state treasurer.

**Forest Area Community School District
Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan**

Address of School District/PSA: 7741 Shippy Rd SW

District/PSA Code Number: 40020

District/PSA Website Address: www.forestarea.org

District/PSA Contact and Title: Joshua Rothwell, Superintendent

District/PSA Contact Email Address: jrothwell@forestarea.org

Name of Intermediate School District/PSA: Traverse Bay Area

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 no 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 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 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

- o 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
 - o instruction will be delivered as described in this plan and re-confirmed by the District/PSA Board,
 - o the description of instructional delivery in this plan matches the delivery of instruction to be delivered during the 2020-2021 school year,
 - o the District/PSA will re-confirm how instruction will be delivered during the 2020-2021 school year thirty days after the approval of the plan, and every 30 days thereafter at a meeting of the Board, and
 - o 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.



Joshua T. Rothwell
District Superintendent

September 28, 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 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. Our school district is in Region 6. In accordance with the Michigan Safe Schools Roadmap and Executive Order 2020-142, we are currently implementing the requirements and recommendations as detailed in our district's preparedness and response plan. https://forestarea.org/downloads/district_files/forest_area_covid-19_prep_and_response_plan.pdf

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 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.

While we believe the best education is comprehensive in nature and best experienced in-person with fellow students, we recognize that COVID-19 may challenge our ability to provide that opportunity to all students all year. Therefore, we are developing this Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan so that we are prepared to meet the individual health, safety, and educational needs for each student regardless of whether that student is learning in-person, remotely, or otherwise.

When students are learning remotely, our top priority is active student engagement in the curriculum through a learning community while supporting the social and emotional needs which may become barriers to academic success. We will do this through regular 2-way communication between teachers and students.

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 was administered to pupils in previous years.

Quality Evidence-Based Assessment Practices

The Forest 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, Forest Area Community 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. The TBAISD region has made formative assessment a primary area of focus for professional development in recent years and is well positioned to proceed successfully with this work.

Educational Goals

The aimsweb Plus assessments in reading and mathematics will be administered to all students three times: once in the first nine weeks of the school year, once mid 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.

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 aimsweb Plus results.

Middle of the Year Reading Goal	80% of students (K-8) will improve performance in Reading/ELA from Fall to Winter as measured by AIMSweb Plus. <ul style="list-style-type: none">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.
End of the Year Reading Goal	80% of students (K-8) will improve performance in Reading/ELA from Winter to Spring as measured by AIMSweb Plus. <ul style="list-style-type: none">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.
Middle of the Year Mathematics Goal	80% of students (K-8) will improve performance in Mathematics from Fall to Winter as measured by AIMSweb Plus. <ul style="list-style-type: none">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.
End of the Year Mathematics Goal	80% of students (K-8) will improve performance in Mathematics from Winter to Spring as measured by AIMSweb Plus. <ul style="list-style-type: none">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.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Results from Math benchmark assessments, local Math summative assessments, and formative assessment will be continuously discussed and analyzed by staff.
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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).

Note: The Forest Area Community School District full instructional plan can be found here: [https://forestarea.org/downloads/district files/forest area covid-19 prep and response plan.pdf](https://forestarea.org/downloads/district%20files/forest%20area%20covid-19%20prep%20and%20response%20plan.pdf)

Mode of Instruction

To start the school year, all students will attend school every day for face-to-face instruction or virtual instruction. Student and staff health and safety will be addressed through a cohort model that keeps students together for the entire school day. Middle and high school students will follow a block schedule each day to minimize transitions throughout the day.

- **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.

Note: The Forest Area School District full instructional plan can be found at [https://forestarea.org/downloads/district files/forest area covid-19 prep and response plan.pdf](https://forestarea.org/downloads/district%20files/forest%20area%20covid-19%20prep%20and%20response%20plan.pdf).

In-Person Learning: When conditions allow, students will have the opportunity to participate in courses at our schools delivered in-person. These classes will follow our normal calendar and bell schedule, implementing the requirements and recommendations as specified in our [https://forestarea.org/downloads/district files/forest area covid-19 prep and response plan.pdf](https://forestarea.org/downloads/district%20files/forest%20area%20covid-19%20prep%20and%20response%20plan.pdf). During these classes, while students are participating in our regular curriculum lessons and activities, teachers will show students how to access content through the OTUS LMS as well. These guided practice lessons in school will prepare and equip students to access the lessons and activities so they can continue to participate and progress in the curriculum in case they are required to stay home due to COVID-19.

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, a temporary closure of the school, or movement of our region into Phases 1-3. When this occurs, teachers will continue to post course content remotely, and teachers will arrange opportunities for students to connect with them remotely as well, **making 2 way contact with students at least 2 times per week**. The goal during this learning will be to ensure the students continue to progress through the planned 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.

When a reliable, adequate internet connection is not available at a student's home, the student will be able to access remote learning systems at a community WIFI location to complete offline. These lessons will be submitted the next time the student connects at the WIFI location. When appropriate, printed packets of materials may also be provided as an alternative to students for continuing their learning.

Virtual Delivery Option: For students whose families have decided 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 an online platform. 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, highly-qualified content area 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. This teacher will also attend to the Social-Emotional and learning needs of the student and make appropriate referrals to school support personnel (counselors, social workers, technology support specialists, principal, etc) as required. When students elect this option, the district will ensure the student has access to the Internet and an appropriate device for learning. If necessary, the district will work with the family to provide these resources. ***Teachers will make two-way contact with students regarding their learning at least 2 times per week.***

Curriculum and Instruction: Academic Standards

The Forest Area School District curriculum for core academic areas is aligned to state standards. All courses, whether in-person or remote, will continue to follow the district's established curriculum scope and sequence. The course content will be delivered and made available through a blend of direct instruction and online resources. When normally "In-Person" students are learning "Remotely," they will continue to engage with the coursework according to their normal schedule and sequence. The expectation is these students will continue to progress through the district's established curriculum at more or less the standard pace and remain on track with their learning cohort.

All virtual courses have been aligned to deliver content, by semester, which meets the district's established curriculum. In some cases, the content may be delivered in a different sequence, but the same standards will be delivered within each course.

Because units of instruction for virtual courses may not be in the same sequence as in-person courses, students are highly encouraged to complete at least the current semester before transitioning between the two modes of delivery to minimize the chance of missing academic standards.

- **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

The Forest Area Community 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 PowerSchool available to our parents and legal guardians. This 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.

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 Forest 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 Forest 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 https://forestarea.org/downloads/district_files/forest_area_covid-19_prep_and_response_plan.pdf.

- **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 may be found at <https://www.altshift.education/resources/remote-learning-resources>

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 Forest Area School District full instructional plan addresses ways all learners are supported and can be found at

[https://forestarea.org/downloads/district files/forest area covid-19 prep and response plan.pdf](https://forestarea.org/downloads/district%20files/forest%20area%20covid-19%20prep%20and%20response%20plan.pdf).