



Alternative Educational Academy of Iosco County

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Return to Learn and Continuity of Services Plan 2023-2024

School Year: 2023-2024

District Code Number: 35902

Email Address of the District: twilliams@ioscoresa.net

Name of Intermediate School District: Iosco RESA

Name of Authorizing Body (if applicable): Iosco RESA

District Reviewed and Public Comment: March 12, 2024

The Alternative Educational Academy continues to take action steps to ensure safe in-person instruction and the implementation of strategies to analyze and respond to student learning loss associated with the COVID-19 Pandemic. The impacts of the pandemic are many and include unfinished or interrupted instruction, truancy, and increased need for mental health and academic support. The Alternative Educational Academy is committed to meeting students “where they are at” in providing the curriculum, programs, instruction, school personnel, counselors, and support necessary to address their needs and mitigate further COVID-19 repercussions. The following plan details the current strategies the Academy has adopted to safely sustain healthy operations, continue in-person instruction, and to address learning loss associated with the pandemic.

As a recipient of ARP ESSER funds to support our mitigation efforts following the pandemic, the Alternative Educational Academy is required to develop this plan and make it publicly available on our website. Further, this plan and public comments, will be reviewed at a minimum of every six months. The public may comment at any time at an Alternative Educational Academy board meeting, utilizing the “contact us” feature on the Academy website, www.ioscoaea.net, or by contacting Academy Director Tina Williams at twilliams@ioscoresa.net.

Instructional Model

The Alternative Educational Academy of Iosco County (AEA) provides online curriculum to all enrolled pupils and operates under Virtual Learning Options (Section 5-0-D of the Michigan Department of Education’s Pupil Accounting Manual). Pupils receive all academic instruction in courses they are registered for through a digital learning environment. These courses will continue to be offered and students will be able to attend and participate in online courses throughout the 2023-2024 school year.

Students will continue to access their curriculum both in-person at one of our learning labs and/or online from another location. Student Educational Development Plans (EDPs) will indicate the student schedule (attendance tier) and will be approved by the student, parent/guardian, and school officials. This schedule can be adjusted at any time to meet the safety and/or educational needs of the student.

Access to the internet as well as an electronic device capable of accessing electronic instruction (cell phone, tablet, laptop, etc...) is required for pupils to successfully complete their online courses. The Alternative Educational Academy of Iosco County will provide internet access and/or electronic devices to any enrolled pupil who communicates a need for necessary equipment whenever possible.

Instruction and communication will continue between the teacher of record/mentor and the pupil each week. Instruction and communication options include direct/in-person, phone conversations, email correspondence, Facebook messenger, texting, learning management system (Edmentum) messaging, and video conferencing. Two-way communication between the teacher of record/mentor and the pupil is required weekly and will continue to be a requirement throughout the 2023-2024 school year.

Educational Goals

NWEA MAP assessments will be administered to all students twice per year; in the fall and spring. Additionally, middle school students will also be assessed mid-year. Formative assessments will provide information to inform our progress toward our goals over the course of the year.

In addition to the formative assessments, the Alternative Educational Academy also analyzes student progress in credits earned (grades 9-12) or courses completed (grades 6-8).

It is the goal of the Alternative Educational Academy that:

- 80% of the middle and high school students enrolled at the AEA for the entire 2023-2024 school year will show 1 year's academic growth (NWEA Assessments)
- 80% of middle school students enrolled each full semester will complete and pass two core academic courses (Learning Management System)
- 80% of high school students enrolled each full semester will complete and earn .5 credit towards their diploma (Michigan Merit Curriculum)
- 100% of the students enrolled will complete an Educational Development Plan

Mental Health Supports

The District has implemented a weekly mental health survey through iWellness to identify students needing immediate mental health support. Additionally, we have increased our mental health services by providing increased school social worker (direct) and counseling (through the 31N program of Iosco RESA) services. Students can access all services either in-person or remotely as determined and requested by the individual.

Family members needing mental health support may reach out to any staff member at any of our campuses to be connected to community mental health services.

Extended Learning

The District has hired additional support staff to assist students with learning loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Additional support is also available through summer learning and credit recovery program. If any student needs additional support, parents and/or students may reach out to their assigned teacher-mentor to develop an individualized plan to address the specific needs of that student.

Specialized Services

The Alternative Educational Academy has Special Education staff available to serve all Special Education Students (both virtual and in-person) at our learning labs. Staff will provide the support necessary to address learning needs and provide accommodations to ensure students can reach their IEP goals, social-emotional goals, and 504 plan requirements.

Food Service

Food service will continue normal operations at each campus. Students wishing to attend school virtually may pick up meals between 11:00-3:00 each school day.

Transportation

Normal transportation services will occur.

Health Screenings

The student enrollment packet will contain information regarding screening for COVID-19 symptoms. Parents/guardians/students should conduct a health screening before attending an in-person learning session at the Alternative Educational Academy.

Student Illness

Students exhibiting the following symptoms that are new or may experience a change from baseline health or chronic illness, should remain home or may be excluded from school until the student is symptom-free for 24 hours without the aid of medication or as indicated for their illness.

- Temperature 100.4 +
- Sore Throat
- New onset of cough
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Abdominal pain
- New onset of headache
- Loss of taste or smell
- Congestion or runny nose
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches

Masks

Masks or face coverings are not required for students, staff, volunteers, or visitors. Masks are available upon request.

Hand Washing

The District strongly recommends and encourages frequent hand washing. Hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms and offices.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

The Alternative Educational Academy will continue to follow the recommendations of the Health Department District #2 when cleaning and disinfecting. Additional measures will take place to ensure disinfection of each campus if a positive COVID-19 case is identified.

COVID-19 Testing

COVID-19 testing is not required. Covid-19 testing kits will be available to families by request as supplies last. To request a Covid-19 kit, please contact your student's teacher-mentor.

Social Distancing

Social distancing is recommended (maintaining 3-6 feet of space) but not required. Classroom group activities are permitted.

Vaccinations

The District is **not** requiring staff or students to be vaccinated. MDHHS and the CDC recommend COVID-19 vaccination as the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic.

Volunteers/Guests

Volunteers and guests are permitted on campus and to attend in-person events following district procedures (volunteer form, sign-in sheets)

Activities/Field Trips/Other In-Person Events

We will continue to provide in-person events as appropriate including field trips, extracurricular activities, and guest speakers. These events will be optional and will not be required.

In-person state assessments will be required of all students. Students on a zero tier may request to be assessed on an alternate schedule and will be accommodated as we have staff and facilities available.