

Executive Staff
Dan Leffingwell, Superintendent
Trenda Heddleson, Treasurer
Danielle Davis, Executive Secretary
Ginny Dudley, Assistant Treasurer
Tacy Rich, Assistant Treasurer

Noble Local School District
20977 Zep Rd East
Sarahsville, Ohio 43779
Phone 740-732-2084
Fax 740-732-7669



Board of Education
Ed McKee, Board President
Kevin Stottsberry, Vice President
Lori McElroy, Board Member
Guy Carpenter, Board Member
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NOBLE LOCAL SCHOOL

Safe Return to In-person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

The recently passed American Rescue Plan (ARP) provides federal resources to support states and local school districts in their post pandemic efforts to fulfill required components of the plan.

The Noble Local Board of Education, administration, staff, and school community believes that the best place for children to learn is in-person. Noble Local has been providing face-to-face instruction, five days a week, to our students since September 7, 2020, maintaining the same standards of high expectations, systems of support, and active engagement as in previous years. Student progress is consistently monitored using all available data to make decisions that support the differentiated needs of students' academic, physical, and social and emotional well-being. Noble Local will continue these same services during the 2021-2022 academic year.

Our approach to health and safety for the 2021-2022 school year will be accomplished through the review of the health and safety guidelines established by the CDC, the Ohio Department of Health, the Ohio Department of Education, the Noble County Health Department (NCHD), and other laws and/ or health orders issued by the Ohio Legislation and/ or the Director of Public Health for Ohio.

The following are mitigation strategies that have been considered and addressed:

1. Universal and Correct Wearing of Masks:

Staff and students will be permitted to wear a mask if they deem it appropriate. Staff and students not vaccinated will be informed of the current CDC recommendations to wear a mask, however they will not be required to wear a mask. Information on the proper way to wear a mask (CDC) will be provided to all staff and students.

2. **Physical Distancing;**

The district will return to pre-pandemic protocols. Where it makes sense, teachers will space students 3-feet apart, but there are no expectations to limit instructional opportunities in order to social distance. Students will function in pairs, small groups, assemblies, etc. as they were prior to the pandemic.

3. **Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;**

School nurses will provide teachers with the proper tools (videos/ posters) to train students on the proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette. Frequent hand washing and sanitizing will be a part of every staff member and student's day. Hand sanitizing stations will be stationed throughout each building.

4. **Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;**

Cleaning protocols will return to pre-pandemic practices. At a minimum classrooms and school buses will be sanitized daily with additional sanitizing during times of increased illness among staff/ students, using an electrostatic EPA registered disinfectant. Hand sanitizer will be available in every classroom, in hallways, and on school buses. Continued improvements/ additions will be made to increase safety and HVAC systems across the district to mitigate pathogen transmission.

5. **Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the state, local, territorial or tribal health departments;**

The district will follow all laws and cooperate with the Noble County Health Department if contract tracing and quarantine is required.

6. **Diagnostic and screening testing;**

Nurses will continue to use screening tools to determine if students are able to participate in-person. Students must be system free for 24 hours before returning and/ or have a physician release to return to school.

7. **Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff and students, if eligible; and**

In partnership with the Noble County Health Department, the district will assist in providing any staff/students with opportunities to become vaccinated.

8. **Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies.**

Individual needs of students with disabilities will continue to be addressed through their IEP or 504 plans. Current plans will be reviewed by school personnel to determine if proposed amendments should be recommended to the team in order to address

educational concerns as it relates to health and safety. If amendments are proposed, the team will convene to review the IEP or 504 plan to make necessary changes. In addition, a team meeting may also be convened if parents, guardians, or school staff members, which may include intervention specialists, related service providers, school counselor, district representative, or school nurse have any concerns related to the health and safety of a student with a disability. Progress will continue to be monitored for each student.

Student Academic Needs:

Noble Local is a 1:1 device district. All staff and students have a device assigned to them for teaching and learning. Assignments and academic support flow through Google Classroom. The district utilizes district and classroom assessment tools to determine the academic needs for students and provide targeted/ differentiated academic supports.

- Assessments utilized include but are not limited to: STAR, DIBELS, PAST, Reading Benchmarks, Read 180, iRead, System 44, Pre/Post grade level and Content (Edulastic), CogAT, Iowa, all required state assessment data, and IXL.
- Other Data analyzed: attendance, discipline, parent, staff, student, and community surveys/ feedback.

Expanded learning will be provided throughout the school year via in-school, after school, and/or online platforms as needed. Building Level and Intervention Assistance teams will continue to play a vital role in assessing and communicating the intervention/ enrichment needs of students.

Student/ staff social, emotional, mental health needs:

Noble Local will continue to closely monitor and assess the social/emotional/mental health needs of our staff and students. Our Guidance Counselors, Life & Purpose Therapist, Nurses, School Resource Officers, Administrative, Classified, and Certified staff will remain vigilant to the needs of all students. Additional programming, surveys, and/or outside services may be utilized to address any SEL issues/ concerns. PBIS, Building Level and Intervention Assistance teams will continue to play a vital role in assessing and communicating the needs of students to the appropriate agency (ie. Job & Family Services) if necessary. After-school programming may also be offered to address certain groups of students and/ or parents who may have similar issues/needs.

Food Service:

The Ohio Department of Education has granted a waiver that allows all students, regardless of their free and reduced meal application status, a free school breakfast/ lunch through June of 2022. Noble Local will continue offering daily food service that meets all federal requirements. Any families that are known to struggle will be confidentially directed to local organizations/locations of food pantries and free meal services. Schools

will continue to participate in local food drives and/or make donations to help keep our food pantries well-stocked for those in need.

This plan is accessible to our stakeholders, and will be monitored and revised as necessary based on ongoing review through September 30, 2023. At a minimum, plans will be reviewed twice during the 2021-2022 school year. Public input will be considered for all revisions of the plan. If any person would like to provide input, they can email the Director of Student Services, Marcia Murphy (marcia.murphy@gozeps.org).