



Michigan Online School 209 S. State Street PO Box 408 Gobles, MI 49055
Phone: 269-216-6972 FAX: 269-329-1234

District/PSA Name: Michigan Online School
District/PSA Address: 209 S. State Street, PO Box 408 Gobles, MI 49055
District/PSA Website: www.michiganonlineschool.com
District/PSA Contact: Stephanie Hargens, Superintendent
District/PSA Contact Email Address: shargens@michiganonlineschool.com
Intermediate School District: Van Buren ISD
PSA Authorizing Body: Gobles Public Schools

Introduction and Background

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2. The ARP Act includes nearly \$122 billion for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER III) Fund that allows state and local education agencies (LEAs) to take additional steps for continued safe in-person instruction and to address unfinished teaching and learning to mitigate the COVID-19 Pandemic.

These resources will allow school districts to take additional measures to safely sustain their healthy operations, this includes using funds to enact appropriate measures to help schools to invest in mitigation strategies consistent with the Centers for Disease Control and Preventions' (CDC) Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools to the greatest extent practicable; address the many impacts of COVID-19 on students, including unfinished instruction; implement strategies to meet student's social, emotional, mental health, and academic needs; offer crucial summer, afterschool, and other extended learning and enrichment programs; support early childhood education; invest in staff capacity; and avoid devastating layoffs at this critical moment, ensuring that all students have access to teachers, counselors and other school personnel to support their needs.

Section 2001(i)(1) of the ARP Act requires that each LEA that receives ARP ESSER funds to develop and make publicly available on the LEA's website, no later than 30 days after receiving ARP ESSER funds, a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services for all schools (Safe Return Plan). A Safe Return Plan is required of all fund recipients, including those that have already returned to in-person instruction. Section 2001(i)(2) of the ARP act further requires that the LEA seek public comment on the Safe Return Plan and take these comments into account in finalization of the Safe Return Plan.

Michigan Online School Continuity of Services Plan

Michigan Online School (MOS) is updating this document to meet the requirements as a recipient of ARP funds. (Section 2001(i) of the ARP Act) This document is subject to change with future orders or mandates from federal, state or county agencies. The MOS Board of Directors remains committed to monitoring and responding to local data and making operational decisions in consultation with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). The Board of Education authorizes the

Approved by the Michigan Online School Board of Directors April 15, 2024



Michigan Online School 209 S. State Street PO Box 408 Gobles, MI 49055
Phone: 269-216-6972 FAX: 269-329-1234

Superintendent to make decisions adjusting this plan in response to local COVID-19 data and MDHHS recommendations specific to Michigan Online School. This plan will be reviewed no less frequently than every six months.

Instructional Model

Michigan Online School is a fully online public-school academy serving students K-12 across the state of Michigan. All K-12 students are enrolled as 100% virtual learners. Student and staff health and safety will be addressed throughout the school year. To best serve our community, MOS will continue to offer an online instructional model with various in-person events throughout the state, periodically and as conditions permit.

Quality, Evidence-Based Assessment Practices

Michigan Online School 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. Michigan Online School 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 to modify instruction. We believe the use of the formative assessment process, which is supported by an extensive body of research, provides real time data for both our teachers and students to accelerate their learning and progress.

Educational Goals

iReady assessments in reading and mathematics are administered to all students three times each year: once in the first 9 weeks of the school year, once in February, and again in the last month of school. Formative assessments as well as winter iReady 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 part of the 98b reporting requirements.

As a means of continuous improvement in teaching and learning, all teachers will have dedicated time to collaborate with their colleagues about their assessment practices, engage in data reviews, and identify instructional strategies based on the data during collaborative time.

Goal 1 – All students will improve performance in Reading from Fall to Spring as measured by iReady.

- 60% of students in grades K-8 will achieve growth on the iReady Reading Assessment in 2023-2024. (55% of students in grades K-8 will achieve growth on the iReady Reading Assessment in 2022-2023.)
- All teachers will use the formative assessment process to support teaching and learning, to support meaningful student progress towards mastery of Reading academic standards.



Michigan Online School 209 S. State Street PO Box 408 Gobles, MI 49055
Phone: 269-216-6972 FAX: 269-329-1234

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

Goal 2 – All students will improve performance in Mathematics from Fall to Spring as measured by iReady.

- 60% of students in grades K-8 will achieve growth on the iReady Math Assessment in 2023-2024. (55% of students in grades K-8 will achieve growth on the iReady Math Assessment in 2022-2023.)
- All teachers will use the formative assessment process to support teaching and learning, to support meaningful student progress towards mastery of Mathematics academic standards.
 - Results from the iReady Mathematics benchmark assessments, local Mathematics summative assessments, and formative assessment will be continuously discussed and analyzed by staff.

Curriculum and Instruction: Academic Standards

The Michigan Online School curriculum for core academic areas is aligned to state standards. As teachers navigate the wider than usual range of competencies this year, they will work collaboratively to plan for differentiation of content, use results from pre-assessments to inform instruction, and identify the Essential Standards. Teachers will implement instructional approaches to meet the range of student needs; assess and provide instruction in the content areas in the virtual learning environment; and incorporate wellness practices into instruction. All courses will continue to follow the district's established curriculum scope and sequence.

As our teachers work to engage students in the virtual environment, they will continue to provide the following:

- Putting students first.
- Intentional outreach to continue building relationships and maintain connections.
- Provide opportunities for positive feedback/connection between students and teachers.
- Acknowledge students' current situation and context.
- Provide students with appropriate support to process events.
- Utilize school and community resources to provide mental health support.
- Partner with families to support student learning through ongoing communication and collaboration.
- Staff will maintain regular/consistent schedules and routines to provide normalcy to daily learning.
- Options for students that tap into students' interests, readiness levels, and learning styles while providing families flexibility.
- Engage families as partners through high levels of communication and a recognition that parents and guardians are the student's first teachers.
- Check for learning through formative assessment practices and encourage students to monitor their own learning.



Michigan Online School 209 S. State Street PO Box 408 Gobles, MI 49055

Phone: 269-216-6972 FAX: 269-329-1234

- Build on families' diverse backgrounds and recognize those backgrounds as assets while creating your lessons.

Ensure that all students have the appropriate technology to access the virtual classroom keeping in mind each student may have a unique learning situation, such as:

- Students may be home alone while adults are working.
- Students may speak a language other than English.
- Students may have parents who speak a language other than English and cannot assist with schoolwork.
- Students may have learning and/or other disabilities.
- Students may be coping with illness or loss of a family member.
- Students may be struggling with anxiety or depression.
- Staff may also be providing care for their families and, in many cases, their own children while supporting students in the online classroom.

Assessment and Grading

Michigan Online School bases its assessment system on the Michigan Standards. Students are regularly assessed at the district and classroom level to determine if they are making progress toward meeting these standards. A variety of assessments are used to collect data including formative, interim, and summative assessments. Formative assessment is critical in the instructional process so that students receive timely feedback that helps them know what they need to do to improve. This data also provides the teacher with important information to know how to adjust the teaching and learning process to meet each student's needs.

Summative assessments at the district and classroom levels are given at the end of a period of learning as an evaluation of what has been learned and summative assessments are part of the grading process. 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. The Online Learning System provides parents and guardians 24/7 access to their child's class schedule, grades, and messaging. Teachers keep up-to-date information on student grades in the Power School. Progress reports and report cards are also sent to parents and guardians throughout the school year. This is in addition to the expectation set for all teachers to keep parents and guardians abreast of any concerns regarding a student's grade through emails and phone calls.

Equitable Access

Michigan Online School ensures all students will be provided access to technology and the online learning platform as described in the Continuity of Learning Plan. The district has processes in place to identify student needs and to work collaboratively with families to remove any barriers for access to learning.



Michigan Online School 209 S. State Street PO Box 408 Gobles, MI 49055
Phone: 269-216-6972 FAX: 269-329-1234

Mental Health Supports

The district has increased mental health services by providing additional counselors, social workers, and resource counselors. The funding for these additional services has come through 310 and ESSER grants, as well as from the district's general fund.

Extended Learning

Schools have hired intervention teachers to assist students with learning loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic. These positions are funded through Title I, ESSER grants, and general funds. The district was also able to offer an expanded summer school program and tutoring for students.

Specialized Services

Michigan Online School ensures a continuation of services for students receiving speech and language, occupational therapy, physical therapy, resource room or social work services within students' Individualized Education Plan (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.

Michigan Online School has an English Language Learning teacher to provide access and additional opportunities to support English Learners with language development/acquisition. Parents and families will continue to be supported in their native language(s) as needed.

Students enrolled in Michigan Online School with 504 plans in place will continue to receive appropriate accommodations as specified through their 504 plans. Students that have social or emotional needs will be provided with resources (personnel, curriculum and/or supplemental supports) to support those needs.

Food Service

As a fully online public-school academy, Michigan Online School does not offer food services.

COVID-19 Prevention and Mitigation Strategies

Vaccination: MOS encourages parents/guardians to review the MDHHS guidelines and information for the Covid-19 vaccination.

Masks: Masks are optional for all staff and students at in-person events. Students may choose to wear a mask if attending an in-person event due to underlying health conditions, immune system concerns, or any other individual factors.



Michigan Online School 209 S. State Street PO Box 408 Gobles, MI 49055
 Phone: 269-216-6972 FAX: 269-329-1234

Hand Washing: We strongly encourage frequent hand washing. Hand sanitizer will be readily available at in-person events.

Social Distance: We recommend maintaining 3-6 feet of distance whenever feasible at in-person events. Classroom group activities are permitted at in-person events.

Volunteers/Guests: Parents, Guardians, and volunteers will be permitted to attend in-person events where appropriate. Please follow the policies and procedures pertaining to specific events/locations.

Activities/Field Trips/Other In-Person Events: We will continue to provide in-person events throughout the state where and when appropriate.

	Who is Impacted	Public Health Recommendations
COVID-19 Infection	Any individual who tests positive for COVID-19 and/or displays COVID-19 symptoms (without an alternate diagnosis or negative COVID-19 test) regardless of vaccination status.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isolate at home for 5 days (day "0" is day symptoms begin or day test was taken for those without symptoms); and If symptoms have improved or no symptoms developed, may leave isolation after day 5 and wear a well-fitting mask, for 5 more days (ending after day 10).*
COVID-19 Exposure	Close contact exposed to someone with COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor symptoms for 10 days. Test 5 days after exposure and if symptoms develop. Wear a well-fitting mask around others for 10 days after exposure. Avoid unmasked activities or activities with higher risk of exposing vulnerable individuals.**

* You may remove your mask sooner than day 10 with two sequential negative antigen tests 48 hours apart. If a mask cannot be worn, 10 days of home isolation is recommended.
 ** Activities with immunocompromised or other high-risk individuals, social/recreational activities in congregate settings or when community levels are high.

Public Comment

Michigan Online School applied to and received Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds (ESSER) to address learning recovery and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are



Michigan Online School 209 S. State Street PO Box 408 Gobles, MI 49055
Phone: 269-216-6972 FAX: 269-329-1234

designated for one-time or short-term expenditures to address the ongoing impact of the pandemic. MOS requested public feedback from all district and community stakeholders to help determine how the district should best utilize these resources to address unfinished learning, ongoing COVID-19 recovery, and Federal Program grant funds. The district shared results of the stakeholder feedback with the MGLVA Board of Directors at its January 21, 2022, meeting, in all-school newsletters, and in all-team meetings.

Periodic Review Process

This Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services plan will be reviewed as necessary or at least every six months.

Understandable and Uniform Format

This Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services plan will be available on the MOS website at <https://michiganonlineschool.com/financials/>