



# NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Ambler · Buckland · Deering · Kiana · Kivalina · Kobuk · Kotzebue · Noatak · Noorvik · Selawik · Shungnak  
PO Box 51 · Kotzebue, Alaska 99752 · Phone (907) 442-1800

## NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

### American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act

### MITIGATION PLAN

Last Updated: July 20, 2022

**MISSION:** To provide a learning environment that inspires and challenges students and employees to excel  
**VISION:** To graduate all students with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for a successful future



## Contact Information

### District Information

Name of District: Northwest Arctic Borough School District

District Point of Contact Name: Scott Lefebvre, Assistant Superintendent

Address (Street, City, State, Zip): 776 Third Avenue, Kotzebue, Alaska 99752

Phone: 907-442-1804 Email: [slefebvre@nwarctic.org](mailto:slefebvre@nwarctic.org)

## Assurance Agreement for ARP Act Mitigation Plan

The district assures either:

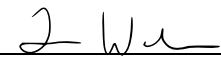
- a) It will, within 30 days of receiving ARP ESSER funds, develop and make publicly available on the district's website a mitigation plan for the safe return and/or continuation of in-person instruction and continuity of services as required in section 2001(i)(1) of the ARP and in the U.S. Department of Education's [Interim Final Requirements](#), or
- b) It developed and made publicly available on the district's website such a mitigation plan that meets statutory requirements before the enactment of the ARP Act that meets -federal requirements. (The ARP Act was enacted on March 11, 2021)

The district assures that:

- a) It will periodically review and revise its mitigation plan, as appropriate, no less frequently than every six months for the duration of the ARP ESSER grant period (i.e., through September 30, 2023); and
- b) It will seek public input, and take such input into account, on (1) whether revisions are necessary and, if so, (2) the proposed revisions to the mitigation plan.

Before making the mitigation plan publicly available, the district **must seek public comment on the mitigation plan** and take such comments into account in the development of the plan.

Name of Superintendent: Terri Walker

Signature: 

Date: 07/20/2022



## Mitigation Plan

### Plan Components

Districts must implement, to the greatest extent practicable, prevention and mitigation policies in line with the most up-to-date guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for the reopening and operation of school facilities to effectively maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff. Describe the extent to which the district adopted policies and a description of such policies on each of the strategies listed below:

#### 1. [Masks](#)

Consistent and [correct mask](#) use is universally required (i.e., required regardless of vaccination status) in all NWABSD buildings and school buses that have **HIGH** [COVID-19 Community Levels](#).

The District will provide masks to those students who need them (including on buses), such as students who forgot to bring their mask or whose families are unable to afford them. No disciplinary action will be taken against a student who does not have a mask as described in the [U.S. Department of Education COVID-19 Handbook, Volume 1](#).

Exceptions for those with disabilities will be determined in accordance with Federal disability law.

The district will continue to follow updated guidance provided by the CDC on the use of masks in school settings.

#### 2. [Physical distancing \(e.g., including use of cohorts/pods\)](#)

During **HIGH** [COVID-19 Community Levels](#), physical distancing of at least 3 feet of distance between students while eating will be maintained unless desk shields are used.

The mitigation layer of cohorting may be used within schools. Cohorting means keeping people together in a small group and having each group stay together throughout an entire day. Cohorting can be used to limit the number of students, teachers, and staff who come in contact with each other, especially in communities of moderate-to-high transmission levels. The use of cohorting can limit the spread of COVID-19 between cohorts but should not replace other prevention measures within each group. Cohorting people who are fully vaccinated and people who are not fully vaccinated into separate cohorts is not recommended. It is a school's responsibility to ensure that cohorting is done in an equitable manner that does not perpetuate academic, racial, or other tracking, as described in the [U.S. Department of Education COVID-19 Handbook, Volume 1](#).

The District will continue to follow updated guidance provided by the CDC on physical distancing.

#### 3. [Handwashing and respiratory etiquette](#)

Schools will monitor and reinforce handwashing and [respiratory etiquette](#) (covering coughs and sneezes) and provide adequate handwashing supplies. Schools will:

- Teach and reinforce [handwashing](#) with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

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- Remind everyone in the facility [to wash hands frequently](#) and assist young children with handwashing.
- Make hand sanitizer available.

The District will help students and staff understand that handwashing and respiratory etiquette should continue beyond the pandemic to prevent other infections.

The District will continue to follow updated guidance provided by the CDC on handwashing and respiratory etiquette.

#### 4. [Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation](#)

High-touch surfaces will be cleaned routinely.

Air filters across the district range between Merv 8-13. Fresh air intake has been increased from 10% intake into buildings to 50% intake.

Exhaust fans are used in kitchens and restrooms.

The District will continue to follow updated guidance provided by the CDC on cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation.

#### 5. [Responding to COVID-19 Cases in Schools](#)

Confidentiality will be provided regarding persons diagnosed with or exposed to COVID – 19.

Parents will be notified if their child is suspected to have been exposed to COVID-19 while at school.

The NWABSD is not responsible for contact tracing. It is up to families and individuals to self-report their COVID status to those that may be considered [close contacts](#).

The District will continue to follow updated guidance provided by the CDC on responding to COVID cases in schools.

#### 6. [Diagnostic screening testing](#)

School staff will advise staff and students who exhibit symptoms to stay home. Students and staff who develop symptoms at school will be placed in an isolation area until transportation can be arranged, or medical attention can be provided. The District will refer staff and students who exhibit symptoms for diagnostic testing at the local clinic.

**TRAVEL:** Students and staff recently diagnosed with COVID-19 will be eligible for District sponsored travel after they are released from isolation by a medical facility **and** 5 full additional days have passed.

The District will continue to follow updated guidance provided by the CDC on diagnostic testing and screening.

#### 7. [Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible](#)

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The District will work with Maniilaq Health Services to support vaccination efforts for staff and students when eligible. The District will use its communication tools and facilities, when appropriate, to help support and accommodate vaccination efforts.

The vaccination status of each staff and student affects their ability to attend school in person. Students and staff that are close contacts or have a household member diagnosed with COVID must follow the CDC guidance below.

- **CLOSE CONTACTS:**

- a) **NOT [up to date on COVID-19 vaccinations:](#)**

- i) Stay home from school for 5 full days after exposure
    - ii) Test on day 5 or later
    - iii) Return to school on the 6<sup>th</sup> day after a negative test result
    - iv) Mask for an additional 5 days after returning to school
    - v) If no test is available, students and staff return to school on the 11<sup>th</sup> day after exposure

- b) **[Up to date on COVID-19 vaccinations](#)**

- i) Monitor for symptoms
    - ii) Test on day 5 or later
    - iii) Mask for 10 days while at school

- **HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS:** Staff and students that have a household member diagnosed COVID positive (regardless of the ability of that household member to isolate) are:

- a) **NOT [up to date on COVID-19 vaccinations](#)**

- i) Quarantine at home
    - ii) Test within the 5 days after the household member has completed their mandatory isolation
    - iii) Return to school on the 6<sup>th</sup> day after a negative test result
    - iv) Mask for an additional 5 days after returning to school
    - v) If no test is available, students and staff may return to school on the 11<sup>th</sup> day after their household member is cleared

- b) **[Up to date on COVID-19 vaccinations](#)**

- i) Monitor for symptoms
    - ii) Mask for the duration of the household member's isolation
    - iii) Test 5 days after the household member has completed their mandatory isolation
    - iv) Mask for an additional 5 days (10 days if no test is available) after the household member completes isolation

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- **90-DAY EXEMPTIONS:** Students and staff who have tested positive for COVID-19 do not need to get tested again or quarantine for up to 3 months as long as they do not develop symptoms. Staff and students who are within 3 months of their bout of COVID-19 and develop symptoms must adhere to the above mitigation.

The District will continue to follow updated guidance provided by the CDC on vaccination efforts.

### 8. [Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies](#)

Schools will make individualized determinations as required by Federal disability laws to determine if an exception to mask requirements is necessary and appropriate. Additional determinations will be made on a case-by-case basis in compliance with Federal disability laws.

## Continuity of Services

*The District will ensure continuity of services including, but not limited to, services to address students' academic needs, as well as the social, emotional, mental health, and other needs of students and staff (e.g., student health and food service).*

The District strives to provide full-time in-person learning and believes that the mitigation strategies above help provide this opportunity. The District will no longer include remote learning in the Red High-Risk Operational Zone. For families who do not want in-person learning for their child, the District continues to offer a [homeschool program](#).

District risk operational zones are determined on a regional basis according CDC [COVID-19 Community Levels](#). The NWABSD has two operational zones: Green Low-Risk Operational Zone and Red High-Risk Operational Zone.

Green Low-Risk and Red High-Risk Operational Zones are based on [COVID-19 Community Levels](#).

MITIGATION	LOW	HIGH
<b>Masking</b>	Masking based on personal preference, informed by personal level of risk	Required universal <a href="#">masking</a> indoors
<b>Physical Distancing or Desk Shields</b>	Use based on personal preference, informed by personal level of risk	Required physical distancing or use of desk shields while eating

If there is an outbreak in a community, the schools will return to universal masking during in-person learning. Every student has a personal device (iPad or laptop) to continue 1:1 learning. Support for social, emotional, and mental health will continue to be provided through Social Emotional Learning (SEL) instructional curriculum with additional support provided by school counselors.

Meal services will continue with the addition of either physical distancing or the use of desk shields for **HIGH** [COVID-19 Community Levels](#).

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### Periodic Review

*The District will periodically review and revise its mitigation plan, as appropriate, including a description of how the district will seek public input and take such input into account on (1) whether revisions are necessary and, if so, (2) the proposed revisions to the plan. Important Note: The district must review its mitigation plan no less frequently than every six months for the duration of the ARP ESSER grant period (i.e., through September 30, 2023).*

The District will provide stakeholder feedback opportunities prior to December and May of each semester through the following means:

- Parent Forums to answer questions and gain feedback
- Community Leadership Meetings to meet with tribal and municipal officials from each community
- Meetings with regional emergency operations officials
- Meetings with staff to answer questions and gain feedback