

Hilliard City School District  
**Safe Continuation of In-Person Instruction  
and Continuity of Services Plan**

District Name:	Hilliard City School District
District Address:	2140 Atlas Street, Columbus, OH 43228
District Contact:	Mike McDonough, Deputy Superintendent <a href="mailto:mike_mcdonough@hboe.org">mike_mcdonough@hboe.org</a> or 614.921-7000, ext. 7010
District IRN:	047019

The recently passed American Rescue Plan (ARP) provides substantial federal resources to support states and local school districts. As a result, local school districts are required to develop a plan, which details the safe return to in-person instruction and the continuity of services. This plan is accessible to our stakeholders, and the plan will be monitored and revised based on ongoing review through September 30, 2023.

**MITIGATION STRATEGIES**

The District will return to pre-pandemic mitigation strategies. Should health conditions shift or stakeholder feedback necessitate, the district will review conditions and mitigation strategies and offer necessary revisions.

- **Universal and correct wearing of masks**

Mask wearing is recommended but not required. Vaccinated individuals do not need to wear a mask, those individuals that have not been vaccinated are asked to wear a mask.

- **Physical distancing (e.g., including use of cohorts/podding)**

The district will return to pre-pandemic protocols. Physical distancing will be recommended, but not required. The district has invested in additional resources to enable safe physical distancing when and if needed to include modular classrooms.

- **Handwashing and respiratory etiquette**

Handwashing will be emphasized throughout the school day. Hand sanitizers are in each classroom and are also placed throughout the buildings and students will be encouraged to sanitize their hands when entering and again when leaving a classroom. Cough and sneeze etiquette will be taught, monitored, and reinforced.

- **Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation**

Cleaning and disinfecting will regularly occur throughout the day in all buildings. In addition to installing the highest MERV-rated filter that a particular building system can handle within the district, air handling units have been repaired or replaced to better manage air flow and outdoor air intake for improved ventilation.

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

Contact tracing will occur based upon Franklin County Public Health guidance for all highly infectious diseases. District nurses have all been trained in this process.

- **Diagnostic and screening testing**

Hilliard City Schools will continue to have testing and screening supplies at nursing clinics. The districts will strategically utilize test kits for COVID concerns in order to keep students safely in school as much as possible.

- **Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible**

The district will continue to encourage faculty, staff, and students to be vaccinated. The district has hosted several clinics this past year and is willing to serve as a host site once again as vaccinations are available.

- **Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies**

The district will build a Health Care Plan to meet the unique health needs of students. This could include home instruction or further mitigation efforts in the school setting.

## SUMMER ACADEMIC SUPPORT

All students will have the opportunity to participate in summer learning opportunities. Students in grades 9-12 may participate in summer school to advance and/or regain credit. Students in grades K-8 may participate in Summer Bridge which provides opportunities for students to re-engage with peers and teachers in a positive, interest-based summer camp experience. The morning session consists of reading and math instruction and the afternoon sessions provide interest based enrichment opportunities. The summer camp sessions will be offered at no cost to families and located at four locations throughout the district to ensure easy access for students. The sessions will take place from June 7-June 18 and July 19-July 30. Sessions will be facilitated by Hilliard faculty in collaboration with FESTA.

Students with disabilities will have the opportunity to not only participate in Summer Bridge but to also participate in engaging extended school year learning opportunities. K-3 students with literacy challenges will have the opportunity to participate in summer support. Freshmen will have the opportunity to engage in a specially designed program that will facilitate a successful transition for students to a new academic level. Rising freshmen who have been disengaged in middle school will be invited to ensure participation.

Incoming kindergarten students will engage in summer screening if conditions are appropriate to welcome students for these assessments. If we cannot host this opportunity in August, incoming kindergarten students will be screened in the first few weeks of their kindergarten year.

District Summer BRIDGE Program Website: <https://www.hilliardschools.org/summerbridge/>

## ASSESSING AND RESPONDING TO STUDENT LEARNING NEEDS

As Hilliard students return to all-in programming in August of 2021, teachers will formally and informally assess students to identify individual student goals and needs in literacy and math. Additionally, Hilliard faculty, instructional coaches, and leaders will administer and analyze data from multiple sources throughout the school year to identify students who need targeted support and develop Student Success Plans and ensure timely identification and response to observed gap areas.

Teachers will support students with gaps through the district wide implementation of the newly revised response to intervention (RTI) framework and high-impact instructional strategies. Literacy support teachers will work with elementary students most at-risk with literacy gaps and provide Tier 2 supports to supplement classroom instruction. This support will occur in small group settings and will provide additional intensive literacy instruction to identified students. Identified freshmen will receive additional literacy support using Achieve 3000 resources. The district will hire an additional 14 Reading and Math Intervention teachers, and 7 English Language teachers in August of 2021.

Middle and high school students will access additional instructional support through study halls and teacher office hours beyond the daily support within classrooms.

School leaders, instructional coaches, department leaders, and RTI teams will work with teachers to develop Student Success Plans with personalized goals that address students' specific learning gaps. They will monitor student progress, achievement, and daily engagement through various data sources and will intentionally select high-impact researched strategies to address student needs. The impact of implemented interventions will be reviewed to determine the necessity of a new or modified intervention.

Student Success Plans, graduation plans, and RIMP plans will be revised as student progress is demonstrated or found to be challenged. Faculty will work to communicate progress with families and engage parents and guardians as partners in problem-solving.

Our special education staff, including school psychologists, intervention specialists, and related service personnel will continue to work with parents, students, and teachers to determine the need for special education services. Students who receive special education services will continue to be provided these services as defined by their Individualized Education Plans. The District will be hiring 2 additional school psychologists and 2 additional speech therapists in August 2021.

## APPROACHES TO IDENTIFY STUDENT SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL NEEDS

**Summer 2021** - Hilliard City Schools faculty will monitor students' social emotional needs and engagement through their participation in Summer Bridge programming. The design of the summer program is to engage students collaboratively around high interest topics that promote joy, peer interaction, and immerse students in the school setting. Students will be observed for their engagement and comfort levels in returning to the school setting in small groups and for shorter increments of time.

The district will also hire additional staff of 10 Social Workers and 7 School Counselors to address student needs. Students demonstrating challenges with self-regulation will be supported with additional goals and strategies by teachers and school counselors. Social workers and agency clinicians will further support teachers with self-regulation techniques. Students will work collaboratively around high interest topics that promote joy, peer interaction, and immerse students in the school setting. A primary goal of the summer experience is to support anxious students through small group settings and for shorter amounts of time before returning in the fall.

Hilliard City Schools faculty will encourage all students to participate in one of the many summer camp offerings available from June through the first of August. The design of the summer program is to engage students collaboratively around high interest topics that promote joy, peer interaction, and immerse students in the school setting. A primary goal of the summer experience is to support anxious students through small group settings and for shorter amounts of time before returning in the fall.

**School Year 2021-22 / 2022-23** - Hilliard students in grades 3-12 will participate in the Panorama SEL Survey in the fall and spring. Results will be analyzed by school counselors, social workers, Boundless clinicians, Syntero, and teachers to identify students' sense of belonging, self-management, and grit to determine the social and emotional needs of students.

K-3 Students will be observed for self-regulation strategies by teachers and school counselors. Counselors, social workers and agency clinicians will further support teachers with observations of students' self-regulation skills.

Teachers, counselors, and leaders will observe students within the school setting and identify students with engagement or attendance concerns. School counselors, social workers, and agency clinicians will work in partnership with classroom teachers to observe students within the learning setting for signs of social, emotional, or mental stress.

School RTI/Mental Health Teams will continue to review the mental health concerns identified by students, families, and their teachers.

Principals and counselors will continue to reach out through wellness calls to families to discuss student engagement, social emotional wellness, and mental health concerns. Through this partnership, school teams will identify needed family support.

School personnel will intentionally engage with students to identify students in need of extended support through the summer months and identify summer school sessions that may address observed needs.

As students continue in an all-in learning model, teachers will engage students in culture building experiences to create student connection, foster a sense of belonging, and in promotion of social emotional skills.

The self-management skills of K-3 students will be monitored. Students demonstrating challenges with self-regulation will be supported with strategies by teachers and school counselors. Social workers and agency clinicians will further support teachers with self-regulation techniques.

Teachers, counselors, and leaders will observe students within the school setting and identify students with engagement or attendance concerns. School counselors, social workers, and agency clinicians will work in partnership with classroom teachers to observe students within the learning setting for signs of social, emotional, or mental stress.

School and district leaders, counselors, PBIS teams, and teachers will review the fall Panorama SEL survey data for students in grades 3-12. This data will identify students' sense of belonging and the professional development needs of staff. Staff will then connect to interventions in the Panorama Playbook or other resources in response to the data. Staff will engage in Restorative Practices professional development.

Hilliard faculty and staff will identify student supports, personal and collective goals, and needed professional development for staff. Plans will continue to be developed for students

demonstrating social emotional challenges or mental health concerns. Counselors will support goal setting, student interventions, and professional learning for staff.

Parents will be engaged as partners in this work to provide additional perspective about areas of concern. Additionally, staff across multiple departments will offer evening institutes for families, delivered virtually, with opportunities to learn about and discuss issues such as anxiety and depression, belonging, and bias.

Staff will continue to make wellness calls to families that have indicated a need for additional support in the past and to families of students who present new areas of concern. These conversations allow for monitoring of support efforts and enable staff to plan for additional supports as needed.

Middle School and High school leadership teams will continue their work with Hope Squad Teams. Hilliard Station and Hilliard Tharp 6<sup>th</sup> grade buildings will begin Hope Squad programs in School Year 2022-23.

Teams continue to discuss the impact of existing interventions in PBIS and RTI/Mental Health Team plans and review progress monitoring data with adjustment of plans as needed.

## **FACULTY AND STAFF SUPPORT SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL, MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS**

The district will conduct Self-assessments of staff social, emotional, mental health needs and bring awareness to the district's Employee Assistance Program, and seek feedback on its effectiveness. The district will provide PD days that will allow for sessions on mental health strategies.

## FOOD SERVICE NEEDS

Food services will be provided in a way that encourages frequent hand washing and sanitizing; along with low contact sharing of items/supplies and routine cleaning and disinfecting between meal periods.

## PLAN REVIEW AND PUBLIC INPUT

The Hilliard City School District will review this plan bi-annually through September 30, 2023, and as new guidelines are released by state and federal agencies. Adjustments to programming, practices, and policies will be made based on data, impact of programming, and local, state, and/or federal guidelines. This plan will remain accessible to the public, and stakeholders can share their input via our District website, in open public meetings, or [email communication](#) with administrative staff.