



# School District of the City of Iron Mountain

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## Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

2022-2023

February 13, 2023

Iron Mountain Public School District is updating this document to meet the requirements as a recipient of ARP ESSER 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 Iron Mountain Board of Education remains committed to monitoring and responding to local data and making operational decisions in consultation with the Dickinson Iron County Health Department. The Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to make decisions adjusting this plan in response to local COVID-19 data. The Iron Mountain School District remains committed to partnering and working alongside the DICHD regarding recommendations specific to Iron Mountain School District Schools. This plan will be reviewed no less frequently than every six months.

### **Instructional Model**

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released on August 14, 2022, new [Operational Guidance for K-12 Schools and Early Care and Education Programs to Support Safe In-Person Learning](#). To best serve our community, for the 2022-2023 school year Iron Mountain Schools will continue to offer a traditional, in-person, five days per week instructional model at all our schools. This traditional method of education is continuing from the 2021-2022 school year. There are not any new changes to begin 2022-2023 school year.

Iron Mountain School District does offer a virtual option for students through the Iron Mountain Homeschool partnership for students who would like an online school experience in grades K-12.

### **Quality Evidenced-Based Assessment Practices**

The Iron Mountain School District believes that data-based decision making is not only research based but embedded in the framework of sound educational decision making. Benchmark assessment evidence can be used to monitor and evaluate patterns and trends in building level/district student achievement and to identify effective instructional practices. We believe benchmark assessment can provide guidance for educators when considering intervention practices, curriculum modifications, and classroom instruction across grade levels, schools, and districts.

Iron Mountain School District will continue the use of both summative and formative assessment processes as a powerful practice. The data obtained from these assessment practices will inform our teaching staff, which in turn will guide our instruction.

We believe the use of these type of assessment processes, which is supported by research, provides timely data for teachers, students, and parents. The availability of this data can accelerate student learning, and help educators identify areas for student growth to address the learning loss due to external events.

## **Educational Goals**

NWEA Map Growth (Grade K - 8) assessments in reading and mathematics will be administered to all students three times each year: once in the first six weeks of the school year, once in January, and again prior to the last day of school. Formative 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.

Iron Mountain Public Schools has established student achievement growth goals, which will be measured using the data compiled using the NWEA Map Growth Reports. The school district has established both Mid-Year and End-of-Year growth goals and will submit the results of goal achievement on the district website for our community. For a detailed description of the Mid-Year and End-of-Year Growth Goals please visit our district website <https://www.imschools.org/> and locate our “98b Goal Progress Report 2022-2023” under the transparency reporting button.

Teachers in grades K – 8 will use this formative assessment process to support adjustment to teaching and learning specifically in Reading and Mathematics. Teachers will be given time in our Professional Learning Communities to conduct data digs to determine needs for students and inform teaching.

## **Mental Health Supports**

The Iron Mountain Public School district is committed to providing additional supports for Mental Health Awareness among both students and staff. Through grant opportunities, such as, but not limited to 31o and 31n, the district is proactive in its endeavors to support, educate, and address the many aspects of mental health among our school community. Iron Mountain Schools has partnered with various community agencies to support our students and families with additional services as needed.

## **Extended Learning and Specialized Services**

The Iron Mountain School District recognizes the impact of COVID-19 on our students and in particular the loss of instructional time and learning opportunities. The district will continue to offer after school/extended day learning opportunities in person. Additionally, the district has and will continue to offer an extended summer school program.

We ensure a continuation of services for students receiving speech and language support, occupational therapy, physical therapy, resource room or social work services within their 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.

The district also ensures that students of special populations will continue to be given additional considerations. The district will provide access and additional opportunities to support English Learners with language development/acquisition. We will continue to use educational assistants who assist our EL students in our schools. Parents and families will continue to be supported in their native language(s) through our EA. Students enrolled with 504 plans in place will continue to receive appropriate accommodations as specified through their 504 plans. Students that have social emotional needs will be provided with resources (personnel, curriculum and/or supplemental) to support those needs.

## **Food Service**

All Iron Mountain School District students will continue to receive breakfast and lunch at the school each day. Breakfast and lunch will continue to be served in the manner prescribed by the district.

## COVID -19 Summary

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) may update its guidance based on the CDC revised guidance. The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) will share any additional guidance from MDHHS when it becomes available. A summary of the guidance we will follow in conjunction with our educational programming described above can be found below.

- People who have symptoms, such as cough, fever, sore throat, etc., should stay home.
- When the COVID-19 Community Level indicates an increase, particularly if the level is high or the school is experiencing an outbreak, Iron Mountain schools will consider adding layered prevention strategies to maintain safe, in-person learning and keep our schools safely open. The Iron Mountain School community is currently at a low level.
- People who have known or suspected exposure to COVID-19 should wear a mask around others for 10 days from their last exposure, regardless of vaccination status or history of prior infection.
- Quarantine and isolation requirements have been removed.
- Testing to stay in school is not required.
- It is recommended that a student who tests positive regardless of vaccination status, should stay home from school for five (5) days. A student may return on day six (6) if symptom free. A mask is recommended, but not required when the student returns to school on day six (6). Absences will be excused. Parents must contact their child's school and report the absence.
- Contact tracing is no longer required
- We will not continue to report our C-19 cases on our website as we have in the past.