

*The following is a draft of the School's plan and it is being made available in an effort to obtain public input on the proposed strategies and whether any revisions to the plan are appropriate. The School will accept public comment on the plan through June 15 and will take comments it receives into account in developing the final plan, which will be posted to the School's website on or before June 24, 2021. Subsequently, the plan will be reviewed periodically, but no less frequently than every six months through September 30, 2023, in order to determine whether any revisions are necessary. The School will seek public input prior to making any subsequent revisions to the plan.*

### Stepstone Academy

#### Safe Return to In-Person Instruction & Continuity of Services Plan

(American Rescue Plan – ESSER III)

The following strategies and procedures are established based on CDC safety recommendations for safely returning to in-person instruction while maintaining the health and safety of students and staff:

- a. Universal and correct wearing of masks:  
All Stepstone Students, Staff and visitors will continue follow guidelines and recommendations from Ohio Department of Education, Ohio Department of Health and CDC recommendations regarding masking for schools. Masks are currently required.
- b. Physical distancing (e.g., including use of cohorts/podding):  
All Stepstone Students, Staff and visitors will continue follow guidelines and recommendations from Ohio Department of Education, Ohio Department of Health and CDC recommendations regarding physical distancing for schools. Current physical distancing procedures are 3 feet.
- c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette:  
All Stepstone Students, Staff and visitors will continue follow guidelines and recommendations from Ohio Department of Education, Ohio Department of Health and CDC recommendations regarding handwashing and respiratory etiquette for schools. Current procedures are that handwashing is to take place frequently and proceed and follow transitions between spaces and activities, meal times, restroom breaks and as needed. Stepstone does not currently allow mask removal except during meal times while actively eating.
- d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation:  
All Stepstone Students, Staff and visitors will continue follow guidelines and recommendations from Ohio Department of Education, Ohio Department of Health and CDC recommendations regarding maintaining healthy facilities and proper ventilation. Regular maintenance is performed on ventilation units to ensure proper function. Facility upgrades and new safety barriers have been installed and will be maintained until recommendations are lifted.

- e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the state, local, territorial or tribal health departments:  
All Stepstone Students, Staff and visitors will continue follow guidelines and recommendations from Ohio Department of Education, Ohio Department of Health and CDC recommendations regarding contact tracing and collaboration with necessary departments. Currently all recommendations have been lifted for Cuyahoga county where the school is located.
  
- f. Diagnostic and screening testing:  
All Stepstone Students, Staff and visitors will continue follow guidelines and recommendations from Ohio Department of Education, Ohio Department of Health and CDC recommendations regarding Diagnostic and screening testing. Cuyahoga county has no requirements at this time.
  
- g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff and students, if eligible:  
All Stepstone Students, Staff and visitors will continue follow guidelines and recommendations from Ohio Department of Education, Ohio Department of Health and CDC recommendations regarding vaccinations. Staff were offered multiple vaccination opportunities as were volunteers and other adults frequently in our facilities. Efforts to connect families with vaccination opportunities are ongoing. The Wolstein center vax clinic is located two blocks from our school and we have internet access and staff available to assist with registration and appointment setting. Vaccinations are not currently available for students
  
- h. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies:  
All Stepstone Students, Staff and visitors will continue follow guidelines and recommendations from Ohio Department of Education, Ohio Department of Health and CDC recommendations. Families are encouraged to meet with a physician to create a framework sharable with Stepstone Academy to address any new concerns regarding health and safety procedures.

The School will take the following steps to ensure continuity of services including but not limited to services to address the students' academic needs, and students' and staff social, emotional, mental health and other needs, which may include student health and food services:

All Stepstone Students, Staff and visitors will continue follow guidelines and recommendations from Ohio Department of Education, Ohio Department of Health and CDC recommendations regarding continuity of services. Stepstone has remained open with face to face instruction and onsite services inclusive of food, social emotional and mental health since August 18, 2021. We will continue to provide current levels of service through the upcoming school year.

Prior to finalizing this plan, the School posted a draft of the plan on the School's website and provided the public with an opportunity to provide comment.

The School will review this plan and, as appropriate, revise the plan, no less frequently than every six months through September 30, 2023.