

Stepstone Academy

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

(American Rescue Plan – ESSER III)

The Board of Directors is committed to providing students, staff, and visitors with a safe and healthy environment. In order to maintain a healthy environment, the school will review guidance provided by the Ohio State Health Department, Ohio Department of Education, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, local health departments and other entities (hereinafter collectively referred to as the “Guiding Entities”). To that extent the school has implemented the following procedures and policies on each of the following mitigation strategies subject to changes as may be required by the changing status of COVID infection rates:

- a. Universal and correct wearing of masks:
The school will follow its Face Covering Policy based on the Guiding Entities’ recommendations and requirements. The school’s Face Covering Policy may be requested from the school administration.
- b. Physical distancing (e.g., including use of cohorts/podding):
All Stepstone Students, Staff and visitors will continue follow guidelines and recommendations from Guiding Entities regarding physical distancing for schools.
- c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette:
All Stepstone Students, Staff and visitors will continue follow guidelines and recommendations from the Guiding Entities regarding handwashing and respiratory etiquette for schools. The school encourages frequent handwashing and handwashing before and after transitions between spaces and activities, meal times, restroombreaks and as needed.
- d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation:
All Stepstone Students, Staff and visitors will continue to follow guidelines and recommendations from the Guiding Entitites regarding maintaining healthy facilities and proper ventilation. Regular maintenance is performed on ventilation units to ensure properfunction.
- e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration withthe state, local, territorial or tribal health departments:
All Stepstone Students, Staff and visitors will continue to follow guidelines and recommendations from the Guiding Entities regarding contact tracing and collaboration with necessary departments.
- f. Diagnostic and screening testing:
All Stepstone Students, Staff and visitors will continue follow guidelines and recommendations from the Guiding Entities regarding Diagnostic and screening testing.
- 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 the Guiding Entities 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.

- h. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies:
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 based on recommendations from the Guiding Entities.

The school will continue to find ways to address the academic, social, emotional, mental health and other needs of students. The school understands that many of the students and their families rely on the school's free breakfast and lunch program. Every effort will be made to continue to provide such meals.

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.

FOR PUBLIC COMMENT