

Zumbrota-Mazeppa Schools

INTRODUCTION

The Zumbrota-Mazeppa Public School District is committed to ensuring that the district emerges stronger than ever in a post-pandemic environment. The ARP Act is providing financial support to help schools return safely to in-person instruction, maximize in-person instructional time, sustain the safe operation of schools, and address the academic, social, emotional, and mental health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Nation's students.

The Zumbrota-Mazeppa School District is committed to ensuring that dollars are spent in a manner that best supports our students, staff and families.

We invite you to review this plan and to provide feedback and considerations. Please [click here](#) to submit comments. The public comment period will end on June 14th.

“Safe Return to In-Person Learning” Plan

Zumbrota-Mazeppa Schools has implemented several Covid 19 safety strategies and have engaged multiple stakeholders throughout the past year in order to create a safe return to school for students. District funds were used throughout the past year to do the following:

- Purchase of personal protective equipment for staff and students, including: hand sanitizing stations, physical distancing signage, plexiglass barriers, face masks, face shields, disinfecting equipment, and cleaning supplies.
- Transportation: Additional bus routes to reduce capacity and provide social distancing to and from school, additional routes for extra-curricular activities, additional bus routes to and from setting IV facilities, and transportation of education supplies/resources to and from student homes.
- Custodial Staff: The district hired two additional full time custodians and several after school part time custodians to sanitize.
- Online Teachers: Zumbrota-Mazeppa schools hired three teachers in order to provide smaller classroom numbers and provide teachers who specialized in exclusive online instruction for students choosing distance learning.
- Covid 19 Coordinator- the district hired a Covid 19 Coordinator and continues to employ this coordinator.
- Nursing Staff- the district hired an additional school nurse starting with the 2020-21 school year to address communication, safe Covid 19 practices, and help coordinate with MDE and Public Health

- Facility- the district remodeled 7 classroom spaces to make room for additional sections at each grade level K-6.
- Staff Development- teachers were paid for additional curriculum writing for online lesson development. Full-time teachers were given an additional 16 hours of pay for this and part time teachers were given prorated time for this. This is in addition to the 5 transition days teachers were given as we had model changes and as teachers needed time throughout the year for planning.

The above strategies that were implemented to prevent and mitigate Covid 19 are in alignment with the Minnesota Department of Health, the Minnesota Department of Education, and the Center for Disease Control. Zumbrota Mazeppa Schools followed the State's Safe Learning Plan from the plans beginning through the current time and into next year.

2020-2021 Budget Impact

Acquiring these mitigation and prevention resources came at a cost of \$775,305 to the School District. During this same time the district received revenue of \$532,461 through Township, County, State, and Federal sources. The **ending deficit** for the district fund balance due to Covid 19 is (\$242,844.) (775,305 minus 532,461)

American Rescue Plan Dollars

The projected District ESSER III/ American Rescue Plan(ARP) dollars for FY 2022 is projected to be \$217,509.96 for Finance Code 160 and \$54,377.49 for Learning Recovery in Finance Code 161.

Net Remaining Dollars to Spend

The total remaining net net dollars will be **\$29,043.45** for fiscal year 2022 to continue mitigation and compensatory education strategies. This is the difference between the current Covid 19 Deficit and the new money that we will get from ESSER III, American Rescue Plan (ARP). New dollars from ARP will be used to backfill lost fund balance and to maintain the operation of and continuity of services in the Zumbrota-Mazeppa Schools by continuing to employ existing staff.

Strategies to Address the Impact of Lost Instructional Time and Spend Remaining Funds

Fortunately for Zumbrota-Mazeppa School children, students in grades K-6 were able to attend in person or online every day. We did not have large gaps in which students were not in school. In grades 7-12, students were in person or online through most of the school year. The district is offering Summer Compensatory Services or Credit Recovery Service for students. The district is investing in a Wellness Coordinator who will oversee the equitable distribution of recovery services to students in the 2021-22 school year.

Ensuring the Fidelity of Intervention Strategies and remaining ARP Funds

Zumbrota-Mazeppa Schools hired a Wellness Coordinator for the 2021-22 school year who will evaluate the programs effectiveness in addressing the academic impact of lost instructional time, will respond to the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of all students, and particularly those students disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic,

including students from low-income families, students of color, English learners, children with disabilities, students experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, and migratory students.

Safe return to in Person Learning Planning Process

Zumbrota-Mazeppa Schools first began the planning process for in person learning in July of 2020 when the Minnesota Department of Education released guidance on creating a Safe Learning Plan for the 2020-21 School year. The planning team was made up of teachers, administrators, nurses, paraprofessionals, custodians, administrative assistants, transportation contractors, regional Covid 19 response experts, and County Public Health. The team eventually became our Local Covid 19 response team. This local team met 16 times to create a plan to safely keep students in school. The team used parent survey data input to assist bringing students back to school last year and this same group and plan will be in place to bring students back to school for the 2021-22 school year. Our preparedness plan will be updated as the Minnesota Department of Education and the Minnesota Department of Health update guidance to schools. The local Covid 19 response team will meet as needed but no less than every six months during the 2021-22 school year. The following is the preparedness plan in place at this moment that is currently aligned with the State mandated Safe Learning Plan.

COVID-19 Preparedness Plan Summer 2021

Masks: Masks are encouraged, but not required except for on school buses and type III vehicles (mandated by CDC).

Health Screening Process: If you're sick, stay home. All people entering Zumbrota-Mazeppa facilities this summer are expected to perform a self-health screening prior to entering the building (screening for elementary children must be completed by an adult).

If you or your child has a fever 100.4 degrees or higher; new onset cough or a cough that gets worse; has difficulty/hard time breathing; new loss of taste or smell, you/ they will be required, per MDH decision tree, to test for COVID-19 or have an alternate diagnosis from a medical provider.

Isolation: If an individual tests positive for COVID-19, he/she must quarantine for 10 days during the infectious period.

Communication: Families are REQUIRED to report a positive case of COVID-19 to the program director/School Nurse Tiffany.

Contact Tracing: Families will be notified if their child has been exposed to a positive COVID-19 case.

Quarantine: Zumbrota-Mazeppa School encourages, but does not require, the CDC recommended quarantine period: 7-day quarantine period (test on day 5 or after) return on day 8 or a 10-day quarantine period without a test.

Household Contacts: Any person who lives in the same household as the person that tested positive MUST quarantine for at least 7 days, with a test on day 5 or after, returning on day 8. The CDC recommends a 14-day quarantine period for a household (+) contact. Household Contacts: Any person who lives in the same household as the person that tested positive is REQUIRED to quarantine. See quarantine information above for details.

Vaccinations for School Age Students: Individuals age 12 and older are currently eligible for the Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. Community sites continue to offer vaccinations to students age 12 and up. General information is available on the Goodhue County Vaccine page. The State of Minnesota Vaccine Locator tool allows searching by zip code, distance, age group, and more.

Student and Staff COVID-19 Testing: Minnesota and Vault Medical Services have teamed up to offer no-barrier, at-home COVID-19 saliva testing for everyone who lives in Minnesota, with or without symptoms. You can read more about this service on the Minnesota Department of Health website.

Coordination with state and local health officials: Zumbrota-Mazeppa School will continue to collaborate with Goodhue County and Wabasha County Health and the Minnesota Department of Health.