

**Approved Inter-Lakes School District
COVID-19
Mitigation & Response Plan for 2021 – 2022
Includes Summer Learning 2021**

Meets ESSER Requirement - *Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Service – Approved Inter-Lakes School Board – June 15, 2021;*
Approved Revisions – Inter-Lakes School Board Meeting – August 24, 2021

Guiding Principles

In-Person School Day Learning Prioritized

- Preserving in-person learning during the school day is prioritized.

Nimble Plan – Will Change & Evolve Over Time

- The School District does not have the ability to predict the future, therefore, every aspect of this Plan can and most likely will change as more information becomes available and more is known.
- Families should have back up plans in place in the event there is a need to shift to remote learning and/or a closure.

Mitigation Steps Based on Community Transmission Levels

- It is beyond the School District’s ability to prevent anyone in our community from getting COVID-19; however, steps can be taken to mitigate the risks while at school and work; these steps will depend on level of community transmission.

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Sources for Data & Guidance on COVID-19

- **Data Sources** – New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, and local School District data.
- **Guidance** from the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, New Hampshire Department of Education, CDC and American Academy of Pediatrics will be used to inform decisions regarding school operations related to COVID-19
- **Mitigation Level** - A level will be set for the entire School District based on an analysis of the data. In cases where there are two measures for the two Counties (Belknap and Carroll), the highest level will be used.

Sources for COVID-19 Data

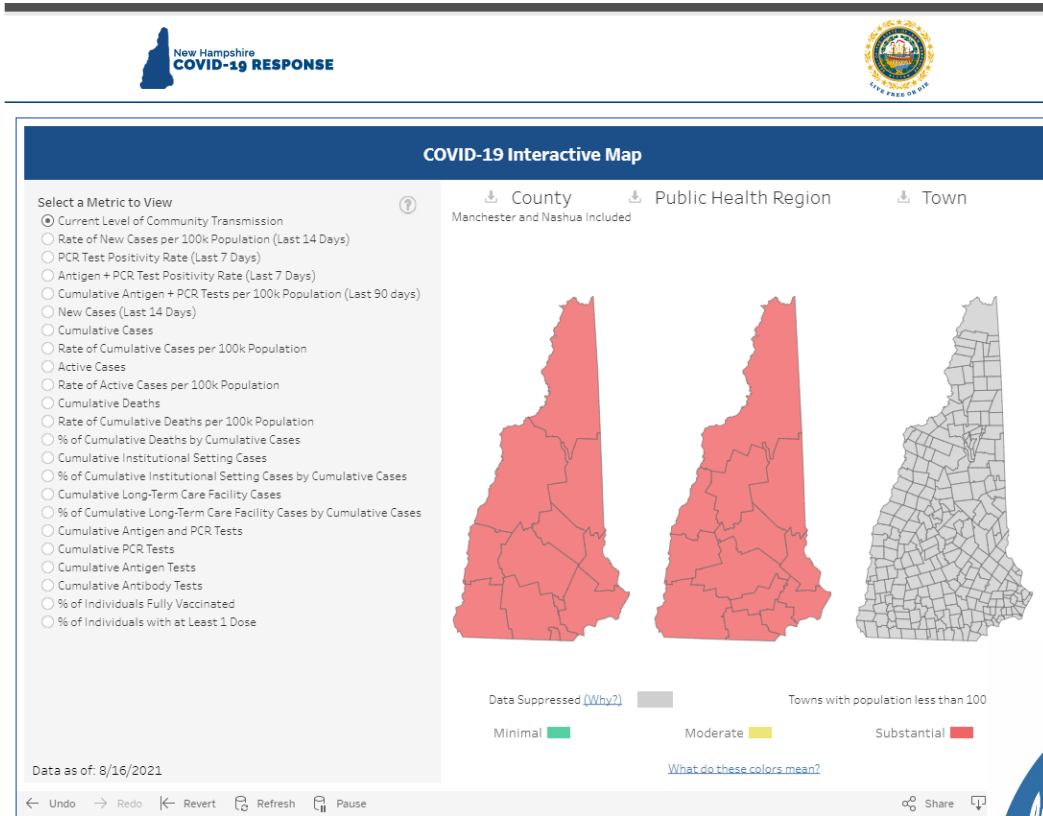


Table 1. CDC Indicators and Thresholds for Community Transmission of COVID-19¹

Indicator	Low Transmission Blue	Moderate Transmission Yellow	Substantial Transmission Orange	High Transmission Red
Total new cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days ²	0-9	10-49	50-99	≥100
Percentage of NAATs that are positive during the past 7 days ³	<5.0%	5.0%-7.9%	8.0%-9.9%	≥10.0%

¹If the two indicators suggest different levels, the actions corresponding to the higher threshold should be taken. ²and ³data on total new cases in the past 7 days and test percent positivity are available on the [DC's COVID Data Tracker](#).



Mitigation Recommendations

IMPORTANT NOTE

These recommendations are based on current data and trends. If approved, it should be noted that if data and trends indicate a need to increase mitigation efforts, then the School District will respond accordingly. This may need to be done quickly and without time for School Board action; if required the Superintendent has the authority to make such adjustments.

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Pathways for Learning

- **Inter-Lakes School District will be fully opened and in person for the 2021 – 2022 school year**, just as the school was open for 2020 - 2021 school year. Classes will be delivered in person and for full school days; the high school option of remote for part of the day is not planned for the school year; additionally, middle school core classes are planned to be yearlong versus the trimester schedule used throughout the 2020 – 2021 school year. The school day schedule will be like that at the start of the 2019 – 2020 school year. As noted earlier, if needed, adjustments to the schedule may be made.
- **Virtual Option for the Middle & High School Levels** - As access to the vaccine is available to children 12 and up, the School District will not offer an Inter-Lakes School District Virtual Pathway for the middle and high school levels. Middle and high school students may enroll in VLACS. Students who enroll in VLACS will still receive special education and related services from the School District, if eligible. Connections with our Families are critically important, if VLACS is the option you want to explore or access, please connect with your child's Guidance Counselor – we want to be a resource and help assist in your choice and with support.

COVID-19 Mitigation & Response Plan for 2021 – 2022

Pathways for Learning

- **Virtual Options for the Elementary Level** - It is recognized that some families may be waiting for their children to gain access to the vaccine before returning to in person learning. As children under 12 do not have access at this stage, an Inter-Lakes School District Virtual Learning Pathway will be offered for the Elementary Level only. Based on current information, one multi-age classes (K – 6) will be offered. **VLACS will be used for specials.** Once the vaccine is available for this age group, a transition plan with Virtual Pathway families will be developed to transition at an appropriate time to in person learning. If the desire is to be virtual for the entire school year, VLACS may be the most appropriate option.

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Athletics/Co-Curricular Activities

- **Full play/participation anticipated unless transmission levels change and adjustments are needed.** Adjustments will be made with the approval of the School Board, however, in the event a temporary decision needs to be made prior to a School Board meeting, the Superintendent working with the Principal and Athletic Director (with respect to Athletics) has the authority to make and implement such temporary decisions.
- Minimally the School District will follow “industry standards”, such as NHIAA; the School District may exceed “industry standards” protocols for play/participation. Decisions on play/participation will be made at the local level based on transmission levels.

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Transportation

- School transportation provides many challenges ranging from congregating at the bus stop to increasing contact with others on the school bus.
- If families are able to transport their children to school or carpool, these may be the best options to mitigate risk; however, it is recognized that for a multitude of reasons these options will not work for all families.

Parents/guardians will be required to sign up in advance for school transportation this year. Additionally, special requests for transportation may not be able to be accommodated this year. This includes transportation to aftercare programs. Precedence needs to be given to transportation from home to school and school to home. The reason for this is that ridership on the school bus must be limited and great efforts will be made to adjust bus routes to accommodate this priority, which may not allow for other riders who are not assigned to that bus route.

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Transportation

- **Up to three (3) riders will be assigned to a seat.**
- School buses will be loaded with riders going towards the rear of the bus upon entry and will unload from the front of the bus to exit. This is to try and limit (not eliminate) crossing over of riders.
- Parents/guardians will be responsible for mitigation steps at bus stops.
- School buses will be treated with Zoono and will be cleaned on a daily basis. Information on Zoono can be found in Appendix D of the 2020 – 2021 Opening Plan.
- Executive Order No. 13998, “Promoting COVID-19 Safety in Domestic and International Travel,” states that immediate action must be taken to require mask-wearing on domestic modes of transportation. This includes School Transportation.

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Health Protocols

- The School District will adhere to the current guidance from the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services.

Health Screening

- Parents/Guardians will need to self-monitor their children's wellness prior to arrival at school. Staff will need to self-monitor their wellness prior to arrival at work. **Individuals who are not well need to stay home.**

Diagnostic/Screening Testing

- The School District will adhere to the current guidance from the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services regarding quarantining or diagnostic testing. The School District does not plan to implement screening testing at this time, however, the School District will enroll in Safer at School Screening (SASS) Program as a pre-emptive measure should screening be needed relative to an outbreak. If School Districts are not enrolled, this resource will not be available should the need arise. If an outbreak results in a need to screen, this will only be done with Parent/Guardian permission.

Efforts to Provide Vaccinations

- The School District will distribute to families as received by our Public Health Partners information on access to vaccinations.

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COVID Team

- The **COVID Team** established in 2020 – 2021 will continue to meet on a regular basis to determine if any adjustments need to be made. This Team includes Students, Parents, Physician, Teachers/School Nurses/Administrators, School Board Members and Community Volunteers. The purpose of this Team is to monitor the level of the virus in our area and to make recommendations on our local response and mitigation efforts.

Determination of Level of Mitigation Strategies

- Mitigation strategies will have the following levels: IL Level 1 – IL Green, IL Level 2 – IL Yellow, and IL Level 3 – IL Red; levels are described in an upcoming slide.
- Weekly the level of mitigation strategies in place will be reviewed by the COVID-19 Team. The next slide provides the list of data used, sources and outlines metrics for the various levels.
 - Notes from the meeting will be posted on the School District COVID-19 Dashboard.
 - If there is a change to the level, communication will be distributed to the greater School Community. A note of maintaining current level of mitigation will be distributed only to Families signed up for COVID-19 communications.

Inter-Lakes School District Matrix for Level of Mitigation Strategies

The Inter-Lakes School District encompasses two counties – Belknap County and Carroll County. A level will be set for the entire School District based on an analysis of the information outlined below. In cases where there are two measures for the two Counties, the highest level will be used. This matrix is a guide and it should be understood that it is likely that all boxes may not be “checked” for a particular level and a decision will require a level of judgment based on the current circumstances.

Indicator	IL Level 1 – IL Green	IL Level 2 – IL Yellow	IL Level 3 – IL Red
Community Transmission Level Sources: (the higher measure will be used) https://www.covid19.nh.gov/dashboard/map https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#datatracker-home	Minimal (NH Data) Low (CDC Data)	Moderate or Substantial (NH Data) Moderate or Substantial (CDC Data)	Substantial (NH Data) Substantial or High (CDC Data)
Total Active Cases combined for Center Harbor, Meredith, & Sandwich Source: https://www.covid19.nh.gov/dashboard/map Total Population Combined = 8,822; Source (8/17/21): https://www.covid19.nh.gov/dashboard/map	0 - 12	13 - 25	26 or greater
Rate of New Cases for Belknap & Carroll Counties Last 14 Days (the higher measure will be used) Source: https://www.covid19.nh.gov/dashboard/map	Lower Level	Middle Level	Higher Level
Sporadic cases in the entire School District without evidence of community transmission Source: Local School District Data	4 or less	10 or less	11 or above
Single cluster in School District Source: NH DPHHS & Local School District Data	0	0	1 or greater
Multiple clusters or a larger outbreak in School District Source: NH DPHHS & Local School District Data	0	0	1 or greater
Additional Consideration	Prior to setting the Elementary Level at Level 1 the availability of the vaccine for this age group will be reviewed. Depending on the status, the Elementary & Middle/High School Levels may be set at different levels.		

Mitigation Responses

STRATEGY	IL Level 1 – IL Green	IL Level 2 – IL Yellow	IL Level 3 – IL Red
Mask Bus	YES	YES	YES
Mask Indoors	OPTIONAL	YES	YES
Mask Outdoors	OPTIONAL	OPTIONAL	OPTIONAL
Physical Distance	NO	INDOORS ONLY*	INDOORS ONLY*
Cleaning	YES	YES	YES
Handwashing	YES**	YES**	YES**

*Group work is part of our instructional practices; when working in groups physical distancing is not always possible or instructionally appropriate.

**Principals will make sure schedules are built that provide time for handwashing throughout the day; including time before/after snack and lunch

Mitigation Responses

STRATEGY	IL Level 1 – IL Green	IL Level 2 – IL Yellow				IL Level 3 – IL Red			
Respiratory Hygiene	YES	YES				YES			
Daily Health Assessment Prior to Arrival	SELF MONITOR	SELF MONITOR				SELF MONITOR			
Desk Shields	OPTIONAL	OPTIONAL				OPTIONAL			
Cohorts	NO		ILES	SCS	ILMHS		ILES	SCS	ILMHS
		Recess	Grade Level	K – 6	Grade Level (7/8)	Recess	Class Level	Class Level	Cohorts Established
		Lunch	Grade Level	K - 6	No	Lunch	Class Level	Class Level	Class Level
		Academics	Grade Level	K – 3; 4 – 6	No	Academics	Class Level	Class Level	Cohorts Established
Illness	If ill, stay home. Parents/Guardians should contact the School Nurse.								

Mitigation Responses

Levels are Based on CDC Indicators & Thresholds for Community Transmission of COVID-19

STRATEGY	IL Level 1 – IL Green	IL Level 2 – IL Yellow	IL Level 3 – IL Red
Athletics/ Co-Curricular Activities	Normal Participation Follow Protocols from Appropriate Professional Associations such as NHIAA	Normal Participation Minimally Follow Protocols from Appropriate Professional Associations such as NHIAA; School District Protocols may Exceed Professional Associations; Indoor Athletics – Masks Used for Practice/Competition; Outdoor Athletics – OPTIONAL	COVID Team Evaluates Level of Risk and Makes a Recommendation to the School Board for the School Board’s Consideration. In the event a temporary decision needs to be made prior to a School Board meeting, the Superintendent working with the Principal and Athletic Director (with respect to Athletics) has the authority to make and implement such temporary decisions.
Field Trips	Principal/Superintendent Evaluate Level of Risk for Proposed Trip and Determine Approval	Local Only with Principal/Superintendent Evaluating Level of Risk for Proposed Trip and Determining Approval	Local Only with Principal/Superintendent Evaluating Level of Risk for Proposed Trip and Determining Approval
Cafeteria*/Library	OPEN	OPEN WITH PHYSICAL DISTANCING MEASURES	LIMITED USE

*Principals will evaluate if offering some small group options for lunch is possible in addition to the full cafeteria.

Mitigation Responses

STRATEGY	IL Level 1 – IL Green	IL Level 2 – IL Yellow	IL Level 3 – IL Red
Arrival/Dismissal	NORMAL	IMPLEMENT PHYSICAL DISTANCING MEASURES	IMPLEMENT PHYSICAL DISTANCING MEASURES
Visitors	OPEN	LIMITED ACCESS (Principal Approval) HEALTH ASSESSMENT PRIOR TO ENTRY VISITORS WEAR MASKS	LIMITED ACCESS (Principal Approval) HEALTH ASSESSMENT PRIOR TO ENTRY VISITORS WEAR MASKS
Facility Use by Outside Organizations	YES	YES FOLLOW SCHOOL DISTRICT COVID GUIDELINES	NO

Exceptions Mask Use

- It should be noted that due to developmental and health needs, some members of our school community may not be able to utilize face coverings. A decision to exempt someone from use of a face covering will be made in the case of students through the special education or 504 process with appropriate documentation to support exemption. In the case of an employee, the employee will work with the Human Resource Director to provide appropriate documentation to support such an exemption.
- Individuals may choose to wear a mask at any point masks are not required.

Special Education & 504 Accommodations for Health & Safety Protocols

- The School District will make appropriate accommodations to health and safety protocols for students with disabilities. As needed, such accommodations, will be developed through the established Special Education and 504 processes.
- Employees should meet with the SAU Human Resource Director if requesting accommodations to health and safety protocols.

CASES of COVID-19

Cases of COVID-19

- The School will remain in session unless a closure is recommended by the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services. It is recognized that there may be unique circumstances and in such a case the Superintendent has the authority to act as the Superintendent sees fit. Cases of COVID-19 will be reported to the NH Public Health.
- The NHDHHS requires individuals who are diagnosed with COVID-19 to isolate at home until they have met criteria for discontinuation of isolation.
- The NHDHHS - close household contacts of someone diagnosed with COVID-19 are required to quarantine if they are NOT fully vaccinated. Close household contacts of someone diagnosed with COVID-19 are NOT required to quarantine if they are fully vaccinated; however, in accordance with CDC guidance for people who are fully vaccinated, such persons are recommended to get tested 3 – 5 days following their exposure, and wear a facemask in indoor public settings for 14 days, or until they receive a negative test result. (Note: If the level of mitigation for the School District requires a mask, mask use is required.)
- **NEW this Year – NHDHHS** – non-household contacts with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 should self-observe and monitor symptoms. This is a significant difference from last year. What this means is that individuals who are in close proximity at School to an individual diagnosed with COVID-19 will not be required to quarantine; rather they will need to self-observe and monitor symptoms.

ILLNESS & CASES of COVID-19

Communication COVID-19 Cases

- Parents/Guardians are to notify the School Nurse if their children are ill; **individuals need to stay home if ill**. If their children are diagnosed with COVID-19, Parents/Guardians are to notify the School Nurse. The School Nurse will review with families the process for returning to school based on illness and/or COVID-19.
- The School District's COVID-19 Dashboard will be maintained.
- Parents/Guardian's of individuals who have shared classroom space with a confirmed case of COVID-19 will be notified by phone call and asked to observe and monitor for symptoms.
- Parents/Guardians may opt to signup for communication regarding cases of COVID-19 in the School District.
- The use of the School District Communication System for the whole School District will only be used if there is a need for a closure, adjusted schedule or other significant need.

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Cleaning

The priority for cleaning is to keep occupants in a healthy environment with the risk of illness mitigated through cleaning and disinfecting efforts. Therefore, cleaning and disinfecting certain elements during the day will be increased with the full return of learners and staff. Vital Oxide has been selected as the chosen disinfectant for the School District. At full strength, Vital Oxide is a hospital/institutional grade disinfectant that has a triple zero health hazard rating. A zero is interpreted in this scale as “minimal.” Vital Oxide is also effective at a 1:9 dilution rate, which makes Vital Oxide a great sanitizer that is rated safe for all ages within our school buildings. Information on Vital Oxide can be found in Appendix C of the 2020 – 2021 Opening Plan. Each space will be cleaned daily by the custodial staff following guidelines from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. High use elements like door handles, switches, and bathrooms will have additional cleanings throughout the day. The custodial staff will do deep cleaning and disinfecting at night, which has been incorporated into our existing cleaning schedule. In order to add layers of mitigation throughout the course of the day, students and staff will need to assume responsibility for maintaining and sanitizing their general work spaces. It is recognized that developmentally students will range in their levels of independence with this responsibility; however, it is a critical skill and one that is necessary to be incorporated into our teaching at this time.

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Classroom Cleaning Materials and Personal Protective Equipment

Each classroom will have a container supplied with paper masks, tissues, cleaning supplies, and gloves; custodial staff will ensure that this container remains stocked.

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Heating Ventilation Air Conditioning (HVAC)

Even the most robust HVAC system cannot control all airflows and completely prevent dissemination of an infectious aerosol or disease transmission by droplets or aerosols. An HVAC system's impact will depend on source location, strength of the source, distribution of the released aerosol, droplet size, air distribution, temperature, relative humidity, and filtration. Furthermore, there are multiple modes and circumstances under which disease transmission occurs. Thus, strategies for prevention and risk mitigation require collaboration of building mechanicals and human behavior. All of our school facilities have filtered mechanical ventilation. The Inter-Lakes School District filters with the highest MERV rated filters that the existing individual units can be paired with. The ventilation schedule and HVAC systems will be set to provide 100% outdoor filtered air exchanges as often as mechanically possible. This will provide the most dilution of the air in any given space, increasing our mitigation efforts to the fullest capabilities of these systems. *Upgrades to our current HVAC systems are prioritized in the use of our ARP ESSER III Funds.*

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Mitigation & Response Plan for 2021 – 2022

Classroom Setups

- Each learner will have their own desk and materials. If community transmission is IL Level 1 - Green then desks may be arranged in groups within the classroom and materials may be shared. If community transmission increases to IL Level 2 – Yellow or IL Level 3 - Red the mitigation step of physical distancing will be implemented which includes spacing desks at a minimum of three (3) feet apart and limiting the sharing of materials. During the 2020 – 2021 school year, additional classroom furnishings were removed to provide space for physical distancing. These furnishing will need to remain out of classrooms for the 2021 – 2022 school year (or at least at this stage), so that the use of physical distancing can be easily incorporated, if needed. Note: Group work is part of our instructional practices; when working in groups physical distancing is not always possible or instructionally appropriate.
- Time Outdoors – A benefit of the 2020 – 2021 school year was prioritization of time outdoors; this will continue in the 2021 – 2022 school year and hopefully, beyond as there are immense wellness benefits of time outside.

Remote Learning Plan

- The School District utilizes **Schoology** as our **Learning Management System**; if the School District needs to shift to remote learning this established platform provides the necessary framework.
- **Elementary Level** – Classroom Teachers will send home at the start of the school year “remote learning” folders; the folders will be used for remote learning periods that are for a single day. If more than one day of remote learning is needed, School Principals will send out information for Families to collect materials and computer devices; lessons thereafter, will be through the use of Schoology. Additionally, in the event of a need to shift to remote learning, Principals will send out the schedule for learning for the remote period.
- **Middle/High School Levels** – Learners in grades 7 – 12 are expected to bring their devices to and from school daily. In the event of a need to shift to remote learning, learners will access learning through the use of Schoology. The Middle High Principal will send out the schedule for learning for the remote period.

Social Emotional Support for Students and Staff

The COVID-19 Pandemic has impacted individuals differently and to different degrees. In an effort to support the wellness of our school communities in the areas of social emotional support the following will be in place for the 2021 – 2022 school year:

- Elementary Guidance Support has been increased by 0.333 FTE; this will provide additional support as our learners recover from the impacts of COVID-19.
- Class Size Reduction Teachers (4 Elementary Teachers; Additional 8th Grade Team) Reduced class sizes provide for more direct instruction and attention from the classroom teacher; addresses social emotional needs by having a lower student to teacher ratio; allows for more individualized and tailored learning opportunities; better supports the learner on all levels - Social Emotional Learning and Academic Learning. As we approach recovery from the pandemic smaller class sizes allow for the necessary healing and academic gains to be made. Additionally, smaller class sizes provide for physical distancing in the classroom which assists with mitigating the risks associated with contracting and transmitting COVID-19. Evidence-based research on reducing class sizes as an effective intervention can be found at <https://classsizematters.org/research-and-links/>
- Continuation of Choose Love – Social and Emotional Learning
- Continuation of promoting time out doors and physical movement breaks
- Continuation of Additional School Psychologist
 - The 2020 – 2021 school year, was the first year of implementation of an increase of 1.0 FTE School Psychologist for the Inter-Lakes School District. This additional support is in place for the 2021 – 2022 school year and provides additional social, emotional, and mental health access within our school communities.
- Continuation of the Staff Support – Caring for Our Community
 - A Staff Committee provides ongoing onsite wellness activities for staff.
- Continuation of Promotion of Employee Assistance Program to All Staff

Access to Food

- **ALL learners** in person and virtual will have access to free breakfast and lunch during the 2021 – 2022 school year.
- **Learners who are virtual** will have food available for pick up twice a week. Specific details on how virtual learners will sign up for food will be shared prior to the start of the school year.
- **Remote Learning** – in the event a school or the School District needs to shift to remote learning if:
 - Up to 2 days – food will not be distributed; Families in need may contact the School for assistance.
 - 3 or more days – Families signed up, will have food delivered; School Transportation will assist with the delivery of the food. A process for signup will be presented at the time of need.

Opportunities to Provide Feedback/Input

- Draft Plan posted on website and letter sent to Inter-Lakes Families – June 4, 2021
- Online Survey Open for Feedback – June 4, 2021 – June 15, 2021
- Feedback Sessions – June 7, 2021 (1 Session); June 9, 2021 (2 Sessions)
- Online Survey Updated Draft – Posted on website and letter sent to Inter-Lakes Families – June 14, 2021
- School Board Meetings – June 1, 2021 and June 15, 2021
- School Board Meeting – August 10, 2021; Online Feedback Option – 4 emails received; Public Comment at School Board Meeting see minutes.
- School Board Meeting – August 24, 2021; Online Feedback Option – 30 emails received; Public Comment at School Board Meeting see minutes.