



HAZEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
The model of excellence for 21st century learning

CONTINUITY OF SERVICE PLAN

Grades K-12

School Year 2025-26

Approved: July 19, 2021

Amended: December 13, 2021

Amended: September 12, 2022

Reviewed: December 12, 2022

Reviewed: July 17, 2023

Amended: December 18, 2023

Amended: July 22, 2024

Reviewed: December 9, 2024

Amended: July 14, 2025

Reviewed: December 9, 2024

In the event of a pandemic / epidemic that significantly impacts how we are able to provide educational services, the Hazen Public School District intends to address the following practices and processes to achieve our desired outcomes.

Assumptions & Assurances

Hazen School believes:

- Every student should have the opportunity to engage in learning, regardless of the spread of respiratory viruses in our community.
- Schools have a vital role in providing safe environments for students, focusing on both social-emotional and physical health.
- By working together with educators, staff, health care professionals, parents, students, and community members we can solve most challenges.
- Our district will make decisions based on the most current guidance from local, state, and national health care officials.
- Our School Board will ensure our plan meets the needs of our students, educators, staff and community.

Ensuring Equitable Services

School districts must include provisions for addressing the unique needs of all grade levels, classes, and courses as well as address processes for ensuring both equity and access to high-quality, age-appropriate instruction at each level to ensure full continuity of the regular school experience. All plans should include the following:

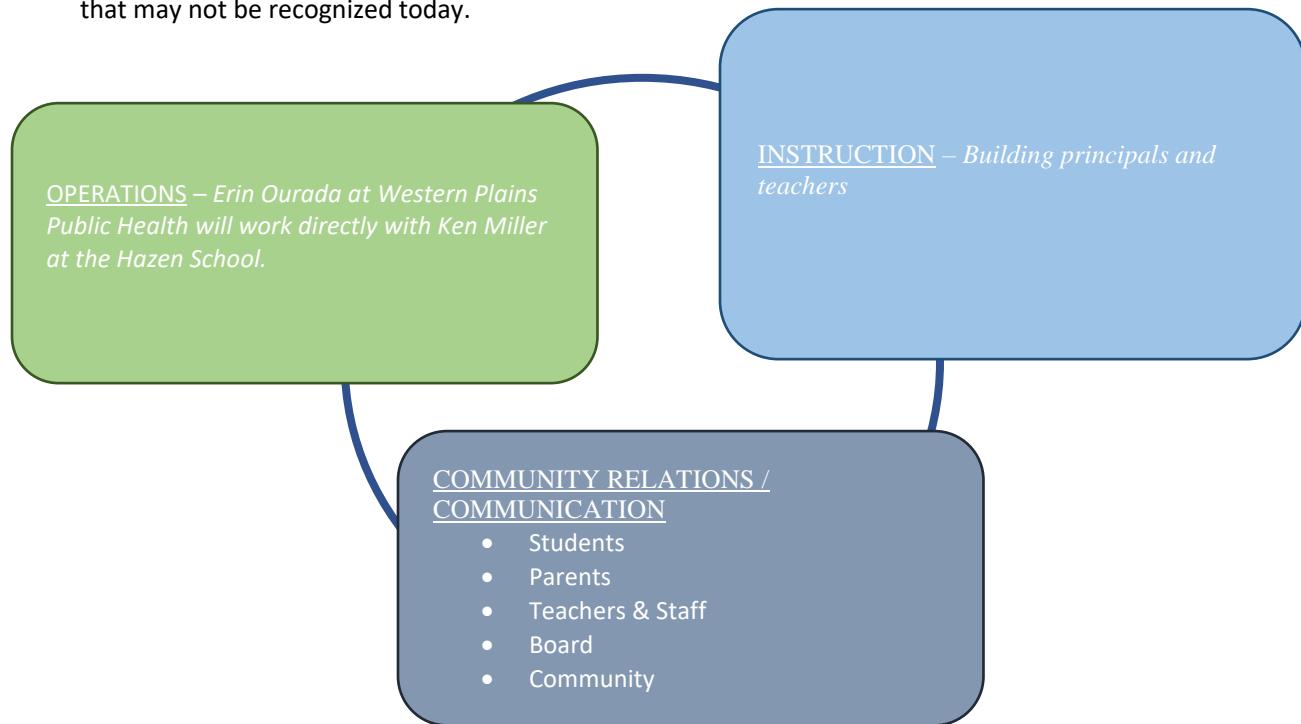
- Special Education Considerations - Individualized Educational Plans (IEPs) and 504s: All educational decisions for students with IEPs must be made on an individual basis and be consistent with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and the North Dakota Department of Instruction's Office of Special Education guidelines.
 - Procedures for ensuring specialized instruction and related services for each student on an IEP or a 504 plan is continued while maintaining student and staff safety.
 - All safety procedures outlined in the district plan apply to students with disabilities and the staff supporting those students. The IEP/504 team will consider implementing any additional procedures and accommodations needed for individual students.
 - All instructional delivery methods outlined in the district plan will be implemented for students with disabilities. The services, accommodations, and modifications included in the IEP and 504 plans will be followed during face to face and distance learning.

The Hazen School District will work in conjunction and collaboration with Oliver Mercer Special Education Unit (OMSEU) to ensure that educational decisions for students with Individual Education Plans (IEPs) will be made on an individual basis and in compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and ND Department of Instruction Office of Special Education guidelines. The learning environment, services, and accommodations for students with disabilities will be determined through the student's IEP team, including student's parent or guardian, school administration and staff. The team will work together to develop plans that will ensure equitable and effective access to provide FAPE for students with special needs in ALL learning environments. More information regarding special education can be found online at https://www.govinfo.gov/app/details/GOV PUB-ED1_200-PURL-gpo190935.

Special education case managers will be the contact people for communication between each student's parents/guardians and required team members, and will monitor the continuation of services and accommodations, whether they are provided virtually, in-person or a combination model. The school district Restart Education Plan will focus on procedures for delivering education within the district, which will also apply to holding IEP team meetings and completing required special education procedures, while maintaining student and staff health and safety, according to the North Dakota K-12 Smart Restart guidelines.

Respiratory Viruses Response Team & Coordinators

This organizational structure was crafted to assist in the development and monitoring of the district's Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Service plan. This structure identifies leaders and guiding team members that will serve as a voice in how the district responds to respiratory viruses during the school year. This plan is designed to ensure a safe and healthy learning environment and a process to address issues that may not be recognized today.



The three components have been identified as key operational teams that consist of multiple departments. Each operational team will work to implement the In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Service Plan and address challenges as they arise.

Guidance for Grade Level & School Building Instructional Model Changes and Closures

Hazen Public Schools will make determinations on a classroom, grade-level, building, or district closure following the NDDoH and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations for schools. If an instructional model change or closure is being considered, the superintendent, Western Plains Public Health, school board chair and vice chair should be part of the decision-making team.

Instructional Models

The instructional models used by the district may be influenced by factors such as student age, transportation limitations, instructional needs of the students, county/state risk level, health guidance, and other factors.



Traditional Learning

All instruction is delivered in-person with some building and group modifications. Teachers and students maintain a normal daily schedule. Safety precautions are implemented to enhance staff and student safety.



Blended/Hybrid Learning

Students report to school on a modified schedule. Multiple hybrid models of instructional delivery may be appropriate to meet the educational needs through a variety of delivery models.



Distance Learning (Microsoft TEAMS)

All instruction is provided off-campus through the use of distance learning resources or suited to the unique needs of the student.

(Traditional Learning)

Hazen school buildings will continue in-person learning with the health and safety guidelines and protocols in place to mitigate risk and limit the spread of respiratory viruses. Below is what to expect:

School Building Practices:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• District will monitor the need for physical distancing to reduce transmittable moments as needed.• Breakfast and lunch seating will be at normal capacity.• Face coverings are optional but not required.• Buildings and desks routinely cleaned and disinfected according to CDC guidelines. Special focus on high traffic areas.• Handwashing integrated throughout the day. Hand sanitizer available throughout buildings and in the classrooms.• Parents will NOT be provided an online/virtual option of education for students (unless the district is required to move from traditional learning to hybrid/distance learning models). At the Hazen School District, we believe that it is critically important for all of our students to attend school in person.• District will not explore for close contacts in the schools who may have been exposed to respiratory viruses.
Commitment the District asks from Families:	<p>* Keep your child home if they have a fever, cough, and sore throat. Have them stay home until they are feeling better (CDC recommendations).</p> <p>* Create a family plan in the event schools close for an extended</p>

	<p>amount of time because of increased cases or other potential emergencies.</p> <p>* Prepare as much as possible to adapt to changes. Situations evolve quickly and schedule modifications and/or closures may be unavoidable.</p>
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Moderate Risk (Blended/Hybrid Learning)

The goal of the Hazen School District is to remain in the traditional learning model for the entire school year. Depending on health conditions and guidance from the health officials, a hybrid schedule could be implemented in a single school, within a cluster of schools, or districtwide. Below is what to expect:

School Building Practices:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximize social distancing cohort groups by reducing the number of students in school buildings. • All employees and students in grades K through 12 will wear masks, face shields, or cloth facial coverings when social distancing cannot be possible (hallways, restrooms, lunchroom, etc.). Masks will not have to be worn in the classroom if social distancing is possible. • All employees and students are asked to take their temperatures and conduct health screenings prior to coming to school. Students and employees with a temperature of 100.4 or higher will not be allowed to remain in school. • Buildings routinely cleaned and disinfected according to CDC guidelines. Special focus on high traffic areas. • Handwashing integrated throughout the day. Hand sanitizer available throughout buildings and in the classrooms. • Social distancing on school buses will be difficult. Students and bus drivers are required to wear masks or cloth facial coverings while being transported on the bus. Siblings will also be required to sit together. • School meal program will be available for all students. Regular school lunch fees will apply.
Classroom Spaces:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will attend school on a hybrid schedule and school times may be adjusted. • Students with last names beginning with A through K will attend school on site on even calendar days. Students with last names beginning with L through Z will attend school on site on odd calendar days. The students not attending class on site will be attending the classes remotely. • Teachers will teach their students face-to-face in the classroom and virtually at the same time. Lessons will be

	<p>recorded.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers will provide direct instruction on the days students are at school. • Classrooms will be disinfected in-between classes. Teachers, paraprofessionals, students, and all other support staff will be expected to help disinfect their area prior to leaving the classroom.
School Spaces:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some school events, assemblies and gatherings may be changed, streamed online, or cancelled to limit large gatherings. • To help mitigate the spread of respiratory viruses, access for parents and visitors in the school buildings is limited to the office only.
Common Spaces:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students move in cohort groups where possible and reasonable to limit possible exposure. • School schedules may be adjusted to reduce the number of students passing in hallways. • Lunch times may be staggered to reduce the number of students in the cafeteria and allow for some social distancing. Some students may eat in other areas of the school or outside, weather permitting. • The traditional multi-grade recess schedule and activities will be adjusted to meet distancing requirements.
Extracurricular Activities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If person to person instruction is allowed, extracurricular activities are permitted using the guidance and directives from the ND High School Activities Association and the governing bodies of other extracurricular activities. • Students participating in traditional and distant learning opportunities are both expected to follow the same eligibility requirements included in the student handbook.
Priorities in <u>Hybrid Learning</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Ensure students and staff who are sick or showing symptoms stay at home. * Maximize social distancing cohort groups by reducing the number of students in school buildings.

(Distance Learning for Most)

The school district will educate a large portion of the student population remotely. In this instructional model, the schools will limit in person delivery to students needing special instruction.

Remote Instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focused, rigorous instruction on key learning essentials in each grade and content area. • Traditional grades and accountability.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear expectations and communication with students and families. • Support and training for parents who need help accessing technology, tools and online curriculum. • School lunch program will be available for all students. Regular school lunch fees will apply.
School Spaces:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closed to the general public. • The schools will limit student occupancy to special populations, small groups, or to those in need of individualized instruction.
Extracurricular Activities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The schools will follow guidance and directives from the ND High School Activities Association and the governing bodies of other extracurricular activities. • Extracurricular opportunities may be limited when most of the students are learning remotely.
Priorities in <u>Distance Learning for Most:</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Reduce the risk of further community spread by offering distant learning for most students. * Allow opportunities for small groups of students to receive in person instruction.

Critical Risk (100% Distant Learning)

In extreme conditions, which could include a local or state stay-at-home order, HPS will close schools and shift to 100% remote learning for all students. Below is what to expect:

Remote Instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focused, rigorous instruction on key learning essentials in each grade and content area. • Traditional grades and accountability. • Clear expectations and communication with students and families. • Support and training for parents who need help accessing technology, tools and online curriculum. • School lunch program will be available for all students. Regular school lunch fees will apply.
School Spaces:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closed to the general public except by special appointment. • There may be opportunities for in-person small group instruction or intervention.
Extracurricular Activities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will follow guidance and directives from the ND High School Activities Association and the governing bodies of other extracurricular activities. • Athletics, extracurricular activities and other activities would likely be suspended
Priorities in 100% Distance Learning:	* Reduce the risk of further community spread by closing schools.

In-Person Learning Health and Safety Guidance

The district strives to provide a healthy and safe environment for all who occupy our schools. The following guidelines are intended to provide a framework for the district's response to respiratory viruses, including but not limited to: Influenza, Measles, COVID-19, and RSV.

Resources

Preventing the Spread of Viruses - <https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/prevention/precautions-when-sick.html>

Respiratory Virus Guidance- <https://www.cdc.gov/project-firstline/hcp/infection-control/>

Preventing Respiratory Viruses - <https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/prevention/index.html>

Best Intentions

Despite taking every reasonable precaution, there is not guarantee that our schools will be without risk as it relates to respiratory viruses. The virus will be present on our buses, in our classrooms, and at our activities. In certain situations, social distancing is not possible in a school setting. Our actions, as outlined in this plan, will not prevent any student or staff member from being in contact with the virus.

Protect Yourself and Others

Wash your hands often



- Wash with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Students are encouraged to wash their hands often throughout the day.

Avoid close contact



- Keep social distance from others especially important for people who are at a higher risk of getting sick.
- Alternate or modified schedules, adjustments to use of common areas, use of outdoor spaces and other actions that increase physical separation will be considered.
- The sharing of instructional materials should be limited as much as possible.
- Physical separation on busing will be very difficult. Students and bus drivers are required to wear masks or cloth facial coverings while being transported on the bus. Siblings will also be required to sit together.
- Access for parents and visitors in the school buildings is limited to the office only.

Cover coughs and sneezes



- Always cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.
- Throw tissues away and wash hands or use hand sanitizer to prevent spread.

Clean and disinfect



- School staff will clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily.
- Limited use of shared materials and supplies.
- Classrooms will be cleaned nightly by custodial staff.

Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover/face shield when around others.



- Outside of the traditional education model, all employees and students (grades K-12) may need to wear masks, face shield, or cloth facial coverings when social distancing cannot be possible (hallways, restrooms, lunchroom, etc.). Masks will not have to be worn in the classroom if social distancing is possible.

Monitor your health daily



- Be alert for symptoms. Watch for a fever, cough, or sore throat.
- Parents are asked to screen their children each day before sending them to school. Use the screening guidance provided (see appendix).
- Staff and students who are sick should stay home.
 - Symptomatic students will be isolated, their guardians contacted, and guardians will make arrangements for students to be sent home from school. When multiple students display symptoms, backup spaces will be available to maintain distancing.