

Continuity of Learning and COVID-19 Response Plan (“Plan”) Application Template

As a result of COVID-19 and the closing of school buildings for the 2019-2020 School Year, school districts must submit a Continuity of Learning and COVID-19 Response Plan (“Plan”) in order to continue to receive state aid for operations. Although schools are closed and not providing in-person instruction, teaching and learning must continue. Michigan educators have been called to provide our students with continued learning.

There are varied states of readiness to provide continuity in learning among districts. Even within districts of multiple school sites, there are varied states of readiness. It is expected that schools will provide instruction at a distance using a variety of methods that meet local needs, including printed materials, phone contact, email, virtual learning, or a combination to meet student needs. We should avoid assuming that continuity in learning can only occur through online means.

While many educators have been providing distance learning opportunities, the Governor’s Executive Order (EO 2020-35) requires all schools to begin providing learning opportunities for all students no later than April 28, 2020. Districts who are able to begin their plans earlier are encouraged to do so.

Each District shall submit a single completed Assurance Document, Budget Outline, and Continuity of Learning Plan to its Intermediate School District. Each Public School Academy shall submit a completed Assurance Document, Budget Outline, and Continuity of Learning Plan to its Authorizer. A single Application should be filed for the district rather than multiple applications for individual schools within a district. The following items are required for the application which may be submitted beginning April 8, 2020:

1. Assurances Document
2. Continuity of Learning Plan
3. Budget Outline

Continuity of Learning and COVID-19 Response Plan ("Plan") Guiding Principles

As Districts and Public School Academies complete the Assurances and Continuity of Learning Plans, they should consider utilizing the following principles to guide their work:

Keep Students at the Center

Intentional outreach to continue building relationships and maintain connections. Help students feel safe and valued. At minimum, plan to do the following:

- **Plan for Student Learning:** Build on each student's strengths, interests, and needs and use this knowledge to positively affect learning.
- **Develop a Weekly Plan and Schedule:** Offer routines and structures for consistency and for the balancing of think time, work time, and play time for health and well-being.
- **Contact Families:** Partner to support student learning through ongoing communication and collaboration. This will not look the same for every student and family—safety remains the priority. Provide translations as necessary.

Design Learning for Equity and Access

Plan and deliver content in multiple ways so all students can access learning.

- **Teach Content:** Set goals using knowledge of each student, content area standards, and of Michigan Merit Curriculum.
- **Deliver Flexible Instruction:** Consider how to deliver content depending on tools and resources accessible to each student. Alternative modes of instruction may include use of online learning, telephone communications, email, virtual instruction, videos, slideshows, project-based learning, use of instructional packets, or a combination to meet diverse student needs.
- **Engage Families:** Communicate with families about engagement strategies to support students as they access the learning. Families are critical partners. Provide translations as necessary.

Assess Student Learning

Manage and monitor student learning and plan what's next for learning including the potential need for summer and supplemental learning.

- **Check Student Learning:** Use a variety of strategies to monitor, assess, and provide feedback to students about their learning.
- **Make Instructional Adjustments:** Use formative assessment results to guide

educators' reflection on effectiveness of instruction and to determine next steps for student learning.

- Engage Families: Communicate with families about assessment results in order to inform next steps and the potential for supplemental summer learning. Provide translations as necessary.

**Continuity of Learning and COVID-19 Response Plan ("Plan")
Assurances**

Date Submitted: **4/6/2020**

Name of District: **Vanderbilt Area School**

Address of District: **947 Donovan St. Vanderbilt Mi, 49795**

District Code Number: **69040**

Email Address of the District: **saundersm@vanderbilt.k12.mi.us**

Name of Intermediate School District: **COPESD**

This Assurance document needs to be returned to your Intermediate School District or, for Public School Academies, your Authorizing Body with your Continuity of Learning Plan and Budget Outline beginning April 8, 2020 to indicate that the District will adopt a plan to ensure continuous learning for all students through the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.

Districts should submit a single district plan that relates to all of their schools.

The applicant hereby provides assurance it will follow the requirements for a Plan for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year:

1. Applicant assures that all student learning will take place under the direction of a teacher of record for each student enrolled in the district.
2. Applicant assures that it will continue to pay school employees during the balance of the 2019-2020 school year under the same terms and conditions established prior to the school closure order period.
3. Applicant assures that the Plan was developed in collaboration with district administrators, school board members, teachers, and local bargaining units.
4. Applicant assures that food distribution has been arranged for or provided for eligible Students.
5. Applicant assures coordination between applicant and Intermediate School District in which the District/PSA is located to mobilize disaster relief child care centers.
6. Applicant assures that to the extent practicable the District/PSA will in good faith provide students with IEPs/Section 504 Plans the opportunity to participate in learning consistent with existing plans.
7. Applicant assures that Continuity of Learning and COVID-19 Response Plan, Assurance Document, and Budget Outline will be posted immediately following approval to the District's/PSA's website.

Continuity of Learning and COVID-19 Response Plan (“Plan”)

The goal of a Continuity of Learning Plan and COVID-19 Response Plan is to ensure that each District or Public School Academy is providing, to the best of its ability, each student with alternative modes of instruction to help them stay on pace in their learning. This application recognizes that there is no “one-size-fits-all” solution; multiple means of engaging students and supporting families may be necessary that may vary by grade level, school building, or student population served.

For the purposes of the Plan, “district” refers to school districts and public school academies.

Date Submitted: **4/8/2020**

Name of District: **Vanderbilt Area School**

Address of District: **947 Donovan St. Vanderbilt Mi 49795**

District Code Number: **69040**

Email Address of the District Superintendent: leesandy@vanderbilt.k12.mi.us

Name of Intermediate School District: **COPESD**

In accordance with Executive Order 2020-35 a Plan must include all of the following parts:

1. Please describe the methods the district will use to provide alternative modes of instruction other than in-person instruction and a summary of materials each pupil and the pupil’s parents or guardians will need to access meaningfully the alternative modes of instruction included in the Plan. If the Plan relies on electronic instruction, the Plan must ensure to the extent feasible that pupils have access to a connected device capable of accessing the electronic instruction and must not penalize a pupil for the pupil’s inability to fully participate.

“Alternative modes of instruction” means modes of pupil instruction, other than in-person instruction, that may include, without limitation, partnerships with other districts or intermediate districts or community colleges or institutions of higher education, use of vendors, use of online learning, telephone communications, email, virtual instruction, videos, slideshows, project-based learning, use of instructional packets, or a hybrid of multiple modes of learning that still promote recommended practices for social distancing to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 .

District/ PSA Response:

Vanderbilt Area School plans to use a hybrid model of instruction using hard copy instructional packets and online learning platforms. For those students that have internet

access, but don't have a device, devices will be made available. Students without internet access will have access to instructional materials through a weekly instructional packet either paper and pencil or through a thumb drive. All students will need access to materials such as paper, pencils, and crayons, which will be made available to families that don't have them. All students will have access to grade-level/course textbooks as needed to complete their work.

2. Please describe the methods the district will use to keep pupils at the center of educational activities, including outreach to continue building relationships and maintain connections, and to help pupils feel safe and valued.

District/ PSA Response:

Vanderbilt Area School teachers will be expected to make contact with every student at least one time during the week. This may be done through the use of technology (for those that have access) such as Google Hangout or other form of virtual meeting or through weekly phone calls. For students with technology access teachers will also make sure to communicate multiple times each week through the instructional platform (Google Classroom or SeeSaw), with an emphasis on continuing to build relationships and maintain connections. (Restorative Circles) If students do not have access to technology, teachers will include weekly notes to students in their instructional packet that focus on building relationships and maintaining connections. We will encourage relationships between students by having students write letters to classmates and returning them with their weekly instructional packet. Those letters will be mailed to students by the school.

3. Please describe the district's plans to deliver content in multiple ways so that all pupils can access learning.

District/ PSA Response:

For those students without the internet, the main mode of delivery will be through hard copy instructional packets or packets saved on a thumb drive. This will be supplemented with phone conferencing to support instruction. The instructional packets/ thumb drives will be delivered during meal delivery. Packets/ thumb drive will be mailed to the student if they do not participate in meal delivery. For students with internet content will be delivered through the online platform (Google Classroom or See Saw), email, and other social media sites (Facebook, Remind, etc.). Teachers will be accessible synchronous instruction multiple times per week and asynchronous instruction through pre-made videos multiple times per week.

4. Please describe the district's plans to manage and monitor learning by pupils.

District/ PSA Response:

For students without internet access, learning packets will be collected each week during meal delivery. Teachers will review the learning packet and provide feedback to the student during their weekly phone call, virtual meeting, or email. Learning packets with written feedback will be returned to the student the next week. Feedback from the teacher will include differentiated work as needed, along with examples to support student learning. An example of this may be providing a student that is struggling with double-digit subtraction additional practice and several written examples with the steps. A phone call would also be used as a follow-up if needed.

For students with technology, teachers will monitor student access and assignment completion on a daily basis within the instructional platform. Teachers will provide feedback to students on assignments through the instructional platform as they are completed (or on a daily basis). Teachers will differentiate instruction within the platform to meet each student's needs.

5. Please attach a budget outline estimating additional expenditures associated with the Plan and sources of revenue to pay for those expenditures.

District/ PSA Response:

Budget would include:

Purchase of learning supplies such as paper, pencils, crayons, etc.	\$200.00
Printing costs (paper and machine copy cost)	\$1000.00
Mailing costs (envelopes, postage)	\$500.00
Fuel cost- milage	\$500.00

Sources:

General funds

Title I

6. Please describe the manner in which district administrators, board members, teachers, and any representatives of teachers collaborated in development of the Plan.

District/ PSA Response:

All stakeholders were involved in the development of the plan. VAS administrators met with the teachers for initial input. They then met in grade level/content area teams to address the needs of each grade or content area. Building administrators brought this information back to district level administrators to collaborate. Before finalizing the plan feedback was sought from board members.

7. Please describe the methods the district will use to notify pupils and parents or guardians of the Plan.

District/ PSA Response:

The plan will be communicated through a letter to each family. The plan will also be dispersed through email to those that have access. The plan will also be posted to the district website and other social media platforms as well as weekly virtual parent meetings.

8. Please provide an estimate of the date on which the district will begin implementation of the Plan, which must be no later than April 28, 2008.

District/ PSA Response:

Classes will go live on Tuesday April, 14th 2020. Packets for students that do not have internet will be delivered on Monday April 20th 2020.

9. Please describe the assistance, to the extent feasible, to pupils enrolled in any postsecondary dual enrollment courses under Public Act of , as amended, MCL 388.511 to 388.524 , and Career and Technical Preparation Act, 258 PA 2000, as amended, MCL 388.1901 to 388.1913 , in completing the courses during the 2019-2020 school year.

District/ PSA Response:

For our students in dual enrollment courses we will be working with the provider to determine next steps. We will ensure that the students have the appropriate materials and support to complete those courses. The students will be given the option to convert their grade to credit or no-credit.

10. Please describe how the district will continue to provide or arrange for continuation of food distribution to eligible pupils.

District/ PSA Response: dates and delivery

The district is providing food to students through the unanticipated school closure program. Food is distributed on Mondays either through pick-up at the school or delivered to those that can't get to school. Pick-up and delivery is from 11:30 to 12:30.

11. Please confirm that the district will continue to pay school employees while redeploying staff to provide meaningful work in the context of the Plan, subject to any applicable requirements of a collective bargaining agreement.

District/ PSA Response:

Vanderbilt Area School confirms that we will continue to pay employees subject to any applicable requirements of collective bargaining agreements. Para-pros will support students by making the packets to go home and helping with food distribution.

12. Provide a description of how the district will evaluate the participation of pupils in the Plan.

District/ PSA Response:

The district will monitor learning of the students through Google Classroom, email, and phone contact. The program will be evaluated through the use of feedback from parents and students as well as teachers. Inconsistent completion and/or communication with a parent or student will be raised to the principal or counselor level to develop a plan to connect with the student and family. Additional support agencies may be sought to make these connections (DHHS, Behavioral Health, etc.).

13. Please describe how the district will provide mental health support to pupils affected by a state of emergency or state of disaster prompted by COVID- 19.

District/ PSA Response:

The district will survey all parents to determine their current mental health needs. Based on those results the behavior specialist (31n, SSW, counselor, principal, etc.) will reach out to individual students and families to determine what they may need. The behavior specialist will help connect the family to outside agencies to help meet their needs. While teachers are making weekly phone calls they will monitor and assess the needs of students and families. If a need is presented the teacher will elevate that need to the principal or behavior specialist to make the necessary follow-up. The principal will hold weekly meetings with teachers to identify any additional students or families in need. Telehealth may be used when available for students that have technology.

14. Please describe how the district will support the efforts of the intermediate district in which the district is located to mobilize disaster relief child care centers as described in the Executive Order - or any executive order that follows it.

District/ PSA Response:

If the district is asked to provide support to the intermediate district we would stand ready to help.

Optional question:

15. Does the District plan to adopt a balanced calendar instructional program for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year? Does the District plan to adopt a balanced calendar instructional program for the 2020 - 2021 school year?

District/ PSA Response:

Name of District Leader Submitting Application: **Lee Sandy**

Date Approved: *April 9, 2020*

Name of ISD Superintendent/Authorizer Designee: *Jamie R. Huber*

Date Submitted to Superintendent and State Treasurer: *April 13, 2020*

Confirmation approved Plan is posted on District/PSA website: *April 10, 2020*