



NICE Community School District Submitted April 8, 2020

This Plan Covers Our Pre-K through 12th Grade Students Including All of Our Special Education Programs

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: Wednesday, April 8, 2020

Name of District: NICE Community School District

Address of District: 300 S. Westwood Dr.

District Code Number: 52015

Email Address of the District: bryand@nice.k12.mi.us

Name of Intermediate School District: Marquette-Alger RESA

Name of Authorizing Body (if applicable): N/A

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: Wednesday, April 8, 2020

Name of District: NICE Community School District

Address of District: 300 S. Westwood Dr.

District Code Number: 52015

Email Address of the District Superintendent: bryand@nice.k12.mi.us

Name of Intermediate School District: Marquette-Alger RESA

Name of Authorizing Body (if applicable): N/A

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: NICE Community School District will do the following:

- Create weekly online learning across all of our grade levels and departments. This will include daily contact with our students and new lessons across all subjects at least three times per week.
 - Northern Michigan University's Public Broadcasting Station will be used to reach our students through the public airways, cable, and satellite television. These lessons will also be available via download to be watched at a student's and parent's convenience.
 - Teachers will design hardcopy mailings for students and families who need them.
 - Carefully monitor and support our students' special needs. Specifically, GSRP students will be addressed by MARESA staff.
 - Create a face-to-face Summer School Refresher Program that will begin in August prior to the start of the new school year on September 1.
 - We are working with Northern Michigan University and Compudyne to outfit our families who are struggling connecting to the internet. Our unique, rugged U.P. geography encompassing almost 700 sq. miles makes this particularly challenging.
 - We will not punish any students who cannot participate in our activities.
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: NICE Community School District will do the following:

- Our teachers will attempt to make daily contact with our students. This will happen online utilizing a host of platforms and via telephone and snail-mail when necessary.
 - Our school counselors and our school nurse will continue to make contact with the students identified as needing their services. They will also reach out to students who we suspect may need their services.
 - We post to our Facebook page nearly every day and we have been making contact with parents and students at least twice a week through district-wide email blasts.
3. Please describe the district's plans to deliver content in multiple ways so that all pupils can access learning.

District/ PSA Response: As mentioned above, NICE Community School District will do the following:



- Push out weekly online learning across all of our grade levels and departments. This will include daily contact with our students and new lessons across all subjects at least three times per week.
 - Utilize Northern Michigan University's Public Broadcasting Station to reach our students through the public airways, cable, and satellite television. These lessons will also be available via download to be watched at a student's and parent's convenience.
 - Push out hardcopy mailings to students and families who need them.
 - Carefully monitor and support our students' special needs.
 - Institute face-to-face Summer School Refresher Program that will begin in August prior to the start of the new school year on September 1.
 - We are working with Northern Michigan University and Compudyne to outfit our families who are struggling connecting to the internet.
4. Please describe the district's plans to manage and monitor learning by pupils.

District/ PSA Response: NICE Community School District will do the following:

- Our teachers and staff will be keeping logs of all contact with students. These logs will include which students are successful, which students are unsuccessful, and which platforms work best for them; i.e. online learning, hardcopy mail correspondence, public broadcasting lessons, etc. Staff will track complete and incomplete assignments.
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: NICE Community School District will do the following:

- We will successfully fund our efforts. This will be challenging, but achievable. We will likely have to dip into our Fund Balance a bit, especially for our Summer School Refresher Program in August. We will explore utilizing some of our Title I and 31a At-Risk funds to support this program to offset our costs. Our district does not receive much in the way of Federal funding.
- We will successfully fund our efforts. The day-to-day operations during our learning described above, delivered during the regular 2019-2020 School Year should be manageable under our regular 2019-2020 General Fund Budget. Luckily, while not rich, our district is financially stable right now. We are distributing devices to our families who need them and we are attempting to help families with internet connectivity issues by partnering with Northern Michigan University and Compudyne. In small sections of our almost 700 sq. mile large district, the U.P.'s



rugged geography is proving challenging. We will find a way to connect our students, even if it is via telephone and hardcopy packets.

- Expenditures include device purchases; approximately \$6,000 to date.
- Our Personnel Expenditures are already budgeted for this Fiscal Year and should not be an issue.
- Personnel Expenditures for our upcoming optional Summer School will be budgeted into next year's General Fund Budget. There is an anticipated cost of \$25,000 for both personnel and supplies.
- Revenue will come almost exclusively from our General Fund Budget both this year and next year. We may have to dip into our Fund Balance, but we are financially stable at this time.
- We will utilize as much of our Title I and 31a At-Risk Revenue as possible. As mentioned above, our Federal Revenue is very small, accounting for less than 1% of our General Fund Budget.

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: NICE Community School District has done the following:

- We have collaborated via Zoom Meetings, conference calls, and email correspondence. We have been preparing for this since we began this pandemic hiatus. Our administrators, board members, and teacher representatives have been instrumental in guiding us. They will continue to help us fine tune our delivery and execution of this plan.

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

District/ PSA Response: NICE Community School District will do the following:

- We will utilize district-wide email blasts to parents and students. We will utilize our heavily trafficked Facebook Page. We will utilize our local television stations and Northern Michigan University's Public Broadcasting Station.

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: NICE Community School District has done and will continue to do the following:



- We already started implementing our Plan on Monday, April 6, 2020. We are simply awaiting approval. We will make any necessary modifications required and our official start date will coincide with the official approval date of our Plan.

9. Please describe the assistance, to the extent feasible, to pupils enrolled in any postsecondary dual enrollment courses under Public Act 160 of 1996, 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: NICE Community School District has already done and will continue to do the following:

- Our Dual Enrollment and Concurrent Enrollment Students are already on track to continue and finish their studies. Northern Michigan University has been a particularly excellent partner in this regard.
- Our Career and Technical Education Departments are executing plans to assist our CTE Students in the successful completion of their courses. We will utilize our online learning platforms and some potential virtual reality platforms, for skills like welding for example, to assist our students in successfully attaining the necessary skills and competencies in their CTE courses.

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

District/ PSA Response: NICE Community School District has already done and will continue to do the following:

- We are partnering with service organizations, local businesses, Ishpeming Public Schools, and Chartwells K-12 to ensure all our students have access to food. Our system seems to be working well so far. We will continue our efforts.
- Free meal packets including breakfast, lunch, and snacks are available for every student throughout our community each Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. On Thursdays, extra meal packets are available containing food for the weekends.

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: NICE Community School District has already done and will continue to do the following:

- Yes, we will continue to pay our school employees and utilize them as necessary within the tenets of our collective bargaining agreements.



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

District/ PSA Response: NICE Community School District will do the following:

- Our teachers and staff will be keeping logs of all contact with students. These logs will include which students are successful, which students have been unsuccessful, and which platforms work best for them; i.e. online learning, hardcopy mail correspondence, public broadcasting lessons, etc. Our letter grading system concluded with work done prior to or made up in conjunction with classwork due on or before Thursday, March 12. From this point forward, we will utilize the system outlined above. All our students will be advancing to their next appropriate grade level.
- Our Senior Class is on track to graduate. We will be assisting those Seniors who had final items to complete prior to their graduation. We will celebrate their collective graduation when we are officially allowed to meet together again in a face-to-face manner. Diplomas will be mailed to students this spring.
- Our Pre-K and ECSE faculty and staff are executing our plan to mirror our efforts across our K-12 grade levels.

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

District/ PSA Response: NICE Community School District has already done and will continue to do the following:

- Our school counselors continue to deliver support and resources to our students. Issues outside our school counseling capacity will continue to be routed to the appropriate agencies and community providers.

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 Executive Order 2020-16 or any executive order that follow it.

District/ PSA Response: NICE Community School District has already done and will continue to do the following:

- We are prepared to continue to assist our local hospital and our RESA in any way required. We have always served as an ancillary location for disaster relief efforts. We are ready and willing to assist. We will also refer interested parents, who are essential workers, to *Help Me Grow* at <https://www.helpmegrow-mi.org> to assist with their daycare needs.

Optional question:

15. Does the District 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: NICE Community School District has discussed the following:

- We have discussed and contemplated balanced calendars for both the 2019-2020 and the 2020-2021 school years. We do not plan to adopt balanced calendars at this time.

Name of District Leader Submitting Application: Bryan DeAugustine, Superintendent

Date Approved: April 10, 2020

Name of ISD Superintendent/Authorizer Designee: Deborah Veiht, Superintendent

Date Submitted to Superintendent and State Treasurer: April 10, 2020

Confirmation approved Plan is posted on District/PSA website: April 13, 2020