



## **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: April 14, 2020

Name of District: Watersmeet Township School District

Address of District: N4720 Hwy 45

District Code Number: 27080

Email Address of the District: gpease@watersmeet.k12.mi.us

Name of Intermediate School District: Gogebic-Ontonagon Intermediate School District

Name of Authorizing Body (if applicable):

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: April 14, 2020

Name of District: Watersmeet Township School District

Address of District: N4720 Highway 45

District Code Number: 27080

Email Address of the District Superintendent: gpease@watersmeet.k12.mi.us

Name of Intermediate School District: Gogebic-Ontonagon Intermediate School District

Name of Authorizing Body (if applicable):

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:

Watersmeet Township School District is a very small, rural school district in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. On a recent technology survey, it was reported the only 20%-30% of our students have wi-fi access. Wi-fi accessibility is also limited due to the national forest terrain blocking the signals from transmission towers, and the lack of vendors that offer wi-fi service to the community. Due to the above stated issues, the school district's regular education and special education teachers will be providing instructional packets to their students every two weeks during the time of school closure. This will begin on the week of April 20th, again the week of May 4th and again on May 18th in order to be equitable to all students. The school year will end on June 3rd as regularly scheduled.

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:

Watersmeet Township School District's teachers and counselors will reach out weekly to communicate with our students by phone or email. Presently, this would seem to be the safest method of communication until we can meet again at the school. Instructional packets will be mailed to each student in our school with individualized instruction for the curricular materials. Watersmeet Township School District is currently providing weekly updates by mail regarding the school closure and will continue to support the "whole child" with administrators, teachers, counselors, mental health professionals, student nutritional needs being met, and the student safety needs being met in the best manner we can. The building may be closed but the instructional process is continuing forward for our students.

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

District/ PSA Response:

Due to the limited number of student households in our school district that have available access to wi-fi connections (20%-30%) and to be equitable to all students, the teachers will be developing instructional packets that will be individualized for each student in the classrooms that would provide a variety of instructional methods to meet the particular learning style of each student. The instructional packets will be mailed to the student's home every two weeks. Each instructional packet will contain two weeks of curricular materials that the students will be able to work from.

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

District/ PSA Response:

Watersmeet Township School District's administrators, teachers and counselor will reach out at least one time per week by phone and/or email to monitor the learning taking place by our students.

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:

Rough Estimate Mailing Packets: \$300.00 Postage: \$600.00 Mailing Labels: \$200.00 Copy Paper: \$500.00 Teacher Home Office Supplies: a. Printer ink: \$500.00 b. Office supplies: \$250.00 Miscellaneous: \$250.00 Total: \$2600.00

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:

Watersmeet Township School District administrators, board members, teachers, and any representatives of teachers individually reviewed this Plan and have the ability to input into the development of this Plan between April 8,2020 and April 14, 2020.

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

Watersmeet Township School District will notify pupils and parents by providing a copy of the approved Plan on the school district's website, by including a copy of the Plan in the weekly update that's mailed to every student's home, including a copy in the instructional packets sent to each student, by email when requested, and by providing a copy upon request from students and parents.

District/ PSA Response:

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:

LEA Name: Watersmeet Township School District

Days Cancelled before March 16th:

11/27/2019 full day

12/2/2019 full day

12/3/2019 full day

12/9/2019 full day

12/12/2019 full day

1/30/2020 full day

6 days total Watersmeet Township School District will begin the implementation of this Plan on April 20, 2020.

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:

Watersmeet Township School currently does not have any students enrolled in postsecondary dual enrollment courses for the 2019-2020 school year.

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

District/ PSA Response:

Watersmeet Township School District began distributing individual breakfasts and lunches for our district's students on March 18, 2020 at a pickup site at the school district and Lac Vieux Desert reservation. This food distribution from the school district to eligible students will continue through the immediate future to keep our students fed and safe.

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:

Watersmeet Township School District will continue to pay school employees while redeploying staff to provide meaningful work in the context of the Plan as subject to any applicable requirements of a collective bargaining agreement.

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

District/ PSA Response:

Watersmeet Township School members will keep a student contact log that provides documentation of dates and times the teacher attempts to make contact with their students to evaluate the participation of their students in the Plan.

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:

Watersmeet Township School District works closely with the Michigan Social Services, Gogebic County Health Department, Michigan state and local law enforcement, Gogebic/Ontonagon ISD

mental health counselors and therapists, Lac Vieux Desert Clinic, as well as having a full time counselor on staff to support our students affected by a state of emergency or state of disaster prompted by COVID-19. The school district's counselor will coordinate with all the above mentioned agencies to provide services needed by our students.

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:

Watersmeet Township School District will make every effort to support the efforts of the Gogebic/Ontonagon ISD to mobilize disaster relief child care centers as determined by the GOISD plan.

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:

1. Watersmeet Township School District has elected to not adopt a balanced calendar instructional program for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. 2. Watersmeet Township School District has elected to not adopt a balanced calendar instructional program for the 2020-2021 school year.

Name of District Leader Submitting Application: Dr. Gerald E. Pease

Date Approved: *4/16/2020*

Name of ISD Superintendent/Authorizer Designee: *Alan R. Rob*

Date Submitted to Superintendent and State Treasurer: *4/20/2020*

Confirmation approved Plan is posted on District/PSA website: