



## **Blue Water Middle College Academy Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan**

Address of School District/PSA: 323 Erie St.

District/PSA Code Number: 74914

District/PSA Website Address: <http://bluewatermiddlecollege.org>

District/PSA Contact and Title: Mr. Pete Spencer, Director

District/PSA Contact Email Address: [spencer.pete@sccresa.org](mailto:spencer.pete@sccresa.org)

Name of Intermediate School District/PSA: St. Clair County RESA

Name of PSA Authorizing Body (if applicable): St. Clair County RESA

Date of Approval by ISD/Authorizing Body:

## Assurances

1. The District/PSA will make their ISD/Authorizing Body approved Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan accessible through the transparency reporting link located on the District's/PSA's website no later than October 4 **12**, 2020.
2. **By not later than January 15, 2021, the district shall create a report that includes information regarding both of the following and shall ensure that the report under this subdivision can be accessed through the transparency reporting link located on the district's website:**
  - a. **The amount and type of training provided during the current school year as of the date of the report to teachers of the district through professional development that focuses on how to deliver virtual content.**
  - b. **The amount and type of training provided during the current school year as of the date of the report to the parents and legal guardians of pupils and to pupils on how to access and use virtual content provided by the district.**
3. The District/PSA will create and make available on its transparency reporting link located on the District/PSA's website, a report concerning the progress made in meeting the educational goals contained in its Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan not later than February 1, 2021, for goals its expected would be achieved by the middle of the school year and not later than the last day of school of the 2020-2021 school year for goals the District/PSA expected would be achieved by the end of the school year.
4. Benchmark Assessments: The District/PSA will
  - a. select a benchmark assessment or benchmark assessments that is/are aligned to state standards.
  - b. administer the approved benchmark assessment, or local benchmark assessment, or any combination thereof, to all pupils in grades K to 8 to measure proficiency in reading and mathematics within the first nine weeks of the 2020-2021 school year and again not later than the last day of the of the 2020-2021 school year.
5. If delivering pupil instruction virtually, the District/PSA will
  - a. provide pupils with equitable access to technology and the internet necessary to participate in instruction, and
  - b. expose each pupil to the academic standards that apply for each pupil's grade level or courses in the same scope and sequence as the District/PSA had planned for that exposure to occur for in-person instruction.

6. The District/PSA, in consultation with a local health department will develop guidelines concerning appropriate methods for delivering pupil instruction for the 2020-2021 school year that are based on local data that are based on key metrics. Note: A determination concerning the method for delivering pupil instruction shall remain at the District/PSA Board's discretion. Key metrics that the District/PSA will consider shall include at least all of the following:
  - a. COVID-19 Cases or Positive COVID-19 tests
  - b. Hospitalizations due to COVID-19
  - c. Number of deaths resulting from COVID-19 over a 14-day period
  - d. COVID-19 cases for each day for each 1 million individuals
  - e. The percentage of positive COVID-19 tests over a 4-week period
  - f. Health capacity strength
  - g. Testing, tracing, and containment infrastructure with regard to COVID-19
  
7. If the District/PSA determines that it is safe to provide in-person instruction to pupils, the District/PSA will prioritize providing in-person instruction to pupils in grades K to 5 who are enrolled in the District/PSA.
  
8. The District/PSA assures that
  - a. instruction will be delivered as described in this plan and re-confirmed by the District/PSA Board,
  - b. the description of instructional delivery in this plan matches the delivery of instruction to be delivered during the 2020-2021 school year,
  - c. the District/PSA will re-confirm how instruction will be delivered during the 2020-2021 school year thirty days after ISD approval of the plan, and ~~every 30 days~~ **each month** thereafter at a meeting of the Board, and
  - d. **For each reconfirmation described in this subdivision, the district shall report to the center, in a form and manner prescribed by the center,**
    - i. **the instructional delivery method that was reconfirmed;**
    - ii. **how that instruction will be delivered for each grade level offered by the district, including pre-kindergarten, as applicable; and**
    - iii. **whether or not, as determined by the department in consultation with the center, the district is offering higher levels of in-person instruction for English language learners, special education students, or other special populations.**
  - e. public comment will be solicited from the parents or legal guardians of the pupils enrolled in the District/PSA during a public meeting described in PA-149.
  
9. The District/PSA will ensure that students with disabilities will be provided with equitable access to instruction and accommodation in accordance with applicable state and federal laws, rules and regulations.
  
10. The District/PSA will ensure that two (2), 2-way interactions occur between a pupil enrolled in the District/PSA and the pupil's teacher or at least one (1) of the pupil's teachers, **or another district employee who has responsibility for the pupil's learning, grade progression, or academic progress** during each week of the school year for at least 75% of the pupils enrolled in the District/PSA. The District/PSA will publicly announce its weekly interaction rates at each District/PSA Board meeting where it re-confirms how instruction is being delivered. The District/PSA will make those rates

available through the transparency reporting link located on the District/PSA website each month for the 2020-2021 school year.

**Clarification of Assurance 10:** "2-way interaction" means a communication that occurs between a pupil and the pupil's teacher or at least 1 of the pupil's teachers **or another district employee who has responsibility for the pupil's learning, grade progression, or academic progress**, where 1 party initiates communication and a response from the other party follows that communication, and that is relevant to course progress or course content for at least 1 of the courses in which the pupil is enrolled **or relevant to the pupil's overall academic progress or grade progression**. Responses, as described in this subdivision, must be to the communication initiated by the teacher, **by another district employee who has responsibility for the pupil's learning, grade progression, or academic progress, or by the pupil**, and not some other action taken.



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District Superintendent or President of the Board of Education/Directors

9/30/2020

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Date

## Learning Plan Narrative

### Opening Statement

- Please provide a statement indicating why an Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan is necessary to increase pupil engagement and achievement for the 2020-2021 school year.

The 2020 – 2021 school year is now underway, and it is clear that school will not look as it did a year ago. This year, high school students in St. Clair County will be challenged to learn in a variety of formats, including 100% virtual, in-person, and in hybrid models combining virtual and face-to-face. Changes in the level of risk of Covid-19 infection and transmission may lead to transitions between instruction deliver models throughout the year.

Students, parents and teachers must understand the current methods of instructional delivery with which they are starting the school year, and they must be ready to adapt to changes that may arise throughout the school year. Organizationally, schools must be ready to change and adapt on very short notice due to statewide changes ordered by the Governor's office, regional recommendations from their local health department, or a very local situation caused by the discovery of a few students or staff infected by the Covid-19 virus.

The key to students effectively continuing their education from the beginning of the school year through any changes that might come along is a learning plan that provides multiple options for students to access learning, stay connected to school personnel, and provide support for students, parents and staff seeking help with the new way schools look and operate this year.

In addition to the challenge of changing high school course deliver, Blue Water Middle College Academy (BWMCA) students are also learning to succeed in college courses delivered mostly online. Accessing course content, communicating with instructors, submitting assignments and assessments, and finding academic support can be different with each St. Clair County Community College (SC4) course. The Extended Covid-19 Learning Plan of the Blue Water Middle College will primarily focus on helping students succeed in their college courses this school year, in order to maintain students' progress toward their degree. Learning is something that can continue in the midst of a pandemic. It may not take place the same way, but with support and a willingness to adapt and work in new ways, BWMCA students can end the 2020 – 2021 school year making normal progress toward the completion of their academic goals.

## Educational Goals

- **Please outline and describe** the educational goals expected to be achieved for the 2020-2021 school year. The District/PSA must establish all of its goals no later than September 15, 2020. Authorizing bodies expect PSA educational goals will be aligned to the educational goal within your charter contract.
- **Specify** which goals are expected to be achieved by the middle of the school year and which goals are expected to be achieved by the end of the school year.
- **Ensure** that all of the following apply to the educational goals described in this section: (a) The goals include increased pupil achievement or, if growth can be validly and reliably measured using a benchmark assessment or benchmark assessments, growth on a benchmark assessment in the aggregate and for all subgroups of pupils; (b) The District/PSA benchmark assessment(s) are aligned to state standards and will be administered to all pupils K-8 at least once within the first 9 weeks of the 2020-2021 school year and not later than the last day of the 2020-2021 school year to determine whether pupils are making meaningful progress toward mastery of these standards; and (c) the District's/PSA's educational goals are measurable through a benchmark assessment or benchmark assessments.
- To the extent practicable, the District/PSA will administer the same benchmark assessment or benchmark assessments that it administered to pupils in previous years.

Educational goals for Blue Water Middle College Academy students in 2020 – 2021 are not benchmark-specific. They are broader due to the nature of a middle college and the age and grade level of our students. The overarching goals of the middle college since it opened include helping students successfully transition to college, succeed in their college courses and complete a program of study at St. Clair Community College (SC4) that results in an associate degree and/or professional certificate.

These goals will be assessed at the end of each semester this year through the analysis of class grade data and college completion data for grade 13 students. Changes to the delivery of education at the secondary and post-secondary levels due to Covid-19 add new and significant challenges to student success on top of the normal challenges students face as they transition from one level to the next. Online learning, instructors inexperienced in online teaching, a mix of instructional delivery at our partner high schools, and a variety of new social, emotional and economic challenges and stress caused by the pandemic will all work against the achievement of the BWMCA goals.

The middle college increased the passing rate of BWMCA students in their college classes to approximately 90 percent. Our on-time college degree completion rate has risen to almost 60 percent. It is important that the gains we have made in the last few years are not lost due to Covid-19. Our Covid-19 Preparedness and Response Plan and this Extended Covid-19 Learning Plan will guide the middle college staff as we work to maintain the gains we have made in student success in their college courses and in our students' rate of college completion. It will be easy to conclude from the data later this school year if we succeed.

## Instructional Delivery & Exposure to Core Content

- **Please describe** how and where instruction will be delivered during the 2020-2021 school year. (e.g. instruction may be delivered at school or a different location, in-person, online, digitally, by other remote means, in a synchronous or asynchronous format, or any combination thereof).

Blue Water Middle College Academy students are beginning the 2020-2021 school year receiving instruction in a variety of ways, including online and hybrid face-to-face. It is important to note that BWMCA students take courses through St. Clair County Community College (SC4) and one of six local partner high schools, which are part of five local districts, and a public school academy. Each of those schools are making their own decision as to how instruction will be delivered at any given time throughout the year based on local and regional conditions. The BWMCA is not determining how and where instruction is delivered for its students. The role of the BWMCA is to provide its students with the tools and support to access instruction however it is delivered.

St. Clair County Community College decided shortly before the fall semester began to deliver instruction primarily online. Courses that are primarily hands-on (applied engineering courses such as electronics, robotics and welding) or have important online components (science courses such as chemistry and some biology courses) are meeting either fully or partially in-person. Most SC4 courses are 100% online and being delivered via Canvas, SC4's Learning Management System (LMS).

11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade BWMCA students have the option at all of our partner high schools to take classes 100% remotely (online) or via a hybrid face-to-face structure. Those options are subject to change as the year goes on depending on conditions related to the Covid-19 virus, the rate of community spread and incidents of infection within a particular school or district. The BWMCA will monitor the methods of instructional delivery at our partner high schools and work with our partners to support student learning no matter what method each student is using.

- **Please describe** how instruction for core academic areas will expose each pupil to the academic standards that apply for each pupil's grade level or course in the same scope and sequence as the District/PSA had planned for that exposure to occur for in-person instruction.

As upper level high school students (grades 11 – 13), BWMCA students take classes that are more content-specific and compartmentalized than what students experience in lower grades (K-8). Their college courses are also more content-specific when it comes to academic standards addressed in the course. Students' choice of courses remains basically the same even though instructional delivery of the courses may be different.

At the course content level, the academic standards for each course should remain very close to what they would be pre-Covid. An instructor (high school or college) who previously only taught his or her course face-to-face may find it difficult to teach the exact same content online, but any changes or omissions should be minimal.

BWMCA students will continue their progress toward completion of high school graduation requirements and course requirements for their chosen program of study at St. Clair County Community College. Changes in instructional delivery due to Covid-19 should not impact our students' progress toward their academic goals.

- **Please describe** how pupil progress toward mastery of the standards described within this section will be graded or otherwise reported to the pupil and the pupil's parent or legal guardian.

Grading in high school and college courses will take place primarily as it would during a normal school year. However, students taking all virtual high school courses using an external course content provider such as Edgenuity may experience more automated grading than they are used to. Regardless of how grades are assigned, they will be communicated using the same methods they have been prior to Covid-19.

High school course grades will be communicated to students and parents using whatever schedule and means of delivery is in place at the student's partner high school. The Blue Water Middle College Academy does not send students and parents high school marking period or semester grades. They receive those from their partner high school. Semester grades are recorded on their BWMCA transcript which is updated at the end of each semester. A copy of our students' BWMCA high school transcript is mailed home at the end of every school year and is available upon request at any time. The BWMCA transcript includes all high school and college grades.

College grades are posted on a student's SC4 online portal twice a semester. An "Early Alert" grade is posted after six weeks of instruction, and a final course grade is posted the week after the semester ends. The level of grades available in between those posted grades varies with each instructor. Many are now using web-based grading systems that allow students to view their current grade on any given day, similar to what most have available at their high school. Some college instructors still leave it up to their students to calculate their grade at any given

time. BWMCA staff members offer to help students with this calculation based on the grading system included in the course syllabus and the student's assignment and assessment grades available.

Students (and parent) who receive an Early Alert grade of C- or less in one or more college course are contacted by BWMCA Student Support Advisors to be sure they are aware of the grade. They are provided information on available academic support from BWMCA staff members or SC4's Achievement Center tutors and staff.

Student progress toward their high school diploma and college associate degree are monitored and communicated to students at least once a year. BWMCA student progress toward their high school diploma is audited at the end of each school year and mailed home early in the summer. BWMCA student support specialists work closely with our partner school counselors to be sure students are completing their high school requirements either with high school courses or college courses. Progress toward their identified college degree is also audited at the end of 12<sup>th</sup> grade. The audit, which includes recommendations for courses to take in grade 13, their final year in the middle college, is also mailed home early in the summer.

## Equitable Access

- If delivering pupil instruction virtually, please **describe** how the District/PSA will provide pupils with equitable access to technology and the internet necessary to participate in instruction.

The BWMCA provides all students with a Chromebook that can be used to access almost all sites and software required for accessing instruction remotely. If there are software or other requirements that cannot be met with a Chromebook, the middle college will loan a student a Windows-based laptop or work with the college and student on appropriate alternatives.

Students who indicate that their internet connectivity is preventing them from adequately accessing instruction and completing coursework and assessments due to poor Internet connectivity are provided a mobile hotspot and a cellular data plan. Currently, about 15 students are utilizing a hotspot provided by the middle college.

Students and parents are asked to contact the middle college if they have problems with internet connectivity during the school year.

- **Please describe** how the District/PSA will ensure that students with disabilities will be provided with equitable access to instruction and accommodation in accordance with applicable state and federal laws, rules and regulations.

BWMCA students with existing 504 or IEP accommodation plans are contacted by BWMCA staff to review their accommodations and assess possible needs based on existing methods of instructional delivery. Some accommodations may be or seem unnecessary when courses are online, but new needs may arise based on a student's disability.

All students with a 504 or IEP are recommended to contact SC4's Student Disabilities Coordinator to see which accommodations they are receiving for their high school classes are also available at the college and how to access them, if so. The college may also offer different accommodations and tools to help the students that are not available at their high school.

BWMCA staff members will continue to be part of 504 or IEP update meetings held at our partner high schools or remotely to provide input on the student's college success and progress toward their degree.

Sometimes, new situations arise where students need support for health or emotional challenges that arise. BWMCA staff work with closely SC4 support staff to help the student stay connected to the college and complete their coursework, as possible, while they deal with their challenges.

- **Optional Considerations for District/PSA Extended COVID-19 Learning Plans:**

- 1. In addition to the students with disabilities noted above, please describe how the District/PSA will ensure that the needs of other vulnerable student populations, such as but not limited to, early English Learners and Fledgling/struggling students, are met.  
  
2. Please describe how the District/PSA will ensure that students will, during pandemic learning, have continued access to programs such as, but not limited to, Early Childhood, CTE, Early-Middle College, Dual Enrollment and Advanced Placement as applicable within the District/PSA.

Fortunately, the Blue Water Middle College Academy is able to provide the same opportunity and access to college courses for our students as before the pandemic. We are working with our students to help them adapt to mostly online college courses so that progress toward their academic goals is not delayed.