

**¹Gary Middle College
21st Century Charter School at Gary
GEO Next Generation High School-Indianapolis**

**COVID-19 Fall 2021 Learning/Reopening Plan
Integrated ESSER III Plan**

***DRAFT – for public comment
Email comments to: reopening@geoacademies.org***

Date of Last Update: May 27, 2021

Summary All Indiana GEO Academies have implemented a robust plan for faculty, students and families to return to **in person** school for the 2021-2022 school year. ***You can't have a full recovery without full-strength schools.*** Increased vaccination opportunities combined with unfortunate learning loss, as documented by 2020-2021 assessment results, prove the need and the ability for the return to in-person education. However, GEO Academies also acknowledge that some families found virtual learning to be the best option for their students, and therefore we will also offer a virtual option - with certain provisions - for those families that found virtual learning to be a success.

This plan was designed using all information currently available from the Indiana State Department of Health, the Indiana Department of Education, and the Center for Disease Control; however, it is subject to change at any time.

STAKEHOLDER INPUT:

- In an effort to capture the input and needs of our families, a survey was administered that provided the district with an understanding of the preferred learning environment for the 2021-2022 school year. This survey is in addition to the outreach that was conducted from each school which included; calls, emails, Facebook Live sessions, and Parent Universities. The results from the survey revealed that the majority of families are ready to return to in-person instruction with a very small percentage wanting to remain fully virtual.
- School principals, special education leadership, classroom teachers, operational staff, and technology teams collaborated to determine the best use of federal stimulus funds (ESSER II and ESSER III) and their integration into the schools' reopening plans.

¹ WMS 5/26/21

- The Reopening Plan and Integrated ESSER III Funding Plan document was publicly posted on the schools' websites for parent and student review and input, with additional information posted on social media sites.
- The schools' Boards of Directors reviewed, discussed and approved the Reopening plan and Integrated ESSER III Funding planning document, with public comment, at their board meetings on the following dates:
 - GEO Next Generation High School Indianapolis - June 8, 2021
 - 21st Century Charter School at Gary - June 10, 2021
 - Gary Middle College - June 22, 2021

Description For the 2021-2022 school year, GEO Academies will return to in-person instruction. In the event a family would elect to remain virtual, the student must meet the criteria outlined below.

1. In Person

- Scholars will attend school completely in the building. Class sizes will be no greater than 25 students with two adult supports in each classroom, K-2, and 3-12 and additional support staff in Core Classes (English and Math) **GMC will return to their pre pandemic model of hybrid instruction*
- Students will be in the building Monday - Friday following the [traditional school day](#) calendar.
- Students that attend in person will be eligible for sports and all extracurriculars.

2. Virtual

Your student is eligible for virtual learning if;

- A. Has a cumulative average of at least a 2.5.
- B. On grade level for core subjects per NWEA grade level norms, grades K-8, or on par with credit attainment, 9-10.
 - Students would register to test, in the building, using NWEA Screener to determine RIT score in both Math and ELA.
 - K-2 Dibels
 - On track for credit attainment, 9-12, is a minimum of 10 credits per year

- C. If receiving special services, placement must be approved by the case conference committee.

In Addition:

- Virtual students and families will complete online orientation/training before they begin their courses.
- Students & families acknowledge the student will be online approximately 15 to 20 hours a week.
- All core course assessments and interim assessments must be completed in the building at a scheduled time that is convenient to the parent and teacher.
All state assessments must be taken in the school building in which parents are responsible for transportation.
- Virtual learning students will be provided individual Chromebooks and also internet “hotspots” for those families who need reliable internet access.
- Students enrolling in the virtual environment will NOT be permitted to participate in sports or extracurriculars on campus.
- If the online student falls below the average 2.5 GPA in any subject or attendance drops below 97%, the student will be required to enroll in Face to Face instruction at the next quarter (elementary) or at semester (secondary).

The option selected by parents will be in effect for no less than one academic quarter for elementary scholars (K-8) and one semester for students grades 9-12.

GEO’s virtual option will mirror that of the GEO academic day. The students’ daily schedule reflects a minimum of six hours of instruction, Monday through Friday. Lessons will be conducted synchronously with asynchronous opportunities peppered in to allow for students to learn at their own pace.

- ***Synchronous learning*** refers to all types of learning in which students and teachers are in the same place, at the same time, in order for learning to take place. This includes in-person classes, live online meetings with the whole class or smaller groups getting together. In synchronous learning, students usually go through the learning path together, accompanied by their teacher who is able to provide support while students are completing tasks and activities.
- ***Asynchronous learning*** is a student-centered teaching method used in online learning. Its basic premise is that learning can occur in different times and spaces particular to each learner. In asynchronous learning, instructors set up a learning path, and students engage at their own pace.

Additional opportunities for office hours and personalized 1 on 1 support will be scheduled during the day.

In addition, meals will be provided for students enrolled in virtual learning every Monday. School principals track meal distribution through a google spreadsheet and delegate staff members from each school to assist with preparation and distribution. Below are Breakfast/Lunch guidelines from the IDOE:

Anyone 18 and under and present for meal handoff is eligible to collect one meal/day/person. These can be handed out in bulk for up to one week' worth of meals (5 breakfasts and lunches per week per child). Schools serving out-of-school meals must advertise with community groups, social media, website, and yard signs in common areas (parks, libraries, etc.). Meals will be served "grab & go", non-congregate style when permissible by the State. School staff will oversee meal distribution (2 staff per site/shift minimum) Meals, when served in bulk, must be counted for each day. For example, if 5 breakfasts and lunches are handed out at once on Monday, these must be marked off for each meal, each day (1 x for Monday Breakfast, 1 x for Tuesday Breakfast, etc.).

Special Education, 504, and ELL eLearning Supports and Accommodations

Virtual GEO Academy students with special services receive a multitude of supports that meet the needs of their Individual Education Plans (IEP), General Education Plans (504), and Individual Learning Plans (ILP). Classroom teachers work collaboratively with the child's teacher of record to provide differentiation and a supportive communication plan with each family. Curriculum design and lesson planning is based on sound pedagogical principles, practices, and high standards. Strategic methods for making grade-level materials and resources comprehensible for ELLs and supportive of IEP goals and 504's.

Each exceptional child receives daily communication from their general education teacher/ Special Education Teacher of Record (TOR). These calls and communication are documented in order to keep the general education and special education teams in alignment on the services being provided. Examples of eLearning accommodations and supports vary by student per the terms of the child's IEP, 504 and/or ILP (outlines services for English language learners).

GEO Academies will work collaboratively with special education provider(s) of students who receive speech, occupational, and/or physical therapy services to access at-home activities to

meet the needs of their IEP.

Schools will also be using additional federal stimulus funding (ESSER III) to provide additional special education staff in the classrooms to directly support closing the learning loss gaps for special populations.

Safety and Compliance

In order to facilitate the ongoing safety of students and staff, our schools have implemented a wide variety of safety protocols, including, but not limited to:

- Universal and correct wearing of masks in accordance with local and state guidance. As these protocols are constantly being updated with CDC information, our schools will follow the most recent guidance of state and local officials as of the date of school.
- Use of federal stimulus funding (ESSER II and ESSER III) to support modification of facilities to allow for physical distancing, such as the expansion of the 21st Century High School campus into the “South Building” and new facilities for GEO Next Generation High School - Indianapolis.
- Use of federal stimulus funding (ESSER II and ESSER III) to support enhanced cleaning and additional ventilation enhancements for buildings.
- Contact tracing, continued additional paid sick leave for covid-positive staff to encourage safe self-care.
- Continued encouragement of hand-washing, physical distancing, and other preventative measures where possible as recommended by federal, state, and local guidelines.

Student and Family Social Support

The GEO model works to combat generational poverty while also providing a resource to its neighboring community. This mission applies directly to our community regardless of “in person” or “virtual learning.” Schools will be using the additional federal stimulus funding (ESSER III) to support social emotional needs of students by providing the following additional resources across our schools:

- Home-School Liaisons
- Additional Social Workers/Counselors
- Additional Classroom Assistants/Paraprofessionals in classrooms

- Additional Math and ELA specialists and interventionists across the network to support academic loss learning, and support teachers in closing critical gaps for students.