



Gary Community School Corporation
STRONG ★ RESILIENT ★ BUILT FOR EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER

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UPDATED

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Dear Families,

The Gary Community School Corporation (GCSC) has been monitoring updates from the Governor's office, Center for Disease Control (CDC), and the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) on recommendations for the 2021-22 school year. GCSC is sharing the following updates and reminders. *We will continue to monitor CDC and State/Local Health Department Guidelines and update these as appropriate.*

1. Beginning the 2021-22 school year, the local mask requirement will be as follows:
 - a. **Required for all** staff and children in all grades.
 - b. **Optional for** all staff and students when they are outside.
2. GCSC will still be using other strategies to reduce the transmission of the virus even though not all students and staff are vaccinated, including handwashing and hand sanitizer, social distancing, and assigned seating.
3. All students will be **required** to wear masks in certain circumstances. For example:
 - a. All students while on school transportation.
 - b. When deemed necessary by school administrators.
4. Lunches will continue to be staggered and include assigned seating in cohorts to allow for better social distancing.
5. Social distancing will be attempted by teachers in classrooms at 3 feet, rather than 6 feet. If students are at least 3 feet from each other, and facing forward, then quarantining will be reduced due to those who are considered a close contact.
6. Desk dividers may be used by students, but are not required unless directed by the teacher.
7. Students in all levels will stay in cohort groups as much as possible.

8. Athletic and other program events will follow any reduced seating guidance from the state or CDC. Masks will be encouraged, but not required for events, unless indoors and social distancing cannot be accomplished.
9. Limited field trips will be allowed if they meet protocol guidelines.
10. School facility use by outside groups directly associated with GCSC (example PTO) will be allowed on a limited basis.
11. Guests will be asked to make appointments as much as possible.
12. Students, staff, and guests will not be temperature checked prior to entrance into the main building. CDC recommends that this occurs at home, by families, prior to school entry so that unnecessary groups do not congregate at entrances.
13. Outside speakers will be limited.
14. GCSC may continue to reduce the number of students in large group settings (assemblies, presentations in the gym, etc.).
15. Staff and students that are fully vaccinated will not be required to quarantine due to exposure situations unless they become symptomatic. Staff and students will not be required to show vaccination records; it will be an option instead of quarantining for those who are vaccinated. We hope these new guidelines will be welcomed changes for our families as we get back to our “normal”. We anticipate further reducing these local requirements when directed by the CDC or ISDH. Thank you for your attention and patience as we continue to navigate this pandemic. Questions can be sent to your child’s principal.