



Gary Community School Corporation
STRONG ★ RESILIENT ★ BUILT FOR EDUCATION

GCSC 2021-2022 School Year

Return to School Guidance Plan

- Banneker Elementary
- Bethune Early Childhood
- Beveridge Elementary
- Glen Park Academy
- Frankie McCullough Elementary
- Williams Elementary
- ☐ Bailly Preparatory Academy
- ☐ Gary Middle School
- ☐ West Side Leadership Academy
- ☐ Gary Area Career Center
- Gary Community School Corporate Office

Strong. Resilient. Built for Education.

GCSC Return to School Guidance Plan

Universal Mask Wearing

In an effort to reduce the spread of COVID-19, masks are required in school settings for all students, staff, and visitors beginning in the 2021-2022 school year.

Social Distancing

Physical distancing, along with other mitigating strategies, have been implemented within classrooms and community settings outside the classroom.

- Three feet distancing
- Use of well-ventilated spaces
- Area Relocation/Dividers

Hygiene Etiquette

Healthy protocols in the GCSC are essential in preventing the spread of COVID-19 across school learning environments:

- Frequent washing of hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds is recommended
- Hand sanitizer stations are available throughout school buildings
- Water fountains remain closed at this time

GCSC Return to School Guidance Plan

Healthy Facilities a.

The GCSC follows a routine cleaning schedule which includes the cleansing of high touch surfaces/objects and common areas; sanitizing surface areas involving food preparation and eating; and deep disinfection of areas where a positive COVID-19 case has been identified.

Healthy Facilities b.

In an effort to maintain healthy facilities and improve overall air quality, the GCSC has upgraded the in-room air ventilation via the placement of HEPA air filter purifiers in all classroom settings.

Contact Tracing

Students/staff of the GCSC experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 are encouraged to get tested and remain home in the event positive test results. Contact tracing in relation to positive cases requires isolation and quarantine as noted in collaboration with state, local, territorial, or tribal health departments. All positive/close-contact cases are reported via the IDOH K-12 Gateway portal as required.

GCSC Return to School Guidance Plan

Diagnostic and Screening Tests

While the GCSC does not require diagnostic/screening, we do have the Binax test readily available to assist our efforts in determining course of action protocol for suspected COVID-19 cases.

School Community Vaccinations

In partnership with the federal government, the GCSC hosted (via a closed campus) an onsite mass community clinic (6 weeks) allowing for walk-up and drive-up vaccinations to occur for those in need.

Appropriate Accommodations

Accommodations for students with disabilities, are honored by the GCSC on a case-by-case basis. Case conferences and IEPs enable communication on the delivery of instruction best suited for a student in need. The health and safety of our students is a district priority.

GCSC Return to School Guidance Plan

State and Local Health Officials

Collaboration and coordination efforts with the Gary City Health Department, the Lake County Health Department, and the Indiana State Health Department are ongoing and impact the protocols of our school learning environments.

Updated COVID Plan

Changes in protocol recommendations and requirements from the ISDH and the CDC have led to a myriad of revisions to the GCSC's robust plan for returning to in-person instruction. However, we will continue to revise/edit our plan over a six-month timeframe in order to remain in compliance with any new requirements as presented from the Indiana State Department of Education.

Public Comment

Return to Learn plans were shared at public forums and a survey was sent to families to gather feedback.

Gary Community School Corporation

Strong. Resilient. Built for Education.

