Millersburg Area School District Continuity of Education Plan

July 23, 2020

Parameters:

- Continuity of Education is the overarching term for educational practices that occur during an event that causes a significant change in the way a district delivers instruction. It is important that students are able to develop and maintain skills no matter how their instruction is delivered.

- The education of its students is obviously a high priority for the district during this COVID-19 pandemic. However, the highest priority of all must be the health and safety of all district students and staff. This “Continuity of Education Plan” is built upon the precept that all reasonable practices suggested by government and health officials regarding instructional delivery should be followed if possible. In some cases, where suggestions may be impossible to implement, the district will communicate with students, parents, and staff to provide information and – to the extent possible – provide reasonable alternative choices to individuals with special concerns or wishes.

- This plan is intended as a guide for the general practices the district will follow to deliver instruction in these unusual times. It does not go into detail on specific safety procedures that the district will implement. Those may be found in a separate plan titled, “The Phased School Reopening Health and Safety Plan” which is posted on the district website. Also, this plan does not address extracurricular activities. They are addressed in a separate plan titled, “Extracurricular Activities Health and Safety Plan” also posted on the district website.

- This Continuity of Education Plan is intended to guide the district for the entire 2020-21 school year. It is certainly possible that circumstances surrounding the pandemic may change – positively or negatively – during the year which could cause a revision to this plan. However, this plan was developed around the conditions existing in the summer of
2020 and on the best predictions available from government and health resources at that time.

- The district will continue to abide by the directives of the Governor and the “color-coded” system he has established for practices during the pandemic. Government and health officials advise that there is a likelihood that some or all counties within the state may move between these color codes during the 2020-21 school year. Therefore, this plan was developed to accommodate such movements with as little disruption to the educational process as possible. Because remote instruction is required in the red designation and the district could move from green or yellow to red overnight without warning, all students in all grades will be expected to take their devices home each day and return to school with them fully charged the next instructional day while in the green and yellow designations.

- This plan is organized by color code. That is, there is a section on how the district will deliver instruction given each of the three-color codes (red, yellow, and green) in which the county can be designated. However, if the PA Department of Health confirms a case of COVID-19 in a building, that building will automatically and immediately move to the plans for the red designation and continue in that designation per PA Department of Health recommendations.

- Unlike the fourth quarter of the 2019-20 school year where planned instruction was only made available to students in core subjects, during the 2020-21 school year planned instruction will be given to all students in all subjects. No subject will be considered “enrichment only”.

- Also, unlike the fourth quarter of the 2019-20 school year where attendance was not recorded and student work was not graded, this plan does make provisions for attendance and grading. All students will be held accountable for attendance and grading no matter what color designation.

- The district feels it is very important to provide breakfast and lunch to students who request it no matter what color phase the county is in. Therefore, district administration has developed a plan for providing meals in all circumstances. Details of that plan will be announced to all households in the district if/when the county moves from its green and yellow designation to red.

- Students who have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) will be assigned a Case Manager / Special Education Teacher for the 2020-2021 school year who will work with Students, Parents and Regular Education Teachers to support the Specially Designed Instruction (SDI) as it relates to in-person instruction, Millersburg Area Virtual Academy, or instruction via CAOLA online classes for each student. Case Managers / Special Education Teachers will also benchmark students’ levels, and progress monitor
students’ goals. If revisions to a student’s IEP are requested by the Parent and/or recommended by the student’s IEP Team, the IEP Team will discuss such changes at an in-person meeting or a Zoom meeting per Parent’s request. When a student’s IEP is up for yearly review and/or to complete a Re-evaluation Report (RR), the IEP Team will meet for an in-person meeting or a Zoom meeting per Parent’s request.

Available Learning Options:

The Millersburg Area School District recognizes that there is not a "one-size-fits-all" Health and Safety Plan that appeals to everyone. As such, our Continuity of Education Plan provides parents/guardians with choices that will keep our students connected with their school district, their classmates, and Millersburg Area curriculum and teachers. In the wake of uncertainty, changing guidance and mandates, we understand your family's decision will be based on a multitude of personal family factors that need to be considered such as the health and safety of your family, wearing face coverings, your child's unique learning style(s), special/gifted education considerations, childcare options, accessibility to consistent technology, work schedules, etc. Regardless of your preference, we remain committed to provide all students with the same high-quality educational program whether it is in our schools for in-person instruction or through our newly established Millersburg Area Virtual Academy (MAVA). These two options for returning to school in our District are described in more detail below.

**Option 1: Traditional:** Students in grades K-12 return to the active learning environments provided in our district with in-person instruction from our highly qualified teachers. The guidelines established in the board-approved “Phased School Reopening Health and Safety Plan”, designed to mitigate COVID-19 transmission in the school setting, will be followed.

**What to Expect from the Traditional Option:**

- Instruction is provided in-person in our school buildings by our highly qualified teachers following the standard school day schedule.
- Daily attendance applies to all students.
- Instruction aligns with District curriculum.
- The school day will follow the standard schedule that includes all core classes and special subject areas (i.e. music, physical education, art, etc.).
- Appropriate assessment and grading practices for all classes.
- Ability to complete schoolwork remotely through the MAVA if student or family member is quarantined.
- PDE-mandated 180 days of instruction K-12 AND 900 hours (elementary) and 990 hours (secondary) of instruction.

**Option 2: Millersburg Area Virtual Academy (MAVA):** Students will learn remotely with their classmates from a highly qualified Millersburg Area teacher based on the same rigorous curriculum offered in the traditional, in-person, setting.
What to expect from the MAVA Option:

- The initial commitment to MAVA is through September 30, 2020.
- Instruction is provided remotely by highly qualified, Millersburg Area teachers following the standard school day schedule.
- K-2 Instruction using Seesaw
- 3-12 Instruction using Google Classroom or Canvas
- Daily attendance applies to all students.
- Instruction aligns with District curriculum.
- The school day will follow the standard schedule that includes all core classes and special subject areas (i.e. music, physical education, art, etc.).
- Appropriate assessment and grading practices for all classes.
- Tips and strategies to support students learning through MAVA.
- Support from school counselors and teachers to meet student needs during regular school hours.
- PDE-mandated 180 days of instruction K-12 AND 900 hours (elementary) and 990 hours (secondary) of instruction.

A third option is available through the District’s longstanding partnership with the Capital Area Online Learning Association (CAOLA). Online learning through CAOLA does not follow the school district's curriculum. It is mostly geared toward earning credits toward graduation and/or for students K-12 who function well in an independent and asynchronous learning environment.

**Option 3: Capital Area Online Learning Association (CAOLA):** In partnership with the Capital Area Intermediate Unit, the District provides online courses from several leading online education partners, as well as personal and technical support. CAOLA is designed to give students, K-12, a learning option for every learner. Students enrolled in CAOLA have access to the same services, events, and extracurricular activities that all other District students receive.

What to expect from the CAOLA Option:

- The initial commitment to CAOLA is through the end of the first marking period, October 26, 2020.
- Online support provided by a CAOLA Advisor.
- Instruction is provided remotely by certified teachers.
- Attendance procedures are articulated in the [CAOLA Handbook](#).
- Asynchronous instruction - learning that does not occur at the same time each day.
- PDE-mandated 180 days of instruction K-12 AND 900 hours (elementary) and 990 hours (secondary) of instruction.
Continuity of Education Plan – **Green** and **Yellow** Designation

If Dauphin County is designated “Green” or “Yellow” by the Governor, the district will deliver instruction in a traditional manner. That is, all teachers and students will be in school and follow the normal hours of operation as well as the Board-approved school calendar for school year 2020-21. Special safety procedures as outlined in the District’s Health and Safety Plan will be followed. Some of these procedures differ from green to yellow but traditional in-person instruction is maintained. To assist parents with making decisions about enrollment options in the fall, three (3) learning options are available to students and families in the Green and Yellow Designation:

**Option 1**: Traditional

**Option 2**: Millersburg Area Virtual Academy (MAVA)

**Option 3**: Capital Area Online Learning Association (CAOLA)

**For instructional planning purposes, the District needs to get an accurate account of specific students who are committed to a fully online learning model in the Green and Yellow designation. Please complete this brief survey to indicate your choice of options for each student you are enrolling for the 2020-2021 school year. We ask that you complete this survey no later than August 2, 2020.**

Continuity of Education Plan – **Red** Designation

If Dauphin County is designated “Red” by the Governor and/or the district is directed to operate remotely by the PA Department of Health due to a confirmed case of COVID-19 within our buildings, the district will deliver instruction virtually. To assist parents with making decisions about enrollment options, two (2) learning options are available to students and families in the Red Designation:

**Option 1**: Millersburg Area Virtual Academy (MAVA)

**Option 2**: Capital Area Online Learning Association (CAOLA)