



Countryside Academy Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan

Address of School District: 4800 Meadowbrook Rd Benton Harbor, MI 49022

District Code Number: 11901

Building Code Number(s): 09427 & 08450

District Contact Person: Sarah Brookshire

District Contact Person Email Address: sbrookshire@countrysideacademy.org

Local Public Health Department: Berrien County Health Department

Local Public Health Department Contact Person Email Address: Nicki Britten
nbritten@bchdmi.org

Name of Intermediate School District: Berrien RESA

Name of Authorizing Body: Central Michigan University

Date of Adoption by Board of Directors: Sept. 9, 2020

Meadowbrook Campus: 4800 Meadowbrook Rd., Benton Harbor, MI, 49022 **Phone:** (269) 944-3319 **Fax:** (269) 944-3724

Millburg Campus: 4821 North St., Benton Harbor, MI, 49022 **Phone:** (269) 944-5655 **Fax:** (269) 944-5695

www.countrysideacademy.org



October 01, 2020 [via email]

Ms. Sarah Berkshire
Countryside Academy

Re: Approval of Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan (“Extended Learning Plan”)

Dear Ms. Berkshire:

I am pleased to inform you that the Extended Learning Plan for Countryside Academy (“Academy”) has been approved by The Governor John Engler Center for Charter Schools at Central Michigan University. The Center will transmit the Extended Learning Plan to the State as soon as an appropriate mechanism to do so is made available. The Extended Learning Plan is effective as of the date indicated in the document.

To fulfill one of the required assurances, immediately add a copy of the approved Extended Learning Plan to the Academy’s Transparency Page of its website. An approved copy of the Extended Learning Plan is attached and can be found in Epicenter. The approved Extended Learning Plan constitutes a Charter Contract amendment and remains in effect as long as the Extended Learning Plan remains in effect.

Thank you for all your efforts to keep student learning moving forward in these trying times. If you have any further questions or need additional support, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Corey Northrop". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Corey Northrop
Executive Director

cc: George McManus, Board President

Attachment:
Approved Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan

**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE EXTENDED COVID-19 LEARNING PLANS
("ECLP") AND APPROVAL OF CHARTER CONTRACT AMENDMENT**

Countryside Academy (the "Academy")

A regular meeting of the Academy Board of Directors was held on the 9th day of September, 2020, at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Board Member George Mc Manus :
Present: George Mc Manus, Lynn Pica, Chuck Cayo, Johnny Singer, Sherman Reed
Absent: Tricia Zuhl

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Board Member Johnny Singer and supported by Board Member Lynn Pica :

BACKGROUND

On August 20, 2020, in response to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic affecting our state, Governor Whitmer signed into law certain amendments to the State School Aid Act of 1979, as amended, MCL 388.1601 et seq. ("Back to School Laws"). The Back to School Laws include additional requirements for all Michigan schools as they plan for a return of preK-12 education for the 2020-2021 school year. Under the Back to School Laws, a public school academy must provide for instruction under an extended COVID-19 learning plan ("ECLP") that is approved by its authorizing body ("Authorizer"). ECLPs includes many of the same subject matters addressed in a public school academy's charter contract, including measurable educational goals to be achieved by all subgroups in the school, measurement of those educational goals by one or more benchmark assessments, a description of how the educational program, including instruction, will be delivered, a description of the school's curricula and specific reporting requirements for the 2020-2021 school year. Under the Back to School Laws, schools retain the flexibility to tailor and adjust their ECLPs to meet the needs of their students and the community they serve.

The Back to School Laws require, among other things, that each public school academy do the following:

- (1) Establish educational goals required to be included in the ECLP no later than September 15, 2020.
- (2) Approve an ECLP and submit it to their respective authorizing body ("Authorizer") for approval by October 1, 2020. If approved by the Authorizer, the ECLP is transmitted by the Authorizer to the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the State Treasurer.
- (3) Make an ECLP accessible through the transparency reporting link on the school's website by October 1, 2020.
- (4) Within the first nine weeks of the 2020-2021 school year, administer 1 or more benchmark assessments from the list approved by the Michigan Department of Education (MDE)¹, a benchmark assessment provided by MDE, or local benchmark assessments, or a combination of the above, to pupils in grades K-8 to measure math and reading proficiency. In addition, by the last day of the 2020-2021 school year, administer another benchmark assessment to pupils in K-8 to measure proficiency in the same subject matter. The Back to School Laws require schools to use the same benchmark assessment(s) used in the 2019-2020 school year, if applicable.
- (5) Provide each pupil's data from the benchmark assessment or benchmark assessments, as available, to the pupil's parent or legal guardian within 30 days of administering the benchmark assessment(s).

¹ MDE has approved four providers of benchmark assessments and continues to assess additional providers. See https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Benchmark_assessments_700077_7.pdf

(6) Not later than February 1, 2021, create a report that addresses the progress made in meeting the educational goals in the ECLP that the academy expected would be achieved by the middle of the school year and make the report available on the transparency reporting link on a public school academy's website.

(7) Not later than the last day of the 2020-2021 school year, create a report concerning progress made in meeting the educational goals in the ECLP and make the report available on the transparency reporting link on a public school academy's website.

(8) No later than June 30, 2021, send the aggregate academy-level data from a benchmark assessment(s), excluding data from a local benchmark assessment or local benchmark assessments, to a regional data hub that is part of the Michigan data hub network that shall compile the data and send it to the Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI).

(9) Thirty days after approval of the ECLP, the Board shall meet monthly to re-confirm how pupil instruction is being delivered at the school and whether it is consistent with the ECLP and to ensure that 2 2-way interaction, as defined in the Act, is occurring between students and teachers each week of the school year for at least 75% of students enrolled in the school. At each meeting, the Board shall: (a) publicly announce its weekly interaction rates of 2 2-way interaction since its last meeting; (b) allow for public comment on the ECLP; and (c) discuss whether changes to the method of delivery for pupil instruction under the ECLP are necessary.

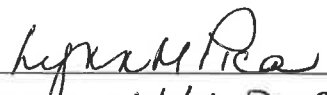
THE ACADEMY BOARD THEREFORE RESOLVES THAT:

1. The actions taken by Academy representatives to prepare and submit the Academy's ECLP to Authorizer are ratified.
2. The ECLP, as approved by the Authorizer, is approved by the Academy Board as the ECLP and as the ECLP Amendment to the Contract.
3. All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this resolution be and the same hereby are rescinded.
4. The Academy will deliver from time to time such information regarding the implementation of the Academy's ECLP as the Authorizer or Michigan Department of Education may reasonably request.
5. Any Board policies or provision of Board policies that prohibit or impede the Academy's compliance with ECLP are temporarily waived, suspended or altered.
6. This Resolution shall take immediate effect and continue through the end of the 2020-2021 school year. If the Back to School Laws are amended, and such amendments requires additional Board action relative to the ECLP, the Board may take such action to comply with existing law.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Resolution declared adopted.


Print Name: LYNN PICA
Secretary, Academy Board

Assurances

§ The Academy will administer an 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.

§ Within thirty days after the approval of its Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan, and every 30 days thereafter, the Academy, at a meeting of its board of directors, will reconfirm how instruction is delivered during the 2020-2021 school year and will solicit public comment, at a public meeting, from the parents or legal guardians enrolled in the Academy.

§ If delivering pupil instruction virtually, the Academy will 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 Academy had planned for that exposure to occur for in-person instruction.

§ If delivering pupil instruction virtually, the Academy will provide pupils with equitable access to technology and the internet necessary to participate in instruction.

§ The Academy 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.

§ The Academy, in consultation with a local health department, and district employees, 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. A determination concerning the method for delivering pupil instruction shall remain at the Academy Board's discretion. Key metrics that the Academy will consider shall include at least all of the following:

- COVID-19 Cases or Positive COVID-19 tests
- Hospitalizations due to COVID-19
- Number of deaths resulting from COVID-19 over a 14-day period
- COVID-19 cases for each day for each 1 million individuals
- The percentage of positive COVID-19 tests over a 4-week period
- Health capacity strength
- Testing, tracing, and containment infrastructure with regard to COVID-19

Countryside Academy

§ If the Academy determines that it is safe to provide in-person pupil instruction to pupils, the Academy will prioritize providing in-person pupil instruction to pupils in grades K to 5 who are enrolled in the Academy.

§ The Academy will ensure that two (2), 2-way interactions occur between a pupil enrolled in the Academy and the pupil's teacher or at least one (1) of the pupil's teachers during each week of the school year for at least 75% of the pupils enrolled in the Academy. The Academy will publicly announce its weekly interaction rates at each Academy Board meeting where it reconfirms how instruction is being delivered, beginning 30 days after approval of its Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan, and every 30 days thereafter. The Academy will make those rates available through the transparency reporting link located on the Academy website each month for the 2020-2021 school year.

§ The Academy will create and make available on its transparency reporting link located on the Academy'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 Academy expected would be achieved by the end of the school year.



President of the Board of Directors

9/9/2020

Date

Introduction and Overview

The COVID-19 global pandemic is impacting our school community in a number of ways: we are experiencing new and abnormal events, many students may have significant gaps in their learning, and equity issues are more pronounced. In addition, students, staff and parents, all have been asked to quickly adjust to a “new way of learning”. Teachers have been asked to take on additional responsibilities and new tasks. Due to the recent changes, the Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan allows us to implement, assess, reevaluate, and modify our plan throughout the school year.

As we return to school in the fall, our first priority will be to ensure the safety and well-being of all members of our school community. Because of the wide range of experiences students had during the remote learning portion of the spring 2019-2020 school year, we anticipate that students will come to school in the fall of 2020 with a wider than usual range of deficits. Because of such, we expect that many students will be behind and will need opportunities to catch up. In addition, teachers will need more opportunities to collaborate with each other as they examine student work and determine what comes next in the learning for each student.

As Countryside begins the 2020-2021 school year for both In-Person and Digital Learners, we will need to put in place new protocols, routines and procedures to model set expectations. This plan will focus on teaching and learning with an emphasis on equity for all learners and the well-being of students and staff.

Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan is necessary to increase pupil engagement and achievement to ensure

- 1) Countryside is held responsible for students achievement by ensuring goals are written and obtained, similar School Improvement plans
- 2) Countryside will continue to plan, implement, monitor, evaluate and assess as needed

Educational Goals

The median growth percentiles reflecting fall-to-winter and fall-to-spring scaled score growth in grades K to 8 on reading and math NWEA Growth tests will be at or higher than 50.

Instructional Delivery & Exposure to Core Content

For the 2020-2021 school year, instruction will be delivered either in-person or digitally depending on the families' choice. Access for digital learners is set up depending on grade levels, see below. Families are required to make a semester long commitment (Jan 2021).

In-Person instruction takes place five days a week. In-Person instruction will take place as normal, while cohorting K-8 students, including all COVID-19 safety and cleaning protocols required in the MI Return to School Roadmap

Grade Level:	Digital Access: (How and When)
Young Fives	Classroom teachers, in addition to certified staff members, are providing synchronous instruction to all digital students. All staff are working & planning together to ensure equal access to curriculum for both types of learners.
Kindergarten	Classroom teachers, in addition to certified staff members, are providing synchronous instruction to all digital students. All staff are working & planning together to ensure equal access to curriculum for both types of learners.
First	Classroom teachers, in addition to certified staff members, are providing synchronous instruction to all digital students. All staff are working & planning together to ensure equal access to curriculum for both types of learners.
Second	One of the three classroom teachers are solely providing synchronous instruction to all digital students while the other two provide in-person instruction. The three teachers are planning instruction together to ensure equal access to curriculum for both types of learners.

Third	One of the three classroom teachers are solely providing synchronous instruction to all digital students while the other two provide in-person instruction. The three teachers are planning instruction together to ensure equal access to curriculum for both types of learners.
Fourth	One of the three classroom teachers are solely providing synchronous instruction to all digital students while the other two provide in-person instruction. The three teachers are planning instruction together to ensure equal access to curriculum for both types of learners.
Fifth	The two classroom teachers are dividing their day to support both in-person and digital students. For a portion of the day they are solely providing synchronous instruction to all digital students while the other classroom teacher provides in-person instruction.
Sixth-Twelfth	Synchronous- Digital learners are following the same class schedule as if in person. MS/HS teachers are utilizing Google Hangouts to broadcast from their classroom to students off campus. Along with other platforms including email and chats. Students are required to follow their same class schedule as if they are in-person.

Core Academic Instruction
<p>K-12 teachers will continue to follow set curriculum guides that are aligned to Common Core standards for all learners, including Digital and In-Person. It is the academy's intention to maintain 180 days/1,098 hours of instruction. If required to close for In-person instruction the academy is prepared to quickly transition all students to digital.</p> <p>*Digital and nondigital instructional content is succinct for grades 6-12.</p>

Progress Towards Mastery	
Student:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● K-5 students will utilize formative & summative assessments to inform teachers on the skills/standards needed to be proficient at grade level. ● Teachers will provide timely feedback on all assignments and assessment, including areas of improvement. ● Once fall NWEA data is received, the academy will be able to utilize MAP results to drive instruction including ability level groupings and make informed instructional decisions. ● Students have access to our School Information System (PowerSchool). PowerSchool provides grades, including assignments, incompletes, notes, missing, late, along with attendance. ● Teachers provide feedback to students during class, on assignments, and assessments. ● MS/HS Students who fail to comply with the Academic Policy will meet with the Dean of Students or Guidance Counselor
Parent/ Guardian:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Parents have access to our School Information System (PowerSchool). PowerSchool provides grades, including assignments, incompletes, notes, missing, late, along with attendance. Student class schedule with teacher's name and email address. ● Per Parent Communication policy- teachers are required to contact once the grade falls below 75%. ● Per Academic Policy- Elementary parents are provided with a rubric following each marking period. MS/HS parents/guardians will be contacted by the Dean of Students if students are failing to comply with Academic Policy.



Equitable Access

The Academy will provide pupils that have chosen the Distance Learning option a school issued device. If families indicate that they need internet access, we will do our best to provide internet access including information on how to access the internet and community resources. As a last resort, Verizon hotspots will be ordered. Verizon's education plan will be \$18.50 a month with a 6 month commitment. That price includes unlimited, unthrottled data and Asavie CIPA compliance filtering. The up front device cost will be \$60 one time for the Mifi 900LS and \$149.99 for the 8800L.

Countryside creates a Contingency Learning Plan (CLP) for each student with an Individualized Learning Program (IEP) or 504 plan, regardless whether the student is in person or a distance learner. CLP addresses current federal and state laws, rules and regulations. In accordance with each student's IEP/504, a CLP will be created by the special education teacher for their caseload. CLP will address each individual student's needs according to their own plan, which will allow students to participate and access curriculum with the same ability as their peers.