



NEXTECH
HIGH SCHOOL

NexTech of Lansing Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan

Address of School District: 2175 University Park Dr., Okemos MI, 48864

District Code Number: 33919

Building Code Number(s): 01389

District Contact Person: Nathan Beyer

District Contact Person Email Address: nbeyer@lansing.nextechhigh.org

Local Public Health Department: Ingham Public Health Department

Local Public Health Department Contact Person Email Address: mmachowicz@ingham.org

Name of Intermediate School District: Ingham Intermediate School District

Name of Authorizing Body: Central Michigan University

Date of Adoption by Board of Directors: 09/18/2020



October 01, 2020 [via email]

Mr. Nate Beyer
NexTech High School of Lansing

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

Dear Mr. Beyer:

I am pleased to inform you that the Extended Learning Plan for NexTech High School of Lansing (“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 style with a large, stylized "C" and "N".

Corey Northrop
Executive Director

cc: Leslie Wilson, Board President
Holly Kilburn, Board Corresponding Agent

Attachment: Approved Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan

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

NexTech High School of Lansing (the "Academy")

A regular meeting of the Academy Board of Directors was held on the 18th day of September, 2020, at 1:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Board Member Leslie Wilson:

Present: Leslie Wilson, Chade Saghir, Linda Ryals-Massey, Concha Allen

Absent: None

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Board Member L. Ryals- Massey and supported by Board Member Chade Saghir:

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](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: 4/0

Nays: 0

Resolution declared adopted.



Print Name: Concha Allen

Secretary, Academy Board



**NEXTECH
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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 re-confirm 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
- 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 re-



NEXTECH
HIGH SCHOOL

confirm 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.

Leslie Wilson
Board President

Board approved: 09/18/2020



NEXTECH
HIGH SCHOOL

Introduction and Overview

At Nextech of Lansing (henceforth NXL), we employ a hybrid model of instruction that is built upon in-classroom experiences that are supplemented by our online learning management system. We have many aspects of the COVID-19 Learning Plan built into the foundation of our program including how we address the needs of our students, whether they are receiving direct instruction virtually or in person. This Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan is necessary to outline our policies and procedures that are in place in order to provide equitable access to information and resources for all students enrolled in our program. Given the unique nature of our instructional model, this extension to our COVID-19 response document is meant to clarify how we are employing the guiding principles of our initial response document and ensure that we are enacting our policies in a way that increases pupil engagement and achievement for the 2020-2021 school year.



NEXTECH
HIGH SCHOOL

Educational Goals

NXL believes that benchmark assessment evidence can be used to monitor and evaluate patterns and trends in school/district academic performance and to identify effective instructional programs. We believe it can provide guidance for standardizing or adjusting curriculum and instruction across grade levels, schools, and districts.

NXL will continue the use of the formative assessment process as a powerful practice embedded in the teaching and learning process to continuously observe where our students are in order to modify instruction. Professional development will continue to remain centered on the translation of these effective classroom practices to an online environment.

We believe the use of the formative assessment process, which is supported by an extensive body of research, provides in-time data for both our teachers and students to accelerate their learning and progress and gives us a more complete picture of what our students know and are able to do.

NXL will continue to use the PSAT, SAT, and other items within the MME as required in order to assess student learning and areas of improvement. This information will be used to inform the ways in which we provide support to students and address deficiencies in learning. As a program, NXL will work to ensure the percentage of students achieving scaled scores that surpass state-selected, grade-level college readiness benchmarks on the PSAT and SAT tests in Evidence-Based Reading and Writing and Math is above the 50th percentile.

In order to achieve this goal, NXL will track student performance and completion rates. NXL has the goal of 75% of the student population obtaining passing grades (>59%) in at least 80% of the courses they are enrolled in at NXL. We believe that achieving this goal will keep students in line with our program goal of preparing students academically for success in college, work, and life.



Instructional Delivery & Exposure to Core Content

The method of delivery for instruction will vary throughout the course of the 2020-2021 school year. As a program NXL has a direct instruction and online learning management system which are integrated in order to satisfy our seat-time requirements and provide a comprehensive educational experience for our students. When providing instruction, NXL employs a Marzano framework which has been developed collaboratively with administration and staff to outline implementation in our building. This framework is being updated through our professional development in order to better align to both a virtual and classroom setting.

Our online learning management system (LMS) is aligned with state standards and does not require any changes in order to align with our COVID-19 Preparedness Plan. Students have access to all the materials provided by the LMS through digital means 24/7 in order to supplement their classroom experiences. Students are provided with the necessary materials to access this portion of the program upon enrollment as a part of our normal operations.

The variation in our program throughout the year will pertain to the direct instruction component of our hybrid instructional model. Upon recommendations from our intermediate school district (Ingham ISD), local health officials, staff, students, and board members, NXL will remain flexible in whether this portion of the program is delivered virtually or face-to-face. At the time of drafting this document, NXL is currently conducting this portion of the program virtually and is continuing to collect input from our shareholders in order to determine the best course of action for our student population. There are similarities and differences in how this portion of our program is delivered depending on whether we are operating virtually or on-site as a school.

Whether instruction is delivered virtually or face-to-face:

- Students attend either AM (8:30-12:00) or PM (12:30-4:00) sessions four days a week for direct instruction
- Students rotate to their teachers on an A/B schedule, rotating through three of their courses per session, with two sessions per week for each class.
- Students will attend a “Homeroom” class for the first 30 minutes of every day, during which they work with a mentor teacher to monitor progress in courses, receive whole-school announcements, complete work on their Educational Development Plans, and receive directed cohort-level lessons/announcements.
- All students are provided with pacing guides for every core class (updated at least two weeks ahead) which include what is expected to be completed through the LMS, what is being covered during direct instruction, and any relevant upcoming events (i.e. unit tests, lockout dates, etc.)



NEXTECH HIGH SCHOOL

- All courses and homerooms have a Google Classroom that serves as a central hub for resources, virtual learning space, and means for classroom teachers to deliver announcements for their classes
- Two-way communication logs are kept for all students to track and monitor teacher interactions on a weekly basis
- Daily attendance is taken through PowerSchool to track attendance for synchronous lessons
- Students grades will be managed through PowerSchool as they have been in previous years and final performance and completion will be reported through this platform to students and parents in accordance with the policies and procedures that have been established by our program
- Classroom scope and sequence will remain unchanged from normal operations regardless of method of delivery.
- Standards-aligned assessments will be given through the appropriate learning management system by classroom instructors in accordance with standard practices.

When instruction is delivered virtually:

- Students will attend and rotate through classes in accordance with their schedule outlined in their PowerSchool portal
- Synchronous lessons will be delivered by classroom instructors through the Google Meet room tied to their Google Classroom in line with their PowerSchool schedule
- Asynchronous materials are made available through Google Classroom to supplement the learning of students that are not able to attend the synchronous lessons
- Students are expected to attend the synchronous lessons in order to receive direct instruction from their classroom teacher, absences must be excused through our attendance system
- Students that have accrued excessive absences for synchronous lessons will be contacted by administration in order to establish attendance guidelines and draft an attendance agreement

When instruction is delivered on site:

- Students will continue to follow the same rotational model they have been assigned through PowerSchool
- Any student who wishes to remain a virtual learner in the event the school has made the decision to return to on-site instruction must meet with administration in order to review expectations and draft an agreement document.
- NXL has provided webcams and additional computers to all staff in order to broadcast their live synchronous lessons through their Google Classroom portal. Instruction provided while on-site will be broadcast to their Google Classroom meeting room for students that are operating fully virtually to receive synchronous instruction.



Equitable Access

At NXL, every student is provided with a laptop and a charger on enrollment. This technology is monitored and maintained by NXL. Parents and/or guardians also sign a 5-O-D consent form in order to allow their student to take more than 2 online courses. Our students are expected to have internet access at home as a foundation of our program. In the event a family loses internet access NXL will assist the family in obtaining access or provide an area within the building for students to access their online work during their scheduled rotation time. Any issues with technology or access can be reported to administration, who will assist in providing access to the needed materials for participation in the program.

Upon the onset of COVID-19, NXL did an inventory of home internet access and found that 100% of our students had regular internet access. Some online courses for foreign language through Michigan Virtual require a webcam and NXL has made sure to deliver webcams to students who are in need. Upon admission to the program, new students are provided with a uniquely identified computer that is given to them once NXL receives a signed copy of the acceptable use policy on technology. As such, NXL will not conduct an additional school-wide survey on availability of technology, but will continue to monitor this on an individual, ongoing basis

Students' IEPs, IFSPs, and 504 plans will be reviewed in coordination with general and special education teachers and/or providers to address any data-driven accommodations and/or services that are needed due to known changes in students' needs.

NXL has established structures for general and special education teachers and/or providers to collaborate and communicate regarding student performance and student needs on IEP goals and objectives with special consideration regarding assistive technology and accessibility.

NXL ensures a continuation of services for students receiving speech and language, occupational therapy, physical therapy, or social work services within their IFSP or IEP. The district also ensures a method for the continuation of evaluation for students suspected of having a disability as well as those requiring re-evaluation. Off-site testing has been established through Dr. Reuben in Okemos in order to provide access to services while operating in a virtual environment.

For a more detailed summary of the policies and procedures in place, please refer to [NXL's COVID-19 Preparedness document](#)