

ELPS Updates

December 12, 2021 - next updates will be Jan. 2, 2022!

MI Backpack Home Test Program - GREAT NEWS!

We are pleased to be able to offer another COVID-19 testing opportunity to our families and staff - the MI Backpack Home Test Program! This program provides a limited number of free, at-home COVID-19 antigen tests to students and staff in Michigan's schools during the 2021-2022 school year. This pilot program offers one more tool—in addition to in-school testing, masking, ventilation, and other strategies—to create a safer environment for students, staff, and families.

Thanks to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, we have enough test kits to send home with EVERY STUDENT and EVERY STAFF MEMBER! Each box contains two tests and directions for administration. These tests can be used at your discretion, but we see this as a great opportunity to prevent increased transmission following winter break. We ask that you utilize one of your antigen tests the day before or the morning of our return to school Monday, January 3. This way, we can be a little more confident that we are not bringing the virus back into our school buildings. I will send out a reminder Sunday, January 2 in my updates.

The test kit boxes will be sent home with students later this week by each building - please watch your child's backpack for a small sealed box of testing supplies (swab, reagent liquid and small cardboard test card). Feel free to reach out to your building administrator, our school nurse or me if you have any test administration questions.

Info. Letter to Families: [Letter to Families](#)

Info. Letter to Staff: [Letter to Staff](#)

Program Overview: [Program Overview](#)

At-home Testing Guidance: [At-Home Testing Guidance](#)

Ingham County Health Department School

Guidance: <https://hd.ingham.org/Portals/HD/Home/Documents/cd/coronavirus/ICHDSchoolCOVIDHandouts.pdf>

Holiday Giving Opportunity to Support ELPS Families - UPDATE & LAST CALL

We've had over 70 families request support for the two-week winter break and will do our best to provide every family with food, personal items and/or gift cards - to this point, we've collected approximately \$2000 and want to thank our generous community. For convenience, we've added one more way to donate - Venmo. Every dollar collected will be redistributed to ELPS families.

To make a donation via Venmo - please use the address Dori-Leyko.

To make a Donation via check - Please write the check to ELPS and send to the address below or drop off at any school main office.

To Donate a Gift Card – Purchase a gift card(s) from the list provided below in any increment, and we will get these in the hands of our families while doing our best to match these gift cards to our families' needs and wishes. Please write the amount on the gift card. Send to the address below or drop off any any school main office.

Donations and gift cards will need to be received by the end of the day December 14th so we have time to distribute items to families before break.

Suggestions for gift cards:

- Meijer
- Kroger
- Walmart
- Target
- VISA Gift Card
- Local pizza place that delivers

Donations & Gift cards can be mailed to:

ELPS Support c/o Superintendent's Office

501 Burcham Drive

East Lansing, MI 48823

OR... Dropped off at any ELPS school main office

Board of Education Meeting – Monday, December 13, 2021

The ELPS Board of Education will be holding its next regular meeting Monday, December 13 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room in East Lansing High School. The meeting will be held in person and will be live streamed.

Here is a link to access the live stream of the meeting - the video of the meeting will also be posted on this site: <https://www.nfhsnetwork.com/schools/east-lansing-high-school-east-lansing-mi>

An Additional Resource regarding the Oxford High School Shootings

If you are seeking additional guidance for helping your child during the aftermath of the Oxford Community Schools shooting, here is a relevant video shared by members of the ELPS Mental Health Advisory Committee.

<https://www.apa.org/topics/gun-violence-crime/shooting-aftermath>

ESSER III Funding Stakeholder Input Survey - Summary Results and Opportunity to Comment

East Lansing Public Schools is applying to receive Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Funds to address learning recovery from the impact of COVID-19. These funds are designated for one-time or short-term expenditures to address the ongoing impact of the pandemic. These funds have specific requirements for use and set-aside amounts for learning loss and for identified subgroups.

Over the past couple weeks, ELPS sought input from stakeholders to determine how the district should utilize these resources.

Here is a brief summary of the survey data:

# of Respondents (respondents may identify in more than one category, so the total exceeds 338)	338
- Parent/guardian	253
- Student	29
- Teacher or other licensed professional staff	72
- Administrator	4
- Support staff and all other school staff	13
- Community member	40

# of Respondents who Represent the Interests of Students with any of the Following Needs (may identify with more than one group)	338
- English Learner	55
- Homeless/McKinney Vento	24
- Foster Care	27
- Special Education	91
- 504 Plan	89
- Free or reduced school meals	64
- None of the above	186

Average Score for Each Category (out of 10)	
- Additional instructional time for struggling learners outside the school day/year	7.72
- Additional instructional time for struggling learners within the school day/year	8.87
- Additional instructional materials, including technology	6.96
- PPE, cleaning supplies and other methods to increase safety of the school environment	6.70
- Additional social-emotional and mental health supports	8.75
- Professional learning to address the impacts of the pandemic	6.90

Note: For each category, "10" was the most frequently selected rating of importance.

If you'd like to give additional input on these results or on the allocation of these one-time ESSER III resources, please feel free to provide public comment at tomorrow evening's Board of Education meeting or send me an email at dori.leyko@elps.us.

COVID-19 Reporting and Communicating

Here is a link to the district's COVID-19 dashboard. Positive school-related cases must be posted on this site within 24 hours of the district learning of the case. If we are notified of a case over the weekend, updates will be posted Monday.

<https://elps.us/our-district/district-covid-19-dashboard/>