



## CONTINUOUS LEARNING PLAN FOR A SAFE RETURN

ERPS 2021 -2022

*(Updated June 1, 2021)*

### MISSION 2021

The mission of El Reno Public Schools for the safe and healthy return to campus in August of 2021 is to ensure all students learn at the highest levels possible while taking all steps necessary to reduce any risks to student's health and safety and to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. ERPS believes students learn at the highest levels when directly engaged with a classroom teacher through a guaranteed and viable curriculum. We hope to have the vast majority of our students back in the classroom while understanding the needs of the individual student and the overall wellness of the school and community. These factors have been considered in shaping and managing the plan outlined below. Student and staff safety will remain our highest concern.

In drafting this plan, we have relied on the guidance of state and local health officials as well as the Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE). We remain in ongoing communication with the Oklahoma State Department of Health and the Canadian County Health Department. We are committed to a fluid approach as the need arises and will continue to stay abreast of the guidance identified above.

With these things in mind, ERPS is prepared to provide students with a safe learning environment making necessary modifications to accommodate continued social distancing and safety guidelines. We reserve the right to adjust this plan as new information becomes available or as circumstances change.

## PLANNING FOR AUGUST

In preparing for school in August of 2021, and planning instructional delivery and student interaction, ERPS is focused on providing a safe and healthy classroom environment to allow all students to learn at high levels. This plan reflects a careful analysis of local health recommendations and conditions. This will allow ERPS to be flexible in our approach to delivering instruction and providing for the changing needs of our community. Within our fact gathering process we have paid close attention to daily school operations, instructional delivery, academic progress, student and staff social and emotional needs, and safety measures.

## FLEXIBLE LEARNING PLANS

ERPS has planned for the ideal scenario of all students coming back on campus to begin the 2021-2022 school year. Each site has worked diligently to ensure student and staff safety while also allowing students the opportunity to experience a traditional school environment which allows students to maximize their learning. The Traditional Campus Instructional Plan represents this option for our students, staff, and community. In the event community spread and health factors require us to instruct students remotely off campus, we will have a distance learning plan already in place to provide a seamless transition for students and staff. Each plan is described below.

### TRADITIONAL CAMPUS INSTRUCTIONAL PLAN

Students will attend their regularly assigned school site following the existing calendar for the 2021 -2022 school year. ERPS has made great strides in previous years in developing a digital curriculum allowing students more flexibility in their learning. Traditional classes will continue to be based on digital learning tools allowing teachers to be flexible in their delivery of instruction as individual student needs arise. While students are on the traditional plan, they will have the flexibility to work from home as needed based on health and safety concerns. When they return to class, they will be on track with the other students.

The “traditional” day had many modifications in place during the 2020 - 2021 school year. As we review relevant data in a timely manner, sites will be flexible to emphasize

these modifications as needed to help protect students and staff.

Guided by health and medical expert's advice on the best ways to keep each other safe and healthy and in close collaboration with the Oklahoma State Department of Health, each site will use the following mitigation practices:

- **Health checks** - We will ask parents to continue to assess their child's health each morning before sending them to school. Any child who has a fever or has other symptoms that could indicate the possibility of having COVID 19 or other illnesses should remain at home and possibly consult their physician.
- **Masks** - Masks continue to be encouraged by many health experts to help protect individuals as well as those around them. As students come on campus for classroom instruction and activities, many students, parents, and faculty may feel more comfortable wearing masks. With this in mind, masks will be a personal option while on school grounds.
- **Hygiene and Sanitation** - Washing hands regularly and consistently continues to be a top suggestion to reduce COVID 19 as well as other viruses and illnesses. Students and staff will be reminded and encouraged to wash their hands throughout the day. Hand sanitizers are also in place in hallways and classrooms for students to use between hand washing and when washing may not be possible.
- **Building Sanitizing** - Our maintenance staff will be working continuously to make sure our buildings and classrooms are clean and disinfected on a routine and regular basis. This helps greatly in reducing the spread of COVID 19 as well as other viruses and illnesses.
- **Social Distancing** - Each site has tailored its individual plan to meet the needs of their student age groups.
- **Testing** - ERPS' is fully capable of testing our students and faculty for COVID 19 as necessary. Our nursing department is trained and experienced in administering tests. We also have in stock rapid response testing kits to ensure students who are at risk or experiencing symptoms can be tested.
- **Vaccinations** - Our nursing department is also trained and experienced at administering COVID 19 Vaccinations. We have vaccinated over 60% of our staff in house and have worked in cooperation with Cheyenne and Arapaho Indian Health Services in vaccinating our eligible students who were interested in being vaccinated. We will continue to work with our health partners to ensure our staff and students' safety.

## **ELEMENTARY CAMPUS MODIFICATIONS**

- Each site will continue to make modifications to their daily operating procedures as necessary to maintain safe and healthy environments.
- These may include reduced assemblies, cohorts of students, increased lunches, emphasis on social distancing as needed, and structured transitions.
- Students will be encouraged to bring their own individual non breakable water bottles to school with them. Water fountains have been equipped as bottle refilling stations for students to use.

## **SECONDARY CAMPUS MODIFICATIONS**

- The secondary campus will continue to make modifications to it's operating procedures as necessary to ensure a safe and healthy learning environment. These may include structured transition times, hallway flow, breakfast and lunch opportunities, and classroom design.
- Students will be encouraged to bring their own individual non breakable water bottles to school with them. Water fountains have been equipped as bottle refilling stations for students to use.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

- Keeping in mind that we do not have the capacity to socially distance students on buses to and from school, parents may wish to make other transportation arrangements if they prefer. ERPS will continue, however, to make transportation available to students who require it. Students riding the bus will be required to wear a mask at all times. When possible, school bus windows will remain open to increase the flow of fresh air, thereby reducing the risk of transmission. To protect students and drivers to the maximum extent possible, we will be increasing routes and staggering pickup and drop offs. Families still choosing to ride the bus should be prepared for changes in their normal ride times.

## **POSITIVE CASES, SYMPTOMS, AND RETURN TO SCHOOL**

- Students who exhibit symptoms while at school will be isolated from other students and a parent will be contacted immediately to pick up their child

- and receive a medical evaluation.
- Any student who tests positive for COVID-19 and has symptoms must isolate for 10 days from the onset of symptoms before returning to school. (as per current current CDC guidance)
  - Any student who tests positive for COVID-19 but displays no symptoms of COVID-19 may return to school after ten days have passed since testing positive. (as per current CDC guidance)
  - Any student who thinks or knows he or she had COVID-19 AND had symptoms may return to school after 24 hours of no fever AND ten days since symptoms first appeared AND symptoms have diminished.
  - Anyone who had close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 must quarantine by staying home for 10 days after the last exposure. (Close contact can be defined as within six feet for more than 15 minutes or within three feet for more than 15 minutes in a classroom setting.) Individuals may choose to take a COVID-19 test on the 6th, or 7th day of quarantine. If the test results are negative, the individual may return following the 7th day of quarantine. (as per current CDC guidance)
  - Anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or been exposed to someone who tested positive should contact their principal as soon as possible.
  - Please remember to communicate with your school's attendance office regarding all absences and illnesses.

## **DISTANCE LEARNING (DISTRICT CHOICE)**

If a dramatic increase in community spread of COVID-19 or any other unforeseen circumstance creates a need for students to remain at home for remote learning, ERPS would be capable of implementing a distance plan of instruction. We will review recommendations and advice from local health agencies, state offices, and expert opinion in making this decision, and would only implement it if it was deemed necessary. This decision would be made with our student and staff's best interest in mind and mitigating the spread of a virus if it is too great to accomplish on campus.

With guidance from faculty and families regarding the use of distance learning throughout the last two years, each site has worked to improve the manner in which distance instruction is delivered, monitored, and assessed. With this model in place, students would continue receiving instruction and learning using the same learning management system they are using daily in class. This will allow continuity of learning for students and instruction for teachers. Attendance requirements would be in place to

ensure students are engaged and participating. Assignments would count toward grades and credits.

With the likelihood that individual students might need to stay home at various times due to their own illness or exposure to others, this plan would be a part of their education during the time they are temporarily out of the classroom. Upon returning to class they would be on track with their classmates and be able to maintain their assignments and progress. This learning option would be at the district's discretion and would only be a short term temporary option.

### **VIRTUAL ER (Parent/Student Choice)**

Virtual ER is an option for families of students with underlying medical issues, compromised family members at home, and those wanting to take greater safeguards in ensuring their student's health. This plan is available to students who wish to learn from a distance for an extended period of time. This is a program that allows for students to access their learning opportunities from anywhere they have wifi access. Students choosing this plan would need to have wifi capabilities enabling them to log on without interruption. Students choosing this option would work off of a curriculum that differs from the traditional, blended, or remote instruction provided by ERPS. Certified ERPS teachers would work with students in the program and guide them through the units measuring their progress. Students would have a pace they must maintain in order to receive grades and credits and ensure their graduation to the next grade level. Due to a different curriculum and pacing of scope and sequence, students choosing this option would be making a full semester commitment. They would not be able to transition back to the traditional classroom until the end of the semester. The Virtual ER option would require parents to complete an application and agree to the virtual expectations for the program.

### **State of Commitment**

El Reno Public Schools remain fully committed to the health and safety of our students and staff as well as ensuring their high levels of academic growth. We are inclusive of all students and prepared to make the necessary accommodations to allow for the needs of each child to be met including those with disabilities. We believe the flexibility of our plans will enable all students to actively participate in instructional and learning activities regardless of the climate created by COVID-19 and any other disruptive circumstance. We will continue to monitor the reports from local health agencies and

state level medical experts in making decisions on which plans to utilize and when to switch to other options. We understand the sacrifices we are all being called to implement during this time and don't take lightly any of the decisions being made. Difficult times sometimes require difficult decisions. We appreciate the patience of our stakeholders as we review the most updated and relevant facts to guide us in making a decision that is in the best overall interest of our students and staff. We are focused on our mission of ensuring all students achieve at high levels.