

## **USD 340 Reopening Plan for Safe Return to School and Continuity for the 2021-2022 School Year**

*(Required by the Federal Law, American Rescue Plan Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services under the ESSER III funding.)*

Each school district is required to post, on our website, our reopening plan by June 22, 2021. This plan is a working document, and we will continue to revise and update the plan throughout the year with updates posted to the district website to reflect changes as necessary. This plan is to be reviewed at least every six months. If you have questions or suggestions with the plan, please contact the superintendent at the district office.

Jefferson West School District is proud to have facilitated in-person learning throughout the 2020-2021 school year. We plan to begin the 2021-2022 school year as typically as possible while using some safeguards instituted as part of our response to the Covid pandemic.

### **PART I. Describe how the district will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff and the extent to which it has adopted policies, and a description of any such policies, on each of the following safety recommendations established by the CDC:**

The Kansas legislature ended the governor's emergency declaration on 6-15-2021. Therefore, following Kansas Legislative directive, CDC and KDHE guidelines are no longer required, and our health guidance comes from the Jefferson County Health Department.

#### **(A) Universal and correct wearing of masks.**

USD 340 Board of Education changed the mask mandate to optional as of May 1, 2021. Any student, staff member, or visitor may voluntarily choose to wear a mask. If a mask is needed, they are available in each facility's administrative offices. The district will be happy to train students and staff to wear personal protective equipment as appropriately required. Lastly, we will post signage outlining the proper wearing of personal protective equipment as needed.

If needed, the Board may adopt reasonable safety measures to protect the safety of district personnel, students, and visitors during school-related activities. Suitable safety measures may include, but may not be limited to, cleaning and sanitization plans, use of physical safeguards and barriers, and the use of personal protective equipment (PPE). Exceptions to any requirements may be granted as required by law, state, county, or local health officials and on a case-by-case basis. We will continue to monitor national, state, and local government and health agency mandates, guidance, and recommendations.

#### **(B) Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding).**

USD 340 plans to return to customary practices of placing students in classes, lunchroom assignments, and movements throughout the building during the day. In the event changes are needed, as directed by health officials, we would return to cohort groups, use of barriers in lunchrooms, and social-distancing, etc., implementing similar procedures used this past year.

#### **(C) Handwashing and respiratory etiquette.**

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette will continue to be taught to students with emphasis, and practice protocols rehearsed more frequently in the primary grade levels. Signage will continue to be posted throughout our buildings as reminders of handwashing and respiratory etiquette. In addition, hand sanitizing stations and liquids will continue to be made available for use in all classrooms, instructional settings, workspace areas, and the main entrances of the buildings.

#### **(D) Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation.**

Our district is committed to maintaining healthy facilities. Custodial staff will continue to follow specific cleaning protocols and procedures. Our facilities are cleaned daily with high traffic, and contact surfaces more frequently. In addition, deep cleaning will be instituted as necessary. Our district will continue to use cleaning solutions that are rated to eliminate the COVID-19 virus. We will continue to monitor ventilation efficiency and effectiveness for opportunities to improve air quality.

Continue using only the bottle filling stations on water fountains.

**(E) Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, collaborating with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments.**

Our district employs a full-time nurse, and she will complete all contact tracing documentation and efforts. She will continue to work with the school administration and the Jefferson County Health Department. She will contact individuals who have been in close contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID and recommend that those individuals follow current quarantine/self-isolation guidelines and recommendations.

**(F) Diagnostic and screening testing.**

Students, staff, and community members can access COVID-19 diagnostic or screening tests through various community partners. Our school nurse will continue to monitor for symptoms, trends, and clusters and request that students and staff seek medical services as appropriate. You may work with the Jefferson County Health Department, Oskaloosa, 785-403-0025, to provide covid screening, or parents/guardians may choose to use another community provider. As other procedures and processes are needed, we will work with the JCHD to coordinate those needs.

**(G) Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities.**

USD 340 will continue to work with the local healthcare agencies to provide opportunities for vaccinations. Our district will partner with vaccination efforts according to state and federal law for staff and eligible student groups. The school district will not refuse, withhold from, or deny a person any services, goods, facilities, advantages, privileges, licensing, educational opportunities, health care access, or employment opportunities based on the person's COVID-19 vaccination status.

**(H) Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies.**

Our district will provide reasonable, necessary, and appropriate accommodations to its policies and practices for students with disabilities as determined by individual student needs and following an individual's documented accommodations or individualized education plan (IEP). Parents or guardians of students requiring accommodations should contact the applicable building administrator(s) to request information on programs for students with disabilities.

**(I) Coordination with State and local health officials.**

Appropriate district personnel currently participate and will continue to partner with our local county health department or agencies regularly to determine the next steps as needed.

**Part II. Describe how the district will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to:**

**(A) Services to address students' academic needs**

Our district has implemented a summer learning program to assist students with academic recovery. We plan to continue full-time, in-person instruction beginning the fall of 2021. In addition, we will address individual student situations on an as-needed basis.

Where possible, teachers, specialists, paraeducators, and educational consultants will be available and utilized during the instructional day and during after-school tutoring programs throughout the year to support students. We will provide accommodations consistent with IEP team decisions based on the individual need of each student in the context in which they are served. In addition, appropriate accommodations consistent with State and federal law will be applied to ensure access for all students.

**(B) Students' and staff social, emotional, mental health**

Our district has K-12 staff to monitor and address the social and emotional learning needs of our students. We will continue to partner with a social worker and local mental health services to help students and families overcome obstacles with connecting to school. Our district will ensure in-person or remote access to counselors, social workers, psychologists, as appropriate to accommodate the needs of each student.

Our district has provided staff with opportunities for social and emotional supports through our district's participation with an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) provider. Staff social and emotional wellness and mental health are also considered in district communications and staff committees.

**(C) Other needs, which may include student health and food services.**

Our school food service department will continue to provide all students free breakfasts and lunches for the 2021-2022 school year.

USD 340 employs a full-time school nurse to assist students and staff daily during the school year. In addition, the district is planning to add a social worker to our team. Our school counselors, nurse, school psychologist, and social worker make up our district mental health team to assist students and teachers with emotional, mental, and physical needs as would be appropriate.