

Safe to Return to In-Person and Continuity of Services Plan (SRCSP)

August 2021

In Response to COVID 19

Licking R-VIII School District

125 College Avenue

Licking, MO 65542

***Plans are subject to modification due to updates in public health guidelines.**

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INTRODUCTION

In the spring of 2020, the Licking R-VIII School District developed a COVID-19 response plan to organize and develop protocols for the District's reopening in the fall of 2020. The District's goal was to produce a plan to promote superior instruction for all students and facilitate trusting relationships between all stakeholders while reducing the impact of COVID-19 conditions during the upcoming school year. The Board of Education met regularly between March and August and reconvened throughout the 2020-2021 school year to reassess the Return to Learn Plan.

Throughout the pandemic, the District sought information and guidance from the Texas County Health Department, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Department of Health and Senior Services, and other federal, state, and county agencies and resources.

Looking forward, the District will continue to provide a realistic, balanced, and sustainable plan for in-person learning and continuity of services. The SRCSP and any subsequent updates will be distributed via the District's Facebook page, The Licking News, and the District website found at www.licking.k12.mo.us. Plans will remain fluid as the situation around COVID-19 continues to evolve.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Licking R-VIII School District would like to acknowledge the input provided by District personnel, Board of Education, families, and community stakeholders throughout our Return to Learn process and continual revisions of District practices and procedures surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. Stakeholder feedback is vital to the successful implementation of all District initiatives.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

In order to ensure the continued well-being of our students, employees, and community, this plan was developed with the following guiding principles.

Trusting Relationships – The Licking R-VIII School District believes that the basis of success for our students, employees, families, and community members must be trusting relationships. Regardless of proximity, we are committed to providing trusting relationships with all stakeholders.

Superior Instruction – The consistent delivery of superior instruction to all is the foundation for success of all educational programs, whether through in-person instruction or distance learning. Since coursework delivered through hybrid methods must continue to be available (on-campus and distance learning), it is imperative that it should meet the same standards across the board. Educators will need to be provided “space and grace” as they work to improve the delivery of content through multiple methods.

Safety – Safety has always been a top priority for our District. Providing a safe and effective learning and working environment for students, employees, and our community guides our decisions. The District will continue to partner with local and state health officials to ensure our facilities are prepared efficiently and effectively for students and staff to be on-campus.

Social and Emotional Wellness – The District believes the social and emotional wellbeing of our students and employees must be met before successful teaching and learning can take place. Through professional development and partnership with local resources, the District will provide social and emotional education and support for our students, employees, and families.

Equality – The District believes that every child deserves equal access to quality instruction regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, ability, gender, and socio-economic status. The District is committed to providing every child with the instruction and resources necessary to achieve their individual academic goals.

SECTION 1: MITIGATION

The following is guidance provided in the DESE and DHSS Missouri School Reopening and Operating Guidance Document revised in May 2021:

At this time, there are no absolute thresholds in place at the state level that trigger the closing of a district or building. It will be critical for schools to track cases and clusters in their school community, as this may be the most important factor in determining if a change is necessary. The CDC has updated information on which factors within the community should be reviewed to determine when and under what conditions in-person learning can be provided safely. The New Indicators and Thresholds for Community Transmission of COVID-19 from the CDC's New Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools through Phased Mitigation include:

- Total Number of new cases per 100,000 in the last seven days
- Percentage of positive tests in the last seven days

Schools that are open for in-person instruction may decide to remain open even at high levels of community transmission. These decisions should be guided by information on school-specific factors such as mitigation strategies implemented, local needs, and the number of cases among the school community. Per the CDC, "a decision to remain open should involve considerations for further strengthening mitigation strategies and continuing to monitor cases to reassess decisions. This should be driven by a 'classroom first' approach; in-person instruction should be prioritized over extracurricular activities including sports and school events, a common source of school transmission, to minimize risk of transmission in schools and protect in-person learning."

Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and Department of Health and Senior Services. (2021). *DESE and DHSS Missouri School Reopening and Operating Guidance*. <https://dese.mo.gov/media/pdf/covid-mo-k-12-guidance-update-may-2021>.

A. Universal and Correct Wearing of Masks

Beginning in August 2021, masks will be optional for individuals while on District property. Recommendations from the CDC and other state and local health organizations will be available and shared with stakeholders.

If no mask mandate is in place for the school/district, exposed individuals will need to quarantine for 10 days regardless of mask use by either party; fully vaccinated individuals may stay in school and should monitor for symptoms.

B. Physical Distancing

Physical distancing will be encouraged when instructional practices and space allow.

C. Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette

Proper handwashing will be taught and practiced. Hand washing stations and/or sanitizer will be available for use throughout District facilities. Students and employees will be encouraged to cough and sneeze into their elbows. Building nurses will encourage students and staff to wash their hands using different methods such as flyers, bulletin boards, demonstrations, etc..

D. Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities, Including Improving Ventilation

The District will continue to follow the cleaning protocols outlined in the District's Pandemic Cleaning Plan.

The District has installed medical-grade filtering into the HVAC systems as well as air quality monitors on the secondary campus. These units will continue to be maintained appropriately and effectiveness monitored.

E. Contact Tracing in Combination with Isolation and Quarantine, in Collaboration with the State, Local, Territorial, or Tribal Health Departments

Current guidance indicates that individuals that have been vaccinated will not be required to quarantine, but these individuals should monitor for symptoms.

The District will continue to work with the Texas County Health Department in regards to contact tracing. Guidance from the CDC as well as the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Department of Health and Senior Services will also be taken into consideration.

F. Diagnostic and Screening Testing

The Washington University Pediatric and Adolescent Ambulatory Research Consortium provides School Nurse Algorithm flow charts for decision-making on screening students for COVID-19 symptoms and assisting LPHAs with contact tracing. These will be utilized by Licking R-VIII School District nurses.

G. Efforts to Provide Vaccinations to Educators, Other Staff, and Students, if Eligible

The Licking R-VIII School District partnered with Missouri Ozark Community Health to provide a vaccination clinic for all Licking R-VIII School District educational employees in January/February 2021. Additional clinics have been available for all eligible persons through the Texas County Health Department and other local agencies.

The District will continue to work with local healthcare providers to provide information on availability of vaccinations.

H. Appropriate Accommodations for Children with Disabilities with Respect to the Health and Safety Policies

Should any individuals need an accommodation with respect to health and safety policies and/or practices, the student and/or guardian should reach out to his/her building administration. Employees may contact their supervisor or the superintendent's office.

SECTION 2: CONTINUITY OF SERVICES

Licking R-VIII School District will continue to provide In-Person instruction options for all students. All Licking R-VIII teachers engage in routine collaboration activities with their colleagues that focus on identifying high leverage standards, setting student learning goals, participating in common unit planning, utilizing research-based instructional strategies, developing and implementing common formative and summative assessments, reflecting and analyzing on student learning data and making adjustments to daily instruction and intervention efforts. These practices in Tier One Instruction, Tier Two Interventions, and Tier Three Interventions impact all Licking R-VIII students to ensure excellence through superior instruction and trusting relationships.

Tier One Instruction

During Tier One instruction, all students access instruction that focuses on essential standards for each grade level or course by unit through common unit plans developed collaboratively by teachers. Through this teaching-assessing cycle, students participate in common formative and summative assessments over essential standards to determine mastery. Once Tier One instruction is completed within a given unit, teachers identify Tier Two intervention support by student, standard, and learning target. Regarding student behaviors, schools identify and teach specific academic (effort, organization, motivation) and social (responsibility, respect, language)

behaviors through Behavior Intervention Support Teams (BIST). For those students that struggle to meet academic and social behavioral expectations, additional support is provided daily during Tier Two Interventions.

Tier Two Interventions

During Tier Two Interventions, all students identified as not meeting mastery in specific academic standards in the previously taught unit(s) receive timely and systematic support from their classroom teachers and other identified interventionists during dedicated time provided in small groups utilizing research-based programs. Each teacher team monitors the progress of their students to determine if the intervention is improving student mastery of essential standards. For those students that have achieved mastery during Tier One Instruction, extensions and enrichment opportunities are provided during Tier Two Intervention time. Regarding interventions for student behaviors, the District will seek mental health professionals including crisis counselors/social workers to join school leadership teams to develop plans to support struggling students and monitor progress. No students will miss Tier One Instruction on essential standards to participate in a Tier Two academic or behavioral intervention.

Tier Three Interventions

For those students that continue to struggle despite access to Tier One Instruction and Tier Two Interventions, students will receive additional time and support from highly trained educators to address critical foundational skills (reading, writing, number sense, traumatic events due to health or home) during dedicated time in an individualized setting. These lagging skills are identified and monitored through the use of universal screening tools that are administered to students three times per year (August, January, May). Tier Three Interventions are developed, implemented, and monitored by a site intervention team that prioritizes resources based on greatest need students. Also, this intervention team creates timely referral processes to identify, monitor, and evaluate Tier Three Intervention effectiveness. No students miss Tier One Instruction or Tier Two Interventions on essential academic or behavioral standards to participate in Tier Three Interventions.

Nutritional and Health Services

Due to funding made available through Federal programming, the District will continue to provide free breakfasts and lunches to school-aged children enrolled in Licking R-VIII School

District. Should the District experience a short-term or long-term closure, meals will continue to be provided on a grab and go basis.

SECTION 3: OTHER FUNDS

To be determined.

SECTION 4: COMMUNICATION

The Licking R-VIII School District will provide a copy of the SRCSP to internal and external stakeholders through the District's mass communication platform (Apptegy) and on the District's website. It will be accessible in electronic format and can be copied in print upon request.

The SRCSP will be reviewed in its entirety prior to the beginning of each fiscal year (beginning July 1) and prior to the start of the second semester (January 1), or every six months. As updates are needed for individual sections of the Plan, they will be made and communicated in a timely manner.