**USD 349 Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services**

This plan will change and evolve as the 2021-22 school year approaches

**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:***

1. **Universal and correct wearing of masks.**

USD 349 will use a variety of factors to determine if masks are necessary for any of our students or staff. Decisions for mandating masks will be made by a vote of the Board of Education with input from local doctors, county health officials, and CDC/KDHE guidance.

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

The superintendent will monitor the COVID positivity rate and number of positive cases in our district to make decisions on implementing physical distancing.

1. **Handwashing and respiratory etiquette.**

Students will wash hands before breakfast and lunch and will use hand sanitizer on a regular basis throughout the day. Hand sanitizer stations will be maintained at every exterior door where students and staff regularly enter and exit. Sanitizer stations will also be set up at lunch lines for additional opportunities to sanitize. All classrooms will be continually stocked with at least 2 sanitizer dispensers to make sure it is easily available to students in their rooms.

1. **Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation.**

Desks will be cleaned at least daily at Stafford Elementary School and throughout the day at Stafford High School/Middle School. High touch surfaces such as door knobs, water fountains, and handrails will be wiped down throughout the day by custodial staff. Fresh air intakes will be opened on applicable HVAC units to maximize ventilation.

1. **Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments.**

In the event of a positive case of COVID-19, our health staff will conduct internal contact tracing. USD 349 will follow all quarantine and isolation directives from our county health officer.

1. **Diagnostic and screening testing.**

COVID-19 rapid tests will be available for use through the county health department and official medical facilities through parent/guardian authorization.

1. **Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities.**

USD 349 will continue to make our students and staff aware of opportunities to be vaccinated in our community.

1. **Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies.**

USD 349 will work with SCKSEC’s Special Education staff to ensure that our Special Education students have full access to appropriate educational supports even if we are forced to alter our delivery model.

1. **Coordination with State and local health officials.**

The superintendent will continue to monitor information available from KSDE and KDHE to ensure that the district is ready for statewide changes to policies or recommendations. The superintendent will also communicate with the county health officer on a regular basis to monitor the current situation in the county and district.

**Part II.**

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

* 1. **services to address students' academic needs**

Using ESSER funds, USD349 has improved our ability to deliver in-person, remote and hybrid instruction. In the event of a widespread breakout we will return to our hybrid plan at Stafford Schools to allow for appropriate social distancing. Stafford High School/Middle School would return to the block scheduling every day which modifies schedules and procedures to minimize cross class interactions.

* 1. **students' and staff social, emotional, mental health**

Using the Mental Health Grant and ESSER funds USD 349 has retained a social worker and a partnership with a local Counseling Center which provides and supports mental health needs to students and their families to deal with the stresses of the pandemic.

* 1. **other needs, which may include student health and food services.**

We plan to continue with individually packaged food items, limited sharing of utensils and Summer Food Program. We also have contingency plans and materials if the learning environment need to change due to an outbreak of the pandemic. These include: “Grab-and-go” meals if a shutdown is required.