

# District Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

## USD 284 Chase County



*This plan will change and evolve as the 2021-22 school year approaches and/or as conditions change. The plan will be re-evaluated at least twice/year.*

### **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:***

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

Our school district has removed the mask mandate based on vaccination rates and infection rates for the school. Masks are optional, but they are highly recommended for unvaccinated individuals and unvaccinated groups.

If needed, we may adopt reasonable safety measures to protect the safety of district personnel, students, and visitors during the school year and at school-related activities. Reasonable 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). Decisions will be made by a vote of the Board of Education with input from the county health officer and CDC/KDHE guidance. Exceptions to any requirements may be granted as required by law, state, county, and/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 as well.

Lastly, the district will continue to train students and staff in the proper wearing of personal protective equipment as needed, and we will post signage outlining the proper wearing of personal protective equipment as needed.

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

Where possible, social distancing practices will be encouraged. Efforts will be made to maintain classroom seating with a minimum of 3 feet of social distancing between students and between students and staff for the 2021-2022 school year. A distance of 6 feet or more is preferred whenever possible. Considerations will be made for cohorts or pods if needed.

#### **(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

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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 and throughout the buildings.

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

Custodial staff have been and will continue to follow specific cleaning protocols and procedures. We will continue to consider assignments/reassignments to applicable shifts in order to continually clean high traffic and high contact surfaces. 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 continually improve air quality.

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

Our district employs a school nurse, and she will complete all contact tracing documentation and efforts with the aid of the school and district administration as needed. The nursing staff will continue to work with the school administration and 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. The district will follow all quarantine and isolation directives from the county health officer.

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

Students, staff, and community members can access COVID-19 diagnostic or screening tests through a variety of community partners. Additionally, the district is working with KDHE to begin a testing protocol with the Test to Know Strategy. The school nurses and health support staff will continue to monitor for symptoms, trends, and clusters, and request that students and staff seek medical services as appropriate.

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

Our district will participate and partner with vaccination efforts in accordance with state and federal law for staff and eligible student groups. The 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 in accordance with an individual's documented accommodations and/or individualized education plan (IEP). Parents or guardians of students requiring accommodations should contact the

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applicable building administrator(s) to request information on plans for students with disabilities.

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

Applicable district personnel currently participate and will continue to participate, with our local county health department and/or agencies on a frequent basis to determine 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 was in school full time during the 2020-21 school year. We provided an expanded and extended school year session for elementary special education students. Our district plans to continue full time, in-person instruction beginning the fall of 2021. Additional instructional personnel have been added or reassigned where possible to implement further academic recovery efforts in core curriculum areas. Where possible, specialists, paraeducators, and educational consultants will be available and utilized during the instructional day, on professional development days, and/or during, before and after school throughout the year to support 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. A Student Support Services person will be added at the high school level to aid in working with the 7-12 students, allowing our school social worker to focus on the grade school. We will continue to partner with social workers and local mental health services with the goal of helping students and families overcome obstacles with connecting to school.

Our district has provided staff with opportunities for social and emotional support through group activities, individual meetings, and further outreach. 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**

A local organization will work with the community to provide free meals for students during the summer. Free meals will be made available for all eligible youth during the 2021-2022 school year. Families may also be in contact with their child's school for any other health or food service needs.