Sherman County School District

American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ARP ESSER); OAR 581-022-0106 (State Operational Plan)

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

District Information

Institution ID: 2195 Institution Name: Sherman County School District

District Continuity of Services Plan/RSSL Contact Name and Title:

Wes Owens, Superintendent

Contact Phone: 541-565-3500 Contact Email: wowens@sherman.k12.or.us

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

In order to best support students and families with the safest possible return to school for the 2021 school year, the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) has created an operational plan template to align guidance from the federal and state level in support of local decision-making and transparency of health and safety measures in the communities that school districts serve. The Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan serves the following purposes:

1) Replaces the Ready Schools, Safe Learners Operational Blueprint required under Executive Order 21-06; and
2) Meets the requirements for:
    a. An operational plan required under OAR 581-022-0106(4), while aligning the CDC Guidance on School Reopening with the Ready Schools, Safe Learners Resiliency Framework for the 2021-22 School Year (RSSL Resiliency Framework);
    b. Section 2001(i)(1) of the ARP ESSER and the US Department of Education's Interim Final Requirements for Safe Return/Continuity of Services Plan; and
    c. Communicable Disease Plan and Isolation Plan under OAR 581-022-2220 (Division 22 requirements).

As districts plan and implement the recommendations in ODE's RSSL Resiliency Framework, they will need to consider a continuum of risk levels when all recommendations cannot be fully implemented. For example, universal correct wearing of face coverings between people is one of the most effective preventive measures. However, there will be times when this is not possible based on a specific interaction or a physical space limitation, such as during meal times. It will be necessary to consider and balance the mitigation strategies described to best protect health and safety while ensuring full time in person learning.

ODE remains committed to the guiding principles introduced in spring of 2020 to generate collective action and leadership for efforts to respond to COVID-19 across Oregon. These principles are updated to reflect the current context:

- **Ensure safety and wellness**. Prioritizing basic needs such as food, shelter, wellness, supportive relationships and support for mental, social, and emotional health of students and staff.
- **Center health and well-being**. Acknowledging the health and mental health impacts of this past year, commit to creating learning opportunities that foster creative expression, make space for reflection and connection, and center on the needs of the whole child rather than solely emphasizing academic achievement.

- **Cultivate connection and relationship**. Reconnecting with one another after a year of separation can occur through quality learning experiences and deep interpersonal relationships among families, students and staff.
- **Prioritize equity**. Recognize the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on Black, American Indian/Alaska Native, and Latino/a/x, Pacific Islander communities; students experiencing disabilities; students living in rural areas; and students and families navigating poverty and houselessness. Apply an equity-informed, anti-racist, and anti-oppressive lens to promote culturally sustaining and revitalizing educational systems that support every child.
- **Innovate**. Returning to school is an opportunity to improve teaching and learning by iterating on new instructional strategies, rethinking learning environments, and investing in creative approaches to address unfinished learning.

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Planning Mental Health Supports

ARP ESSER & OAR 581-022-0106 Component	Extent to which district has adopted policies, protocols, or procedures and description of policies, protocols, or procedures adopted to ensure continuity of services	How do the district's policies, protocols, and procedures center on equity?
Devote time for students and staff to connect and build relationships	The Sherman County School District values the connection and relationship between teachers/staff/students/families and we pride ourselves on having a laser focus on continuity of services. • We have a certified K-12 school counselor, a QMHP/Student Outreach Coordinator, an elementary student success coach, junior senior high school student success staff member, staff advocate, and a college/career support services staff member on site to support our students. • During the 2021-22 school year we will again be placing an emphasis on ensuring access to a comprehensive array	The Sherman County School District Board Policies JB, AC & AC-R specifically state that every student will be given equal educational opportunities regardless of age, race, religion, color, national origin, disability, marital or parental status, linguistic background, culture, capability, or geographic location. In our school community, we are fortunate to have developed wonderful relationships with students and families. Our small parent to teacher ratios lend itself to supporting all students with an equity focused lens.
Ample class time, and private time if needed, for creative opportunities that allow students and staff to explore and process their experiences	• SKORE Program (Sherman Kids On the Road to Excellence) – K-6 After School Program • Husky Helping Hands – 7-12 After School Program • K-12 Music, 5-12 Band (when masking rules allow) • High School and Elementary Art • Support Groups • FFA • 5-12 Athletics and Daily Physical Education • Comprehensive Library Services through our Public/School Program • Gaming Club • Elementary/Jr. Sr. High Leadership Groups	All students have the opportunity to be involved in an array of class offerings and programs. In addition, our K-6, 7-12 master schedule is filled with opportunities that are requested by our collective student body. If we don't offer a class, we provide funds for students to take online/off-site courses to their choosing. All students, including focal groups, have equal opportunity to take classes according to their interest.

ARP ESSER & OAR 581-022-0106 Component	Extent to which district has adopted policies, protocols, or procedures and description of policies, protocols, or procedures adopted to ensure continuity of services	How do the district's policies, protocols, and procedures center on equity?
Link staff, students and families with culturally relevant health and mental health services and supports	We have a strong relationship with the Sherman County Medical Clinic, North Central Public Health (provider of our nursing services), and Prevention Coalition. Our licensed counselor provides services on site and remotely. A QMHP/School Outreach Coordinator was hired in January 2022 and works 5 days a week. Counselors are also available for off-site visits and virtual meets. The district has a newly developed mental health website with support information and links to connect with counselors.	All personnel and agencies we work with, have non-discrimination policies that align with our Board policies.
Foster peer/student lead initiatives on wellbeing and mental health	Staff and administration meet with K-6 and 7-12 student groups (Student Leadership, The Pack, Character Matters, etc.) to discuss school climate and policies/practices that benefit our entire student body. We also have opportunities for voices to be heard in home room classrooms k-12	We are proud of our small rural school educational environment in Sherman County. It naturally cultivates close, trusting situations that truly values each student. All of our classified and certified staff have deep connections with our students. Our staff pride themselves on fostering an atmosphere where all students are heard and included.

Communicable Disease Management Plan

Please provide a link to the district's **communicable disease management plan** that describes measures put in place to limit the spread of COVID-19 within school settings. (OAR 581-022-2220). The advised components of the plan and additional information are found in the Communicable Disease Management Plan section of the RSSL Resiliency Framework and meet the ESSER process requirements of "coordination with local public health authorities."

Link: https://drive.google.com/file/d/16ZXQVoAQ-7uzmkFe18chkdO04itbR3gW/view

ARP ESSER Component	Extent to which district has adopted policies, protocols, or procedures and description of policies, protocols, or procedures to ensure contintuity of services	How do the district's policies, protocols, and procedures center on equity?
Coordination with local public health authority(ies) including Tribal health departments	We partner with the dedicated personnel at the North Central Public Health District (NCPHD) and Sherman County Medical Clinic. This includes frequent communication on the implementation of mitigation strategies based on the latest guidance from OHA and ODE. In addition, we contract nursing services through NCPHD. NCESD is also providing additional nursing support. Throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic, we have joined forces as regional superintendents to coordinate weekly check-ins with NCPHD. This is a wonderful partnership organized by the North Central and Columbia Gorge ESD's.	All personnel and agencies we work with, have non-discrimination policies that align with our Board policies.

Isolation Plan

Please provide a link to the district's plan to **maintain health care and space** that is appropriately supervised and adequately equipped for providing first aid, and **isolates** the sick or injured child. (OAR 581-022-2220). If planning for this space is in your communicable disease management plan for COVID-19, please provide the page number. Additional information about the Isolation Plan can be found in the Isolation & Quarantine Protocols section of the RSSL Resiliency Framework.

Link: Page 58-59 https://drive.google.com/file/d/16ZXQVoAQ-7uzmkFe18chkdO04itbR3gW/view

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Health and Safety Strategies

School administrators are required to **exclude staff or students from school** whom they have reason to suspect have been exposed to COVID-19. (OAR 333-019-0010)

Please complete the table below to include the extent to which the district has adopted policies and the description of each policy for each health and safety strategy. In developing the response, please review and consider the CDC guidance and the RSSL Resiliency Framework for each health and safety strategy. Additional documents to support district and school planning are available on the ODE Ready Schools, Safe Learners website.

Health and Safety Strategy	Extent to which district has adopted policies, protocols, or procedures and description thereof	How do the district's policies, protocols, and procedures center on equity?
COVID-19 vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students if eligible	We have partnered with our local health clinic and the NCPHD to hold various vaccination clinics for staff, students and the entire school community. We will continue to offer vaccine clinics to start the 2021-22 school year. An on-site booster clinic was offered to eligible staff.	During our past vaccine clinics, scheduling offered opportunities during the school day and after school. This was open to staff, volunteers, students, parents and all school community members.

Health and Safety Strategy	Extent to which district has adopted policies, protocols, or procedures and description thereof	How do the district's policies, protocols, and procedures center on equity?
Universal and correct wearing of face coverings	Sherman County School District's practice is to follow the governor's orders, including requirements regarding face coverings. When masks are required, staff, supported by administration, ensure students wear face masks in accordance with current requirements. Posters communicating mask requirements and outlining correct wearing of masks are posted throughout the school and in classrooms. This includes athletic event announcements to remind spectators/visitors of face covering requirements. Please see more information on the Sherman County School 21-22 Safe Opening Protocols adopted by the	Sherman County School District practices ensure that mask procedures meet all state and federal law and legal advice to insure all students, including those with special education and 504 plans, needs are met. Plans are in place for students with medical issues that present barriers to wearing face coverings to be evaluated on a case by case basis in accordance with federal and state law and district policy. Masks are supplied by the district and available to all students, staff and visitors.
Physical distancing and cohorting	Sherman County School District will follow current governor's orders, including ODE requirements regarding physical distancing. Current practice recognizes the importance of physical distancing and cohorting as important layers of mitigating strategies. The district plan includes distancing and cohorting as required by ODE. Posters reminding students of physical distancing are posted and staff will insure these practices are followed to the fullest extent possible. Please see more information on the Sherman County School 21-22 Safe Opening Protocols adopted by the	Sherman County School's small size dictates that cohorts be constructed by grade and therefore equitable.

Health and Safety Strategy	Extent to which district has adopted policies, protocols, or procedures and description thereof	How do the district's policies, protocols, and procedures center on equity?
Ventilation and air flow	Sherman County School District assures that all HVAC equipment is in good repair and filters are changed regularly. Staff are encouraged to open windows in classrooms to help with ventilation and hold class activities outside as much as practical.	Our practice is to place all students in environments that are as comfortable and well-ventilated as practical while not presenting barriers to any sub-group.
Handwashing and respiratory etiquette	Sherman County School District follows handwashing and respiratory etiquette as recommended by OHA and ODE as a part of our layered strategy to control virus spread. We require students wash their hands often during the day with scheduled times for this practice to take place. Posters encouraging appropriate handwashing are posted at handwashing sinks. Students are given age-appropriate education and instruction on handwashing and respiratory etiquette is reinforced as needed. Hand sanitizer is also provided for all classrooms.	We work with students experiencing disabilities and their families to provide accommodations that meet their needs while maintaining safety protocols. We also work with any student having difficulty practicing handwashing or respiratory etiquette and provide support and minimize barriers to insure their continuing education and the safety of others.

Health and Safety Strategy	Extent to which district has adopted policies, protocols, or procedures and description thereof	How do the district's policies, protocols, and procedures center on equity?
Free, on-site COVID-19 diagnostic testing	Sherman County School District offers diagnostic testing for students and staff in accordance with guidelines outlined in Oregon's K-12 Schools Testing Program. Diagnostic testing is testing for individuals with symptoms of COVID-19 or those who have been exposed to COVID-19 through close contact with a case. On-site testing helps to quickly identify COVID-19 cases in K-12 schools, interrupt viral spread through households and in classrooms, reduce the risk for students and staff returning to in-person instruction. The Test to Stay program is used to shorten the length of quarantine for exposed individuals who test negative when recommended by the local public health authority.	All agencies and schools strictly adhere to anti-discrimination and inclusion policies. For some students, COVID-19 testing in K-12 schools may represent their only access to a diagnostic COVID-19 test.
COVID-19 screening testing	Unvaccinated staff members with approved exceptions are required to submit weekly testing results. The free weekly staff screening program is available for these staff members or the can choose to do private testing with confirmed results. Sherman County School District has conducted a great number of COVID tests on-site and in our parking lot.	Testing kits are often unavailable for purchase and this offering may be the only access to a test kit in order to meet the requirement.

Health and Safety Strategy	Extent to which district has adopted policies, protocols, or procedures and description thereof	How do the district's policies, protocols, and procedures center on equity?
Public health communication	Sherman County School District will continue to work closely with the North Central Public Health Department to learn and apply OHA and ODE requirements and to implement the latest policy and guidance. We communicate with NCPHD about county case rates, in-school cases, and cohort/school closure decisions. All positive tests conducted by Sherman County School are also reported to OHA via the required portal. Regular communication is posted regarding important updates and COVID-19 related information through the district-wide messaging system, letters emailed to parents, and posted on the school website and app. Information regarding	Our protocols require that communications reach all families and these practices are reviewed to insure communications are reaching all families, particularly our focal group families.
Isolation: Health care and a designated space that is appropriately supervised and adequately equipped for providing first aid and isolating the sick or injured child are required by OAR 581-022-2220.	Sherman County School provides two safe, comfortable spaces that are supervised by a competent adult who is familiar with our students. First aid supplies are available as needed. Isolation protocols are implemented according to our District Communicable Disease Management Plan. Page 58-59 https://drive.google.com/file/d/16ZXQVoAQ-7uzmkFe18chkdO04itbR3gW/view	These spaces are available to all students.

Health and Safety Strategy	Extent to which district has adopted policies, protocols, or procedures and description thereof	How do the district's policies, protocols, and procedures center on equity?
Exclusion: School administrators are required to exclude staff and students from school whom they have reason to suspect have been exposed to COVID-19. (OAR 333-019-0010)	Teachers and support personnel will be trained to recognize potential COVID-19 symptoms and the internal communication protocols to get support for those students in accessing the designated safe space and connect them with the appropriate staff. Sherman County School follows the COVID-19 Exclusion Summary Guidance for K-12 published by the Oregon Department of Education.	We will communicate when necessary with North Central Public Health Department on exclusion decisions with students. Both entities have strict non-discrimination and inclusion policies. Students will not be excluded based on medical protocols and without regard to age, race, religion, color, national origin, disability, marital or parental status, linguistic background, culture, capability, or geographic location.

Individualized COVID-19 Recovery Services

The Individualized COVID Recovery Services rule became permanent in December 2021. ESSER III requires at least 20% of funding to be spent on unfinished learning which can include recovery services to students experiencing disability (and prioritizes students in underserved or disproportionately impacted communities, including students who experience disability). Recovery services are special education services designed to meet the needs of eligible students in special education who were adversely impacted by the educational limitations caused by COVID 19. ODE has developed a guide for Planning for Individualized COVID Recovery Services to support school districts in understanding and developing a process to implement this rule.

OAR 581-015-2228 Requirement	For each of the below areas, describe the district's policies, protocols, or procedures that will be followed to ensure appropriate consideration of Individualized COVID-19 Recovery Services for each eligible student.	For each of the below areas, describe how the district's policies, protocols, and procedures center equity.
The IEP team for each eligible student shall consider the need for Individualized COVID-19 Recovery Services at least at each initial IEP meeting and each regularly scheduled annual review meeting.	• In accordance with federal and state law and district policy, we look at each circumstance where students with disabilities require recovery services and make appropriate accommodations. • Our special education teachers, classroom	A multi-disciplinary team evaluates the circumstances of each student experiencing a disability and, in collaboration with parents and the student, design a plan that ensures the student receives a free and appropriate education in
Each school district or program shall provide written notice to the parents of each eligible student regarding the opportunity for the IEP team to meet to consider Individualized COVID-19 Recovery Services.	In accordance with federal and state law and district policy, we look at each circumstance where students with disabilities require recovery services and make appropriate accommodations. Sherman County School District provides written	A multi-disciplinary team evaluates the circumstances of each student experiencing a disability and, in collaboration with parents and the student, design a plan that ensures the student receives a free and appropriate education in accordance with state and
After each determination is made, the school district or program shall provide written notice to the parent and/or adult student with a disability regarding the determination of need for Individualized COVID-19 Recovery Services.	In accordance with federal and state law and district policy, we look at each circumstance where students with disabilities require recovery services and make appropriate accommodations. Sherman County School District provides written	A multi-disciplinary team evaluates the circumstances of each student experiencing a disability and, in collaboration with parents and the student, design a plan that ensures the student receives a free and appropriate education in accordance with state and

Updates to this Plan

To remain in compliance with ARP ESSER requirements, school districts must regularly, but no less frequently than every six months (taking into consideration the timing of significant changes to CDC guidance on reopening schools), review, and as appropriate, revise its Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan.

Date Last Updated: 2/1/22