

KPS: Striving for
Integrity and Excellence



2022-2023 SMART RESTART PLAN

Kulm Public School Board Reviewed
July 2022, January 2023

This plan is a living document and subject to revisions based on updated information from city, county, state, and national health, public education, and government agencies and officials.

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Kulm Public School Families,

Covid-19 has been a challenge for our entire community since March of 2020, but we hope you have found ways to cope. Thank you to the students, staff, parents, and community members who have helped us succeed in these difficult times.

This plan provides a flexible framework to guide our response for the 22 - 23 school year. Based on current conditions KPS will operate at the blue level for the 22-23 school year (see color chart within the document for more information). We recognize that conditions may change and we will adjust accordingly.

This plan presents hundreds of hours of critical thinking, research, modeling, and work by our educators, staff, school board, employees, and parents. Despite our best efforts, we know that this plan may not address every question you have.

We encourage everyone to ask questions and communicate their concerns as we move forward, so that together we can safely provide the highest-quality education to our children.

Respectfully,

Tami Kramlich	Jordan Gackle
Superintendent	School Board President

KPS Smart Restart Committee:

Tami Kramlich--administrator	Adam Schlepp—high school principal
Heidi Entzi—health professional	Amy Johnson—elementary principal
Kim Bjur—para-professional	Kathy Haag—health professional
Keith Knudson—bus driver	Tammy Strobel—teacher
Sylvia Bosch—custodian	Sara Taszarek—teacher
Sarah Gackle—parent	Larissa Herman—teacher
Kim Schlecht—parent	Jennifer Ellingson—teacher
Kristin Entzi—teacher	Susan Kusler—teacher
Lori Dallman—teacher	Brandy Kracke—parent
Charity Ost—teacher	Rhonda Tjernlund—parent
Ann Wolf—teacher	Annette Hazelton—parent
Liza Entzi—school board	Jessica Duffy--LaMoure County Public Health
Brandy Klusmann—school counselor	

Assumptions & Assurances

The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction maintains these assumptions:

- Schools will provide instruction throughout the 2020-21 school year.
- COVID-19 may continue to spread.
- Every student will have the opportunity to engage in a full year of learning, irrespective of the spread of COVID- 19 in a community.
- Depending upon local conditions, as reported by ND Department of Health (NDDoH) and local public health units, instruction may be face-to-face, virtual, or a hybrid.
- Each school district will work in collaboration with local health professionals (including local public health units), faculty, students, staff, and families.
- Each school district will make decisions based on the most current guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), current status of virus spread in and around the school community as reported by NDDoH and local public health units , and in the best interests of staff, students, and families.
- School boards will play a vital role as this unprecedented event unfolds. With the situation changing daily, good policies and best practices are as important as ever and the public is looking to their school district leadership teams to provide a unified message to employees, parents, students, and the general public.
- Schools will take practical steps to mitigate the spread of the virus while continuing to focus on student learning.
- Schools are congregate settings. Congregate settings are known to increase transmissible moments and therefore, are more susceptible to spreading COVID-19.
- Each school district required to conduct tribal consultations under the Every Student Succeeds Act will work in collaboration with the tribal leadership.
- These guiding principles are not all-inclusive and are not intended as legal advice.

Kulm Public School believes:

- Every student should have the opportunity to engage in learning, regardless of the spread of COVID-19 in our community.
- Schools have a vital role in providing safe environments for students, focusing on both social-emotional and physical health.
- By working together with educators, staff, health care professionals, parents, students, and community members we can solve most challenges.
- Our district will make decisions based on the most current guidance from local, state, and national health care officials.
- Our School Board will ensure our plan meets the needs of our students, educators, staff and community.

North Dakota Expectations for Schools:

- Schools will continue to be a safe environment for students, focusing on both social-emotional and physical health. Local decisions will be rooted in what is best for students.
- School districts should prioritize state guidance and utilize national recommendations as a guide.
- School administrators will make reasoned judgments to limit the spread of COVID-19.
- School administrators will work with their school boards, faculty, staff, and community to communicate decisions and data guiding those decisions.
- Health and Safety Plans will be approved by the district's school board in consultation with local public health units. Those plans are published on the school's publicly accessible website. Governor's Executive Order 2020-38
- Schools will have a school board approved Distance Learning Plan on file that includes all elements contained in the Governor's Executive Order 2020-38. School districts can use their original Distance Learning Plan but will include new information required and improvements made. Those plans will be published on the school or district's website.
- Schools will take into consideration a hybrid approach to in-person instruction along with distance learning to best meet the health and safety plans of all students and families.
- Schools will utilize the North Dakota High School Activities Association (NDHSAA) guidance for all decisions regarding school athletics, activities, and competitions.

Kulm Public School HEALTH AND SAFETY PLAN

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North Dakota Color-coded Health Guidance System

The K-12 Smart Restart has adopted the color-coded guidance in the ND Smart Restart Plan. This plan categorizes reopening into five phases: red, orange, yellow, green and blue. These designations signal how restrictions on school, work, congregate settings and social interactions will ease in each county. North Dakotans should think of the guidance system as a dial that can be turned up or down by area based on the health risk.

Every color phase protects public health and outlines the necessary mitigation strategies. Each color phase is guided by a rigorous measurement system, based on criteria such as the number of cases reported, positivity rates, testing capacity, hospital capacity, occurrence of point-source outbreaks, level of community spread, vulnerable populations affected and ability to protect, the availability of personal protection equipment (PPE), etc.

Depending on public health conditions, as reported by NDDoH, there could be additional actions, orders or guidance that is provided by NDDPI or NDDoH for each color designation. Schools may cycle back and forth between less restrictive to more restrictive designations. This means that each district should consult with local public health unit and account for changing conditions.

Yellow

Heightened exposure risk.
Transmission is controlled.

Orange/Red

Significant transmission
and high risk of exposure.

Blue/Green

Maintain standard
precautions.



RISK LEVEL

In order to handle this new level of communication, each school building will have an identified **COVID-19 Coordinator** who will be responsible for the health and safety preparedness and response planning. Coordinators will make themselves available to the NDDoH 24 hours a day / 7 days a week to respond to phone calls from public health. This position will assist public health in identifying and notifying close contacts in the school setting. The coordinator will report cases of COVID-19, found in the school setting, to health officials and the State Superintendent's office.



Kulm Public School superintendent, Tami Kramlich, will assume the role of building level coordinator for Kulm Public School. If the coordinator is unable to be reached the secondary contacts will be the building principals, Adam Schlepp or Amy Johnson.

July 23, 2020 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released science-based resources and tools for school administrators, teachers, parents, guardians, and caregivers when schools open this fall. With states, cities, and communities around the country experiencing different levels of COVID-19 transmission, jurisdictions should make sure appropriate public health strategies are in place to slow the spread of the virus as the first step in creating a safer school environment. Then, in collaboration with state and local health departments, school administrators may employ strategies that best match local conditions and practical and feasible actions in their schools to help protect the health and safety of everyone -- including students, teachers, and staff. In July the NDDoH released Recommendations for Schools; Close Contacts in Schools; Exclusion Decision Tree for Symptomatic Individuals in Schools (see appendix). These documents, along with guidelines from the North Dakota Smart Restart guidance provide the foundation for this guidance from North Dakota to allow local school boards in consultation with local public health units to measure and balance the risk of health and safety for students along with students overall social emotional educational experience. All documents will be updated, as needed, to reflect best practices.

Best Intentions

Despite taking every reasonable precaution, there is **no guarantee that our school's will be without risk** as it relates to COVID-19. The virus will be present on our buses, in our classrooms, and at our activities. In certain situations, physical distancing is not possible in a school setting. Our actions, as outlined in this plan, will not prevent any student or staff member from being in contact with the virus.

Protect Yourself and Others

Wash your hands often



- Wash with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Students are encouraged to wash their hands often throughout the day.

Avoid close contact



- Keep physical distance from others.
- Alternate or modified schedules, adjustments to use of common areas, use of outdoor spaces and other actions that increase physical separation may be considered.
- The sharing of instructional materials should be limited as much as possible.
- Physical separation on busing, one student per seat, will be recommended but cannot be guaranteed.
- Visitors will be required to wear a face covering to gain entry into the building.
- NDDoH Guidelines for Close Contact in School/Childcare settings:
[https://www.health.nd.gov/sites/www/files/documents/Files/MSS/coronavirus/School%20Resources/Close Contacts in School Child Care Settings.pdf](https://www.health.nd.gov/sites/www/files/documents/Files/MSS/coronavirus/School%20Resources/Close%20Contacts%20in%20School%20Child%20Care%20Settings.pdf)

Cover coughs and sneezes



- Always cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.
- Throw tissues away and wash hands or use hand sanitizer to prevent spread.

Clean and disinfect



- School staff should clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily.
- Shared materials (not recommended) should be cleaned.
- Classrooms will be cleaned nightly by custodial staff.

Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others.



- The wearing of a face covering will be recommended within the [ND Smart Restart Guidance](#) guidelines.
- We will only be requiring face covering when physical distancing is not possible. Visitors will be required to wear a face covering to gain entry into the building.

Monitor your health daily



- Be alert for new symptoms. Watch for fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea.
- Parents are asked to screen their children each day before sending them to school. Use the screening guidance provided (see appendix).
- Staff and students who are sick should stay home.
- Temperatures of symptomatic students or staff may be taken at the school office.
 - Symptomatic students will be isolated, and their guardians contacted.

Student and Staff Health

Monitoring the health of students and staff will be an important component of a safe and healthy educational environment. Kulm School will take the following measures to ensure all students and staff are healthy while they are at school.

1. Early Identification of Students & Staff at Higher Risk

- Back to School and enrollment processes will include questions asking families to identify if their child is at-risk, based on a health professionals' diagnosis. This information will be provided to the building principal or COVID-19 Coordinator who will contact the family and discuss instructional model options.
- The COVID-19 Coordinator will inquire of all employees if they are at-risk, based on a health professionals' diagnosis. The COVID-19 Coordinator will work in partnership with the building principal/director and the employee to coordinate adjustments to the work schedule or workplace.
- When the NDDoH or our LaMoure County Public Health inform the district of a student or staff member that is COVID-19 positive that information will be passed on to COVID-19 Coordinator and the building principal / director as allowable within district policy and law.

2. Monitor Health On-site and Isolate Illness Quickly

If a student or staff member becomes sick at school or a school event, the following procedures will be employed:

- Student
 - Direct / escort the child to the office.
 - The child shall be provided a facial covering and isolated in the main office.
 - Parent/guardian will be contacted to pick up their child.
- Staff
 - Inform your supervisor immediately and wear a face covering until they can be replaced if supervising students at that time.
 - Leave the school building/grounds and consult with a healthcare professional.
- Kulm Public School will follow isolation and quarantine guidelines and directives as set by NDDoH and LaMoure County Public Health. (More information available in the appendix)

3. Return to School in Good Health

- When a student or staff member has been isolated or quarantined as directed by NDDoH or LaMoure County Health they will be allowed to return to school after being cleared by the NDDoH.

Grade Level and/or School Building Level Closure

This is intended as guidance for COVID-19 Coordinators and school leaders on when to close classrooms, grades, and buildings.

- If a school is closed for any length of time, the district will determine which mode of instruction will resume.
- NDDoH or LaMoure County Public Health may close a school or district at their discretion.
- School leaders along with LaMoure County Public Health will determine a safe return to school after a shut down.

Transportation

“Normal” transportation will not be possible when trying to abide by the guidelines set forth. The school district understands that students will not be able to follow distancing guidelines if all route buses have their normal amount of riders. We ask that parents are diligent about checking temperatures and going through the checklist within this document prior to sending students to school on the bus.

- Routes may change throughout the year.
- Parents picking up/dropping off students should remain in their vehicles.
- Routes may be suspended during the year if our levels and/or protocols change.

Blue

Blue / New Normal is when most normal activity can resume, with standard precautions and awareness of health guidelines such as routine hand washing, stay home when sick, cover your cough, education, stockpiling, planning, routine health alerts, etc. Monitoring for illness and outbreaks will continue. Even under new normal conditions, those found to be ill will be asked to self-isolate and contacts will be asked to remain at home.

Priorities:	● Normal Operations
Districtwide Practices:	● Normal Operations
Schools:	● Normal Operations
Classrooms:	● Normal Operations
Common Areas:	● Normal Operations
Extracurricular & Activities:	● Normal Operations
Communications:	● Normal Operations
PPE	● Not necessary.

Green

Green / Low Risk for exposure or transmission, low case counts are reported, public health and private healthcare are ND Smart Restart able to safely diagnose, treat, and isolate COVID-19 cases and their contacts. Some physical distancing measures and limitations on gatherings will still be recommended to prevent transmission from accelerating again. For older adults (those over age 65), those with underlying health conditions, and other populations at heightened risk from COVID-19, continuing to limit time in the community will be important. State and community leaders should prepare health alerts, communicate risk and symptoms, review plans, prepare for public health capacity if needed for spikes in cases.

Priorities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ensure students and staff who are symptomatic stay at home. ● Implement reasonable accommodations to reduce school-wide and community spread.
Districtwide Practices:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Physical distancing where possible and reasonable. ● Buildings routinely cleaned and disinfected according to CDC guidelines. Special focus on high touch/traffic areas. ● Handwashing integrated throughout the day. ● Hand sanitizer available throughout each building. ● Support and train parents on use of technology tools and online curricular resources.
Schools:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Protective measures will be implemented in office spaces. ● Some school events, assemblies and gatherings may be changed or cancelled. ● Access to the building may be limited, with new protocols.
Classrooms:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students issued “technology” and trained on how to access online learning resources including the Learning Management System (Schoology) adopted by school. ● Limited use of shared materials and supplies. ● Desks arranged to allow for groups and physical distancing where possible and reasonable. ● Staff and students working in close proximity will be required to wear a face covering.
Common Areas:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students when moving around the building will move in groups and reasonably try to limit exposure to other groups. ● Schedules may be altered to reduce groups passing in common areas. ● Lunch times and location may be altered to reduce the number of students in the cafeteria at any one time.
Extracurricular & Activities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Guidance and directives from the NDHSAA and other governing boards will be used to guide these activities.
Communications:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Share information about how to stop the spread of COVID-19.
PPE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Unless a clear partition is in place, all students and staff (other than outlined below) are required to wear face coverings in common areas, on school transportation when other passengers are present, and wherever physical distancing of 6 feet is not possible. ● Staff caring for / instructing a student in a small space – small group – for more than 15 minutes. (i.e. Nurse, SPED, EL, educator) will need to

	<p>discuss face covering requirements with the Covid-19 Coordinator. Building administrators in consultation with the district nurse and educator will determine if face coverings or face shield are required. This may be influenced by instructional and learning needs of the student and health considerations of all occupants in the room.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public facing staff (i.e. receptionists/clerical) are required to wear face coverings unless a clear partition is in place.
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Yellow

Yellow / Moderate Risk is the level of heightened exposure risk and transmission is controlled in these areas. Cases are reported but contained by rapid testing and robust contact tracing. Moderate physical distancing and precautions are needed. Increased cleaning on high-touch surfaces and cleanings on shared spaces should be routine. Shared surfaces will be more frequently cleaned and disinfected. Case-based interventions will actively identify and isolate people with the disease and their contacts. All vulnerable individuals should continue to self-isolate and avoid large groups in public places. Those who are sick will be asked to stay home and seek testing for COVID-19.

Priorities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ensure students and staff who are symptomatic stay at home. ● Maximize physical distancing where possible. ● Support blended learning model.
Districtwide Practices:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Based on identified COVID cases of students and staff targeted closures may be implemented (class, grade, department, etc.). ● Physical distancing where possible and reasonable. ● Buildings routinely cleaned and disinfected according to CDC guidelines. Special focus on high touch/traffic areas. ● Handwashing integrated throughout the day. ● Hand sanitizer available throughout each building. ● Support and train parents on use of technology tools and online curricular resources. ● Implement technology support line.
Schools:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Protective measures will be maintained in office spaces. ● Some school events, assemblies and gatherings may be changed or cancelled. ● Access to the building may be additionally limited, with new protocols.
Classrooms:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students may be attending school on a hybrid schedule. ● Students will be expected to engage in learning opportunities online using the district Learning Management System (Schoology) on days they are not in school. ● Teachers are expected to make direct student and family contact at least one time per week during distance learning. ● Limited use of shared materials and supplies when students are in school. ● Desks arranged to allow for groups and physical distancing where possible and reasonable. ● Staff and students working in close proximity will be required to wear a face covering.
Common Areas:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students when moving around the building will move in groups and reasonably try to limit exposure to other groups. ● Schedules may be altered to reduce groups passing in common areas. ● Lunch times and location may be altered to reduce the number of students in the cafeteria at any one time.
Extracurricular & Activities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Guidance and directives from the NDHSAA and other governing boards will be used to guide these activities.

Communications:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Share information about how to stop the spread of COVID-19.● Clear communication about academic expectations and grading shared with students and families.● Share technology support resources for parents.
PPE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Unless a clear partition is in place, all students and staff are required to wear face coverings in common areas, on school transportation when other passengers are present, and wherever physical distancing of 6 feet is not possible.

Orange

Orange / High Risk is the level of significant transmission and high risk for exposure due to widespread community spread of infections. There are significant mitigation strategies emphasizing “Stay Home. Stay Healthy. Stay Connected.” Only essential travel and essential workforce, adherence to strict physical distancing guidance, increased cleaning and disinfecting of bathrooms and high touch surfaces.

Priorities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ensure students and staff who are symptomatic stay at home. ● Implement reasonable accommodations to reduce school-wide and community spread. ● Reduce the risk of community spread by closing schools except for approved small group learning.
Districtwide Practices:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Distance learning instruction will be used district wide in all courses at all grade levels. ● Instruction will focus on essential learning targets. ● Attendance and academic progress will be expected. ● Grading policies will not be suspended. ● Implement internet access (Wi-Fi) hot spots around schools, to support distance learning for those that may not have it in their homes. ● Local food distribution may be implemented by food service program.
Schools:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Closed to the general public except by special arrangement with the district office. ● Small group meetings or instruction may be allowed, particularly for special needs students or academic interventions.
Classrooms:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students will engage in learning at the home. ● Students may be expected to engage in learning opportunities online (Schoology). ● Teachers are expected to make direct student and family contact at least one time per week during distance learning.
Extracurricular & Activities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Guidance and directives from the NDHSAA and other governing boards will be used to guide these activities. ● Athletic and other extra/co-curricular activities likely suspended.
Communications:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Clear communication about academic expectations and grading shared with students and families. ● Share technology support resources for parents.
PPE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All students and staff meeting in person for instruction are required to wear face coverings in common areas, on school transportation when other passengers are present, and wherever physical distancing of 6 feet is not possible.

Red

Red / Critical Risk is the level with the highest disease burden and level of significant and uncontrolled community transmission, multiple outbreaks resulting in increased deaths, surge capacity of hospitals are threatened and there is lack of adequate PPE supplies available for healthcare workers. The most significant mitigation strategies are implemented at the Red / Critical Risk level.

Priorities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reduce the risk of community spread by closing schools.
Districtwide Practices:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Distance learning instruction will be used district wide in all courses at all grade levels. ● Instruction will focus on essential learning targets. ● Attendance and academic progress will be expected. ● Grading policies will not be suspended. ● Implement internet access (WIFI) hot spots around schools, to support distance learning for those that may not have it in their homes. ● Local food distribution may be implemented by food service program.
Schools:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Closed to the general public and students.
Classrooms:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students will engage in learning at the home. ● Students may be expected to engage in learning opportunities online (Schoology). ● Teachers are expected to make direct student and family contact at least one time per week during distance learning.
Extracurricular & Activities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Guidance and directives from the NDHSAA and other governing boards will be used to guide these activities. ● Athletic and other extra/co-curricular activities suspended.
Communications:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Clear communication about academic expectations and grading shared with students and families. ● Share technology support resources for parents.
PPE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Not necessary.

Kulm Public School Leveled Approach to Instruction

Level 5 All Distance Learning
Level 4 Distance Learning with Limited In-Person Instruction
Level 3 Hybrid Instruction
Level 2 In-Person Instruction with Restrictions
Level 1 All In-Person Instruction

Virtual Academy

Families that have immunocompromised students or significant safety concerns may, for the 2020-2021 School Year, commit to a Virtual Academy at each level (Elementary, Middle and High School) that will provide all instruction to educational standards of the district. Families in this option must commit to a full semester of the Virtual Academy. Instruction will be provided by a third-party program that is monitored by KPS staff.

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Levels of Instruction

In accordance with the North Dakota K-12 Smart Restart (Fall 2020) and the Governor's Executive Order released in July 2020, all district distance education plans must meet the purpose of educating our K-12 students and safeguarding the health and safety of students, teachers, staff, families, and the community at large. School districts shall assure in STARS (State Automated Reporting System) that there is a school-board approved distance learning plan publicly available on the district website.

The KPS Smart Restart Plan categorizes learning into five instructional levels: all in-person instruction, in-person instruction with restrictions, hybrid instruction (combination of distance learning and in-person instruction), distance learning with limited in-person instruction, all distance learning, and virtual academy, these instructional models are referenced according to the guide below.

Level 1 All In-Person Instruction

Instructional Plan 1: All K-12 levels will implement traditional daily instruction on campus.

Level 2 In-Person Instruction with Restrictions

Instructional Plan 2: Due to the environment, varied student and family needs, enrollments and differing facilities, the following breakdown will be used:

- Traditional daily learning with increased safety protocols.

Level 3 Hybrid Instruction

Instructional Plan 3: Due to the environment, varied student and family needs, enrollments and differing facilities, the following breakdown will be used:

- Elementary and Middle School: Modified on-campus instruction with hybrid (AB) schedule to limit daily enrollment.
- High School: Modified on-campus instruction with hybrid (AB) schedule to limit daily enrollment.

Level 4 Distance Learning with Limited In-Person Instruction

Instructional Plan 4: All K-12 levels will implement distance learning. There may be opportunities for limited populations to be serviced on-site.

Level 5 All Distance Learning

Instructional Plan 5: All K-12 levels will implement distance learning.

Virtual Academy

Additionally, for the 2020-2021 school year, Families that have immunocompromised students or significant safety concerns may choose a Virtual Academy (Elementary, Middle and/or High School) that will provide all instruction to the educational standards of the district. Families in this option must commit to a full semester of the Virtual Academy. Instruction will be provided

by a third-party program that is monitored by KPS staff. Their instruction will not be impacted by the leveled instruction models.

Kulm Public School is not able to change the county color; rather, it is the school district's role to adopt an instructional plan based on the previously outlined guiding principles of the Health and Safety Plan. Each phase color includes one or two instructional plan options. The designation of the instructional plan will be made along with the phase color to help families plan for the various plan designs. For example, KPS school district could start the year at Green #2, which would mean that we are following low risk health and safety measures, a clearly communicated form of the Level 2 instructional plan.

Specific criteria used by the committee to determine which KPS Instructional Plan is adopted includes:

- Guidance from state
- Guidance from LaMoure County Public Health
- Ability to implement physical distancing

I. Attendance Procedures

- Policy Considerations
 - Families that make decisions to keep students at home due to a pandemic/epidemic should be addressed on a case by case basis by building principals
 - Staff and students who are sick should stay home.
 - Suspend attendance incentives/testing requirements as needed to discourage sick students attending school.
- Attendance During a Closure

During an extended closure student engagement in learning opportunities is critical to continued academic growth. Attendance will be monitored by teachers through student logins in asynchronous learning experiences and phone check-ins. Any student demonstrating prolonged absence or disengagement is a cause for concern. Administrators will be monitoring student attendance closely to make contact with students and parents directly if continued absences arise.

Students will log in at the scheduled time as determined by each teacher. Attendance policy will be followed. Communication between parents and teachers will be essential in monitoring attendance. See attendance policy in student handbook.

II. Educational Staff Expectations

- Development of Virtual Learning Guidelines and Guidance for Staff

The district will utilize Schoology for distance learning. More advanced trainings in these platforms will be provided as needed. The district will use the support offered by EduTech and SEEC to provide ongoing teacher support for distance learning.
- Teacher Expectations:
 - Teachers will provide lessons to students with synchronous (everyone at once) and asynchronous (not existing or happening at the same time) sessions. Teachers will provide assessment opportunities linked to the course essential learning outcomes (prioritized North Dakota Content Standards) and give feedback to their students. The teacher will actively monitor and track individual progress and attendance of each student assigned to their class. The teacher will provide instruction in academic content, and social emotional learning areas. Teachers are expected to make direct student and family contact at least one time per week during distance learning.
- Professional Development
 - Staff experiences in supporting distance learning will be monitored by the building administrator. Additional support, including technical training, professional learning opportunities, and collaborations, will be scheduled, as necessary, to further build the capacity across the school continuum to provide high-quality

instruction for all students.

- Regular communication and opportunities for input
 - Parent & Staff Survey on re-entry (July 2020)
 - Restart Committee Meetings (July 27, 28, 29, & 30, 2020)
 - Staff Training and Professional Development (August 2020)
 - Parent Training (August 2020)

III. High-Quality, Effective, Standards-Based Education

The Kulm Elementary School utilizes Benchmark Literacy for ELA, Envision Math-Pearson, Science Dimensions-HMH, and My World Social Studies-Pearson and has ensured that all distance learning instruction, resources, and supplemental materials are aligned to ND Standards.

The Kulm High School utilizes Glencoe for Science & Math and HMH for English and has ensured that all distance learning instruction, resources, and supplemental materials are aligned to ND Standards.

The focus of instruction will be on content that relates to content standards with an emphasis on relevance, engagement, and connections to 21st Century Skills. There will be minimal stress on focused skills and an emphasis on opportunities to put information into action or to find connections between content and real-world applications. While textbooks and online books will be used, instructional videos, simulations, games, short videos, and opportunities for collaboration will also be used.

The learning experiences in each content area will be a continuation of the regular school experience in which students will be able to access grade-level and subject-matter content. In some cases, students will be able to continue to work on projects and content areas that were taking place before the transition to online learning. In other cases, teachers have made logical and reasonable modifications to allow students to continue to build proficiency and understanding in the content area. Instructional support through synchronous meetings, recorded explanations, and guided learning experiences will allow students to continue learning in a way that can be monitored and assessed.

Instructional materials used will vary with each content area. Some teachers may send home manipulatives, art supplies, or items to be used in science experiments. Students will also have access to online books and other materials. In many instances, the online resources are ones that the students have already used in the classroom. When new materials are used, the teachers will provide clear instruction and support. Teachers will also seek to include opportunities for students to learn content off-screen by getting outside, doing simple investigations, interviewing family members, and other activities that will provide a variety of learning experiences.

Teachers will use the following for assessments-distance learning quizzes/tests, electronic/delivery of assignments, and online tools (IXL, Spelling City, ScootPad, ReadingPlus).

The district's grading policy is appropriate for Distance Learning and will be utilized, grading assignments digitally and/or physically.

- a. Technology
 - All PK-12 students will be supplied with a district device. Students will have electronic access to course documents, resources, and assignments anytime and from any device. Teachers will post student assignments, course resources, and may collect student work electronically. KPS ensures students have Internet access at home.
 - KPS will ensure students and parents know how to access resources from home by providing family training.

IV. Ensuring Equitable Services

- a. Special Education Considerations - Individualized Educational Plans (IEPs) and 504s: All educational decisions for students with IEPs must be made on an individual basis and be consistent with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and the North Dakota Department of Instruction's Office of Special Education guidelines. [More information](#) regarding Special Education can be found online.
- b. English Learners (EL) Consideration
 - KPS will continue to meet the requirements of Federal Title III: Identify and provide educational services for EL qualifying students.
 - KPS will continue to evaluate new students who, through the KPS enrollment process, are identified as potential EL students.
 - KPS will continue to implement each EL student's Individual Learning Plan (ILP) and provide highly qualified EL guidance and instruction.
 - EL teachers will continue with the existing curriculum scope and sequence of the EL specific curriculum. They will also provide scaffolding for students to reach the distance learning curriculum being provided within general education
- c. Federal Title Considerations
 - KPS will provide appropriate instruction to ensure accessibility to content, dependent on federal title designation
- d. Special Education Considerations for IEP students
 - Procedures for ensuring each student on an IEP will receive individual consideration.
 - If KPS has extended school closures but continues to provide educational services to all students, the district will remain responsible for the free and appropriate public education (FAPE) of its students eligible for special education services with an individualized education program (IEP).
 - KPS will ensure each child receives comparable services to all other

- students. Services might include instructional packets, online learning, or other methods adapted to a student's needs and location.
- During this unique learning time, special education teams will attempt to hold annual IEP meetings by phone or virtual conferences as appropriate and possible.
 - Special education teachers will be in contact with parents and guardians regarding special education services during extended closures. This contact should occur before distance learning instruction, during instruction, and when the extended closure has ended.
 - It may be necessary to adjust special education and related services on the IEP, such as occupational therapy, physical therapy, and speech services, while students are receiving distance learning. Any changes to services would need to be reflected in your child's IEP per an individualized contingency plan.
 - After the school closure has ended, KPS is responsible for determining if it has impacted your child. The impact of the closure will be determined by progress monitoring your child and applying regression/recoupment measurements. Additional services or extended school year services may be needed to support your child's learning based on those measurements.
 - The Special Education Department will create proposed Individualized Contingency Plans for each student.
 - Outlines service during distance learning
 - KPS staff will use a district-created template
 - Could be completed as a Notice of Changes to IEP without an IEP meeting
 - Need to provide the opportunity for parent participation
 - Select main goal area(s) that can be worked on as distance learning students
 - Provision of Instruction in Goal Area
 - Specific materials to work in goal area
 - Data collection
 - Collect via remote contact with parents
 - Collect via returned artifacts
 - Description of Learning Management Systems
 - Teacher-developed lessons can be provided either through e-learning or packets sent to the home.
 - Approximate Time Frame for Learning
 - Individualized based on each student's unique learning needs
 - Teacher Roles and Responsibilities

- Connect with parents and students
- Create and implement lessons
- Complete IDEA procedures
 - Include mandated members of IEP team
 - Meet via phone or over e-platform
- Maintain, as close as possible, IDEA timeframes for procedures
 - Continue to send IEP paperwork to parents via mail/email
 - Collaborate with general education teachers
- Student Roles and Responsibilities
 - Engage in the Lessons
 - Respond to Teacher Initiated Contact
- Parent Roles and Responsibilities
 - Communicate with teachers, case managers, special education teachers, and other staff.
- Guide Student Learning
 - Providing high-quality, effective, standards-based education, whether in person or virtual
 - Aligned to North Dakota Content Standards
 - Students will have access to an educator through technology platform
 - Students will be assessed and assigned grades

e. Section 504 Considerations

- KPS will ensure that each student on a 504 plan will receive individual consideration
- Kulm Public Schools will continue to follow each students' team-developed 504 plan as applicable to distance learning.
- KPS will ensure that a student who has a 504 plan will have equitable access to the KPS distance general education curriculum and instruction.
- If a parent or student wants to discuss or revise their 504 plan during this distance learning phase (or at any time), they should contact their 504 case manager to arrange a team meeting to review the 504 plan.

V. School Counseling Services

Schools must continue to provide school counseling services, even if this is done electronically. Please see the linked guidance from the American School Counselor Association relating to [virtual school counseling during an emergency shutdown](#). School counselors must follow all [ASCA Ethical Standards for School Counselors](#). School counselors will also work collaboratively with all stakeholders to ensure equity, access, and success of all students whether virtual school

counseling is offered synchronously or asynchronously. Click on this link to access [ASCA's position statement on virtual school counseling](#) for a description of plans and examples of how the school district will provide social and emotional learning support to students, including counseling services.

- Counselors: KPS counselors understand the expectations and limitations of providing virtual (Google Meet/email/phone) school counseling. School counselors have the responsibility to provide a school counseling program and develop programs to support all students in academic, career, and social/emotional development that would emulate school counseling that would take place in a face-to-face environment:
 - School counselors will continue to provide age appropriate guidance lessons to students and staff using teachers and the district technology plan to deliver to all students.
 - School counselors will be available to all students via virtual counseling to provide direct services to include crisis response and mental health supports as appropriate.
 - School counselors will be available via Google Meet/email/phone for parent and staff consultation/collaboration, appraisal/advisement, referrals, and other indirect service.
- Community Supports
 - The impact of a school closure often goes beyond academics. Schools and families need to be aware of and be prepared to cope with the potential impact these closures will have on the mental health and wellbeing of students, staff, and families.
 - A list of support organizations can be found in the appendix to this document.

VI. Assessment and Grading Practices

Teachers will provide assessment opportunities linked to each course's essential learning outcomes (developed from the North Dakota Content Standards) and give feedback to their students.

- Kulm Public School grades K-5 use a standards-based progress report to provide detailed feedback regarding student progress toward grade level essential learning outcomes. The standards-based report card measures how well an individual student performs to the grade level essential learning outcomes rather than in comparison to other students.
- Kulm Public School grades 6-12 use a five-letter system consisting of A, B, C, D, and F. However, other reasonable grading systems such as satisfactory/unsatisfactory grades and incompletes may be utilized.

Assessment	Grades	Season	Testing Dates	# of Days	Comments
MAP	K-12	Fall	8/24-8/25	2	
EasyCBM	K-8	Fall			Students who score below the 40 th percentile.
Benchmark Reading	K-6	Fall			

a. Elementary

Elementary teachers will use Benchmark Literacy assessment to identify fall entry reading levels for students entering grades K-6. These assessments will be administered during the first two weeks of school. Teachers will use this assessment information to identify and target learning gaps as well as an initial measure to monitor growth throughout the year.

Elementary students will also be assessed with MAP Reading and Math. Students who score below the 40th percentile on MAP will be assessed with EasyCBM. Teachers will use this assessment information to identify and target learning gaps as well as an initial measure to monitor growth throughout the year.

b. Junior High and High School

Junior High and High School students will also be assessed with MAP Reading and Math. Students who score below the 40th percentile on MAP will be assessed with EasyCBM. Teachers will use this assessment information to identify and target learning gaps as well as an initial measure to monitor growth throughout the year.

Level 1 All In-Person Instruction

The school is open for traditional learning for all students. Resume use of large group spaces and school-wide events, visitor policies, field trips, etc.

Level 2 In-Person Instruction with Restrictions

The school is open for traditional learning for all students. Instruction is delivered in-person with some building and group modifications. Teachers and students maintain a normal daily schedule. The school implements preventative measures to mitigate spread and risk among staff and students. In classroom settings, unless a clear partition is in place, all students and staff are required to wear face coverings in common areas, on school transportation when other passengers are present, and wherever physical distancing of 6 feet is not possible. There is limited use of large group spaces, school-wide events, non-essential visitors, field trips, etc.

COVID-19 Response Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KPS COVID-19 Coordinator is Tami Kramlich; Superintendent If the coordinator is unable to be reached the secondary contacts will be the building principals, Adam Schlepp or Amy Johnson. • See KPS Health and Safety Plan for monitoring students and staff for symptoms, history of exposure and absenteeism. • See KPS Health and Safety Plan for process to rapidly notify parents and staff of exposures in the school setting.
Positive or Close Contact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See KPS Health and Safety Plan for isolation and quarantine when a staff member, student, or visitor becomes sick or demonstrates a history of exposure. • See KPS Health and Safety Plan above for when an isolated or quarantined staff member, staff, or visitor may return to school.
Communication & Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Kulm Public School will train its staff in the implementation of the Health and Safety plan during the beginning of the 2020-2021 professional development days. • The Kulm Public School will train its staff on the appropriate use and wearing of facial coverings during the beginning of the 2020-2021 professional development days. • The Kulm Public School will develop communications for families around the elements of the KPS Health and Safety Plan, including ways that families can practice safe hygiene in the home and utilize the KPS website, Twitter, Facebook, and district newsletters to distribute the information.
Hygiene & Cleaning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kulm Public School will require all students and all staff to wear face coverings that adequately cover both their nose and mouth. Exceptions will be made for students with medical, behavioral, or other challenges who are unable to wear face coverings. • Kulm Public School will reinforce proper hand washing techniques regularly throughout the day. • Kulm Public School will ensure:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The building will have a rotation of enhanced cleanings. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Classroom teachers are provided with additional supplies to disinfect classrooms. ▪ In the event of a positive COVID-19 case in the school, custodial staff immediately sanitize and disinfect the affected area. ○ Ordering and distribution of PPE are managed through the superintendent or custodian (face coverings or gloves). ○ HVAC system is set to increase fresh air input. ○ Water fountain bubblers will be shut off. ● Transportation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Students are offered hand sanitizer on buses. ○ Students are assigned seats whenever feasible. ○ Buses are cleaned each night. ● Drivers will disinfect handrails, seat tops, and entrance doors between runs.
<p>Physical Distancing</p>	<p>During Level 2, Kulm Public School will implement the following protocols:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Physical distancing when feasible. ● Face coverings that adequately cover both their nose and mouth are required, if physical distancing of 6 feet is not possible or on school transportation when other passengers are present (bus). Exceptions will be made for students with medical, behavioral, or other challenges who are unable to wear face coverings. ● Practice hand hygiene (washing/sanitizing) throughout the day. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reinforce proper hand washing techniques regularly. ● Encourage anyone who is sick to stay home. ● Post common signage promoting daily protective measures (physical distancing, face coverings, hand washing, and staying home when sick) in common areas ● Place students in similar groupings each day (ex. Lunch, bus, classroom seating) whenever feasible. ● Suspend all non-essential classroom visitations. ● Remove non-essential classroom materials/items in order to best accommodate physical distancing. ● Encourage outdoor activities whenever feasible. ● Limit the sharing of objects that are difficult to clean. ● Hold virtual meetings when feasible.

Additional Safety Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• When possible, Kulm Public School will purchase additional materials to reduce the sharing of learning materials among students.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ When not possible, Kulm Public School will train its staff in disinfecting the materials between student use (to the maximum amount feasible).• Kulm Public School will restrict non-essential visitation.• Students will be required to wear face coverings that adequately cover both their nose and mouth. Exceptions will be made for students with medical, behavioral, or other challenges who are unable to wear face coverings.
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Level 3 Hybrid Instruction

Hybrid Learning for K-12

Due to the size of our student body, it is unlikely that we would need to implement a hybrid learning schedule. However, Kulm Public School will develop a hybrid schedule if it becomes necessary. Students may report to school on a modified schedule. Student schedules may be varied to meet the learning needs of each child. Multiple hybrid models of instructional delivery may be appropriate. Instruction would be conducted both in-person and online.

COVID-19 Response Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as Level 2 (see above)
Positive or Close Contact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as Level 2 (see above)
Communication & Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as Level 2 (see above)
Hygiene & Cleaning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as Level 2 (see above).
Physical Distancing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face coverings that adequately cover both their nose and mouth are required. Exceptions will be made for students with medical, behavioral, or other challenges who are unable to wear face coverings. • Kulm Public School will follow its Level 3 (hybrid learning) Learning Plan to allow for separation among students and staff throughout the day. (See plan below.) • During Kulm Public School Level 3, students will eat breakfast and lunch in their assigned classroom.
Additional Safety Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as Level 2 (see above).

Level 4 Distance Learning with Limited In-Person Instruction

The building will be closed and restricted to essential personnel only. Teachers may work onsite and use school guidelines to occasionally schedule small groups of students onsite for assessment or intervention. All students participate in scheduled video conference sessions and complete unscheduled online activities. Distance learning expectations are clearly communicated and enforced to support student success.

Elementary Instruction

Students keep their school issued device at home and attend school online five days a week. Students will log in at the scheduled time as determined by each teacher.

Secondary Instruction

Students keep their school issued device at home and attend school online five days a week. Students will log in at the scheduled time as determined by each teacher.

Health and Safety Plan: See Level 3, above.

Level 5 All Distance Learning

School should remain closed for general in-person instruction. All instruction must continue via distance learning, whether using digital or non-digital platforms.

Health and Safety Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A KPS School Board approved plan is posted on the District Website-www.kulmschool.com
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• KPS will continue to use multiple communication methods to keep families informed of the local Health and Safety plan.
School Meals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kulm Public School may continue meals for students. The schedule will be posted and communicated with families on a weekly basis if implemented.
KPS Learning Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Refer to Level 4 (See above) for details of the distance learning plan <p>School building is closed and restricted to essential personnel. All students participate in scheduled video conference sessions and unscheduled online activities five days per week. Adjusted distance learning expectations communicated in response to crisis. No student activities.</p>

Virtual Academy

KPS Virtual Academy for Grades K-12

Families that have immunocompromised students or significant safety concerns may, for the 2020-2021 School Year, commit to a Virtual Academy at each level (Elementary, Middle and High School) that will provide all instruction to educational standards of the district. Families in this option must commit to a full semester of the Virtual Academy. Instruction will be provided by a third-party program that is monitored by KPS staff.

More details will be provided when they are made available to KPS.