



# Cherokee Independent School District

*"Striving to make the best better."*

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## Return to In-Person Instruction & Continuity of Services (RIPICS) Plan

### Introduction

American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act statute requires that LEAs develop and make publicly available their plans for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services. A summary of Cherokee ISD's plans is below.

### Effective Date of Plan

This plan is effective as of June 7, 2021.  
Six Month Review and Revisions made 12/1/2021  
Six Month Review and Revision 7/1/2022  
**Six Month Review and Revision 12/12/2022**

### Public Comment & Stakeholder Input

This plan was developed in consultation with stakeholders after soliciting public comment via electronic survey, public board meeting, Site Based Decision Making Meeting, staff meetings, small student groups including NHS and FFA officers.

### Ongoing Review & Publication of Plan

The plan was drafted on June 7, 2021 and posted to the LEA website <https://www.cherokeeisd.net/browse/217818>. Every six months, Cherokee ISD will review the plan in accordance with the latest guidance from the CDC, state and local governments. If revisions are needed to the plan, public input will be solicited and stakeholders will be meaningfully consulted. The revised version of the plan will then be posted on the website. The chart below provides information on this ongoing process.

*Cherokee ISD Return to In-Person Instruction & Continuity of Services Plan*

*Plan template provided by ESC Region 15*



## Return to In-Person Instruction & Continuity of Services Plan Review

<b>2021-2022 Year 1</b>	<u>Date of Initial Plan:</u> June 7, 2021	<u>Six Month Review Date:</u> <b>12/1/2021</b> <input type="checkbox"/> No revision needed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Revisions were made
<b>2022-2023 Year 2</b>	<u>Six Month Review Date:</u> <b>7/1/2022</b> <input type="checkbox"/> No revision needed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Revisions were made	<u>End of Grant Period Review Date:</u> <b>12/12/2022</b> <input type="checkbox"/> No revision needed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Revisions were made
<b>2023-2024 (Carryover Year)</b>	<b>Last required review is 9/30/2023</b> <b>~Grant ends 9/30/24~</b>	

### General Instructional Settings

Cherokee ISD will continue in-person learning for Kindergarten – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade on Monday, August 8, 2022, 7:45 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.

### Provisions to Reduce Risk of Exposure to Health Hazards

#### *Systems & Procedures*

- Staff will be trained in infectious disease including COVID-19 safety protocols and receive additional training for changes made in the guidance and protocols related to COVID-19.
- Personal Protective Equipment will be provided for students and staff. Face coverings are optional for all staff and students.
- Students and staff are required to self-screen before coming to school; staff and students who are sick should not attend school.
- Students and Staff with fever or symptoms of infectious diseases, including COVID-19, influenza, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), and gastrointestinal infections should stay home and seek guidance from healthcare provider.
- Staff and Students must report to administration if they are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, and if so, the school will contact the local health department for further guidance; as per TEA Health Guidance (August 1, 2022), the school must notify its local health department, in accordance with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations, including confidentiality requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

- Disinfectants will be used for deep cleaning the campus throughout each day. School transportation will be sanitized after use.
- Plexiglass dividers will be available for small classrooms that do not allow for social distancing between students.
- To allow for social distancing during lunch, grade level groups (k-2 and 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>) will have separate lunch periods. Outdoor tables will be used for social distancing if weather permits; old gymnasium will be used during wet or cold weather.
- Cafeteria tables, chairs, door handles and high touch areas will be sanitized between lunch periods.
- When feasible breakfast and lunch silverware will be pre-packaged/wrapped.
- Students K-12 will be trained and encouraged to use proper hand washing and sanitizing practices often.
- Cleaning and disinfecting will occur daily in every classroom, common areas, restrooms and high touch surfaces.
- Student desks/tables and chairs will be disinfected between classes as often as possible or as feasible.
- Hand sanitizer will be accessible throughout the campus
- Recess and PE will be outdoors when weather permits.
- Equipment will be sanitized after use.

#### *Modifications to Facilities*

- When feasible classroom tables and desks will be set up to allow for social distancing.
- Plexiglass barriers are available for small classrooms that do not allow for social distancing.
- Cherokee ISD will be remodeling vacant classrooms to provide more space for larger classes and elective courses that need space for students to work on hands-on assignments or projects while social distancing.
- Cherokee will be adding outdoor tables to allow for social distancing during breakfast and lunch periods; these tables may also be utilized for outdoor staff and/or student meetings if weather permits.

### Students' Academic Needs

Cherokee ISD will be addressing students' academic needs in several different ways. We offer summer school, after school and Friday Tutorials. We use various online and consumable supplemental resources to address learning gaps. Cherokee ISD continues to replace and add technological devices to better meet student academic needs and teacher instructional needs. The district is adding a CTE classroom/lab to meet student needs. Additional staff such as interventionists and paraprofessionals will be hired to provide extra support in meeting student needs.

### Students' Social, Emotional, Mental Health Needs

Cherokee ISD will be implementing a K-12 TEKS aligned SEL program to help address the social, emotional and mental needs of students. **Cherokee ISD hired a part-time counselor to help address the needs of the students.**

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## Staff's Social, Emotional, Mental Health Needs

Cherokee ISD will continue to promote self-care with all staff members. Morale-boosting activities such as staff celebrations, provided meals and staff “spotlight” will be used to increase the staff social and emotional needs. Administrative weekly newsletter will include words of encouragement and suggestions of self-care. Periodic surveys will be used to determine staff needs throughout the year. The teacher component of the student SEL program will also contribute to staff social, emotional and mental health needs.

## Questions

Questions regarding this plan may be directed to:

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