

Paoli Public School

Safe Return to Learn (ARP ESSER III) Back to School Plan 2021-2022

Throughout the past several months, the district has been in close communication with the County Health Department, the Oklahoma State Department of Education, and has continuously monitored the Center for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines. There are several unanswered questions that are still being worked on, but no matter what school will resume on Wednesday, August 12th for all students. The district is certain students are experiencing unfinished learning, and this could widen the learning gaps. Strategies will be implemented to overcome any learning gaps that result from COVID-19 quarantine/school closure. Paoli district is preparing for a traditional, virtual and a hybrid learning plan as well as preparing for intermittent building closures. *This plan is subject to change.*

During the development of the PPS Safe Return to School Plan the following areas were priorities:

HEALTH & SAFETY

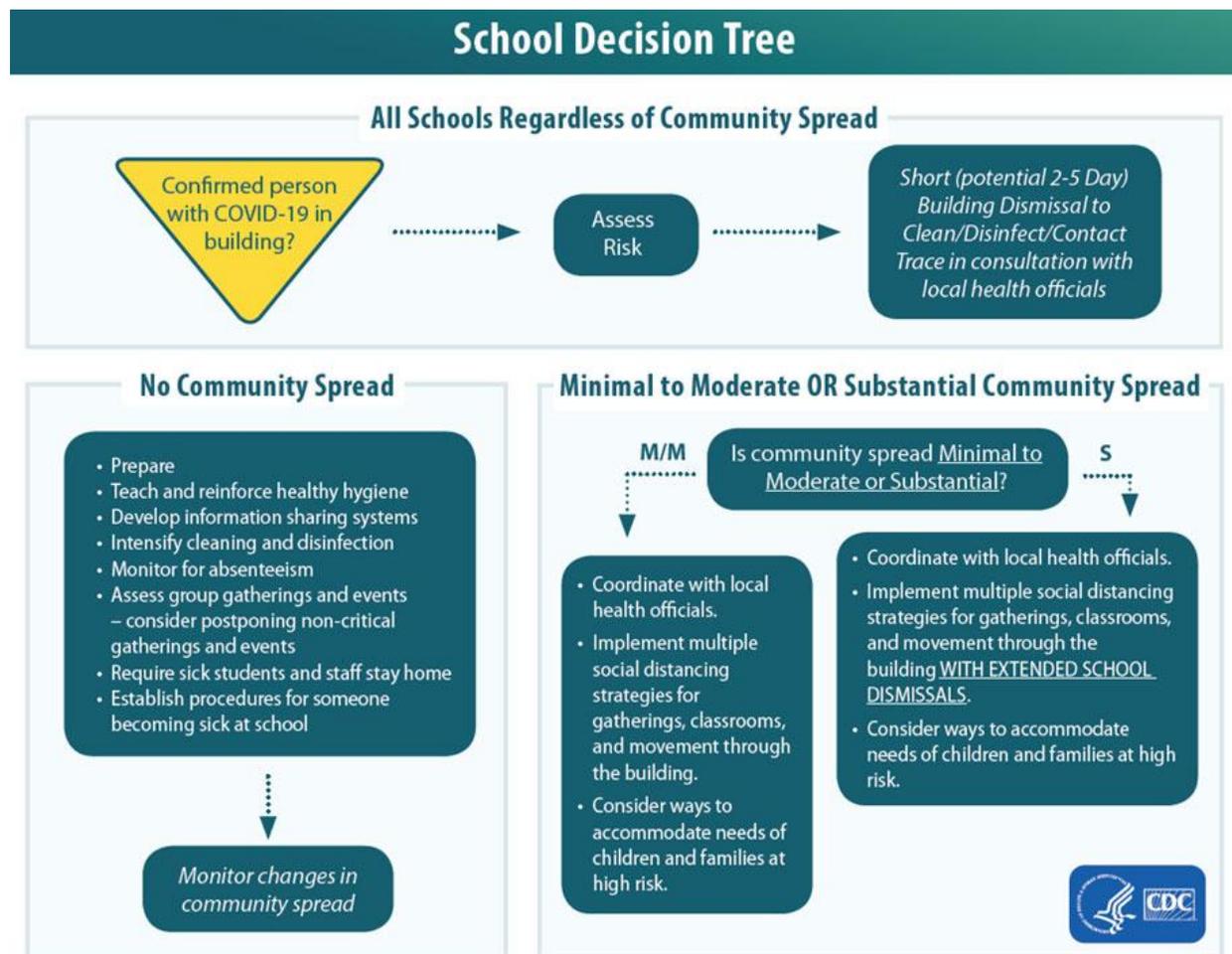
Safety will continue to be central to our decision-making for the coming year and will drive our fiscal investments. We will adhere to the most current COVID-19 related guidance and best practices from the Garvin County Health Department and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Some examples of this priority in action include...

- Assessing and preparing our facilities for social distancing
- Universal and correct wearing of mask instruction
- Planning for personal protective equipment for students and staff
- Establishing cleaning and disinfecting protocols (including ventilation systems) that meet CDC guidelines
- Preparing for the safe operation of transportation and meal service
- Training and signage to support hygiene practices and social distancing
- Contact tracing, communication, isolation, and quarantine with all stakeholders
- Diagnostic and screening to determine effects of loss of instruction and COVID-19
- Coordinate with local, county, and state health agencies to provide vaccinations and information to our school community
- Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies
- Continuity of services, including but not limited to stakeholder's academic needs, social, emotional, mental health and other needs

During the coming year, we will be in-person as much as possible. We will accomplish this by being flexible while staying safe. The approved school year calendar has built-in days to prepare students, staff and families in-case the district must close due to confirmed positive case(s) of COVID-19. The district will continue to follow evolving guidance from the CDC.

Paoli Public School will refer to the CDC-recommended approach to handling positive cases and outbreaks while communicating with the Garvin County Health Department.



(Appendix B: COVID-19 School Procedures)

The district will assess and prepare our facilities for social distancing to the best of our abilities. The district is planning for personal protective equipment for students and staff. The district has established cleaning and disinfecting protocols that meet CDC guidelines and has prepared for the safe operation of transportation and meal service. Training and signage to support hygiene practices and social distancing will also be incorporated throughout the district.

If the number of positive cases of COVID-19 rise to the point that the state limits the number of people allowed in a building or space, the district is preparing for a mix of face-to-face traditional learning and at-home instruction for those students choosing the Traditional Learning Plan. The district is developing a Contingency Learning Plan that would allow only a portion of the students in the building on any given day while the remainder of the students would continue

instruction at home. On those school days where students were not reporting to the building, learning would continue to take place at home and attendance would continue to be counted.

Daily temperature checks for every student and staff member will be required before entry into a classroom. Screening of all visitors via health attestations and temperature checks. Non-essential visitors will be limited and all visitors will be required to wear a mask. Individuals with a temperature of 100.0 °F or higher will be required to return home. **Students and staff who have been sent home due to temperature must remain out of school until fever free with no fever reducing medication for at least 24 hours after receiving a negative COVID-19 test or seven (7) days if no COVID-19 testing is done (subject to change as CDC recommendations change).** Anyone identified as COVID-19 positive will be reported to appropriate reporting agencies as required by the Paoli Safe Return Plan, State Department of Education, Garvin County Health Department, and the CDC.

Disinfecting

Daily deep sanitations of campuses and buses, especially high-touch areas. Hand sanitizer will be on school busses and in every classroom and hallway. Procedures and protocols have been established to increase physical and social distancing on buses, in classrooms, during lunch, at recess, and during arrival and departure times. If notified of a positive COVID-19 case, the area(s) will be closed off. Custodial staff will wait 24 hours before beginning the cleaning and disinfection process to minimize potential for exposure to respiratory droplets. Custodial staff will disinfect air units daily and change air filters every thirty days.

Other's strategies to assist with the health and safety of students and staff are: bathroom monitoring to avoid overcrowding, the purchase of face shields, masks for those staff members whose job requires extreme close proximity with students, hourly hand washing breaks and sanitize hands when entering and exiting rooms. Proper etiquette and hygiene practices will be taught, reviewed, and reinforced by school employees.

Additional strategies

Within the educational settings, it is suggested to avoid use of shared supplies. Hand sanitizer and cleaning wipes will be available near shared equipment and copiers. Backpacks will be stored in lockers and not carried around the buildings. Drinking fountains are being replaced with bottle refilling stations. CDC encourages staff and students to bring their own water bottles. Alternating restroom lavatories and urinals will be taped off to facilitate social distancing. There will be an increase in the frequency of cleaning and disinfecting surfaces. Air ventilation has been checked and outside air does pass through all classrooms. The air units will be checked regularly to ensure proper ventilation. Recess at the elementary will be staggered and the number of students will be limited on the playground at any one given time. The district will emphasize staying home when sick, covering coughs and sneezes appropriately, clean frequently touched surfaces and washing hands often. Seating charts for all classes will be required to aid in contact tracing. Teachers will maximize classroom space by removing reading nooks, center areas, etc. The district discourages sharing of items that are difficult to clean or disinfect. If possible, students will remain in the same classroom and their subject teachers will rotate across rooms. All elementary students will be issued their own personal ear buds to be used during computer time. High school students will not congregate in large groups at lunchtime or in hallways. If weather permits, they will be outside but if inclement weather they will socially distance in the gym bleachers with 10-12th sitting on the north side and 7-9th sitting on the south

side. 7th – 12th grades will not eat breakfast in the cafeteria. 7th – 12th grades will eat breakfast at the HS at the end of first hour in their first hour classroom.

Transportation Health & Safety Priorities

Due to limitations, social distancing on busses will not be feasible. The district is recommending families make alternate transportation plans, other than the school bus, for students, if possible. To limit numbers on the bus, bus riders must live beyond ¼ mile from their designated school site. The drivers will maximize the air flow on the bus by opening windows, if possible. All riders will be required to set in their assigned seat. A seating chart will be used if contact tracing is needed. Students will be screened when they board the bus. If they have a temperature of 100.0°F, they will have to return home. (Appendix C: District's letter to parents regarding transportation/buses). Enhanced bus sanitation practices including frequency and timing have been implemented. It is recommended for all students and drivers to wear masks and use hand sanitizer when boarding the bus. There will be staggered arrivals of bus riders, walkers and cars to reduce the size of each arrival group and the number of students entering the building at any given time. Temperatures will be checked upon entering the school buildings at the start of each day.

Child Nutrition Health & Safety Priorities

Cafeteria personnel will wear face mask and shields while preparing food, serving food, or in the kitchen. The district will modify meal services to ensure social distancing and minimize student gatherings/transitions, while continuing to provide nutritious meals. The Child Nutrition staff will be preparing and packaging meals in the cafeteria. The Child Nutrition staff is setting up a process for grab and go meals for students during distance learning days and/or virtual learning. The district has enhanced cafeteria and kitchen sanitation practices including frequency and timing. 7th – 12th breakfast will be served in their first hour classrooms (subject to change per CDC changes) and there will no longer be a common area for students to congregate in the mornings. Elementary will be served in the cafeteria while social distancing is practiced. Non-student and non-school employees will not be allowed to enter the cafeteria until the pandemic is over.

The district will prioritize the needs of our most vulnerable staff and student populations. The district will layer safety practices as much as possible to address the health and safety of all. Age-appropriate safety signage will be printed and provided to for both campuses and placed in designated areas by the start of school. Staff training on the type of signage and procedures related to social distancing, directional signs, and proper disinfection strategies will be scheduled during district In-Service prior to the start of the school year.

FACE COVERINGS ARE HIGHLY RECOMMENDED AND ENCOURAGED FOR ALL STUDENTS, STAFF AND VISITORS.

(At any time, Paoli School administration may require mask due to future State and Federal mandates and/or changes)

STAFF & STUDENT WELLNESS

We will continue to invest in social emotional learning and further elevate tools and resources for fostering inclusive classrooms and community. We will also support our students, families, and staff with supports and referrals for wellness outside of the classroom and workplace.

Some examples of this priority in action include....

- Partnering and planning to address food insecurities in our school community
- Developing a system to gather and address family needs district-wide
- Professional development and resources focused on supporting student social and emotional needs
- Working with local, county, and state health agencies to provide continued up-to-date COVID-19 information and resources (CDC, immunizations, etc....)
- Investing in differentiated social and emotional wellness supports for students and staff

As an Oklahoma Certified Healthy School, the district promotes employees and students eating healthy, exercising, getting enough sleep and finding time to unwind. The district will continue providing professional development to address the social and emotional learning (SEL) needs of our students. The district has plans to invest in SEL programs to assist staff and students with the stress and anxiety impacting their lives. The district encourages employees and students to talk with people they trust about their concerns and how they are feeling. The National Distress Hotline is 1-800-985-5990, or text TalkWithUs to 66746.

SUPPORTING OUR EDUCATORS

We will focus on developing skills and comfort with the tools our educators may need for distance learning during the 2021-2022 school year. We will continue to invest in professional learning to develop, sustain, and grow strong instructional practice.

Some examples of this priority in action include....

- Providing consistent, well-supported tools for both in-person and distance learning
- Offering in-service training to succeed in a distance environment
- Providing all staff with the training they need to keep themselves and their students safe
- Creating safe teaching and learning options for our student and staff

Training will be centered around increased health and safety practices for educators and students. In-service will have specific training on proper cleaning and disinfecting protocols to combat COVID-19. The district expects to provide meaningful professional development supporting student and teacher success in a virtual environment and/or blended environment.

Reconfiguring space in classrooms to create social distance among students is the recommended safe approach. Removing reading nooks, center areas, etc. will increase floor space. The district will attempt to maximize distance between occupants within each classroom allowing for clear paths of circulation for teachers and paraprofessionals to move about the room. If possible, limiting the number of students in a classroom will enhance social distancing. Desks will either be spaced out to the best of the ability and facing the same direction or grouped in small groups allowing for distance between group members. If tables and no desk, students will be spaced out and facing the same way if possible.

If a room or building is closed, educators will be assigned to different rooms/buildings to conduct virtual instruction. Teachers will be expected to transition their curriculum to a virtual environment seamlessly. Therefore, virtual days have been built into the school calendar to

allow teacher and students the opportunity to engage in a virtual environment. This will prepare everyone in case a classroom, building or the district is required to close and transition to online teaching and learning.

CONTINUITY OF EDUCATION

We will continue our district-wide focus on grade-level learning. We will focus on providing high-quality curriculum, masterful teaching, thoughtful assessment, and analysis of student work to assess rigor, throughout both in-person and distance learning settings.

Some examples of this priority in action include....

- Move toward 1:1 device assignment when applicable
- Establish and integrate a small set of common platforms and applications to simplify teaching and learning
- Create quality digital companions for the in-person curriculum to move seamlessly between environments
- Establish an all-virtual option for students who need or prefer a virtual format
- Diagnostic and screening will be used to evaluate and ensure students educational progress and success during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Modifications will be made to accommodate all students including but not limited to children with disabilities in respect to local, county, and state health and safety requirements

We are preparing to return to school in a traditional format for the 2021-2022 school year on August 12th. Students will have the option to choose a “Traditional Learning Plan” or a “Virtual Learning Plan. Virtual learning option will be 100% online instruction powered by our new investment in technology and software. There will also be a “Contingency Learning Plan” if the state limits the number of students in a building. The district’s attendance policy and online learning policy will address student requirements for course completion. Students that choose the “stay at home” virtual plan will not be permitted to participate in extracurricular activities. OSSAA and Paoli School have policies in place that clearly state that students must physically attend at least half a day at school before being allowed to participate in extracurricular activities. Since the virtual/home choice is to limit exposure/contact with other people this should not be an issue.

Traditional Learning Plan

School starts in a traditional manner on August 12th. All courses/classes will be taken at regularly assigned school sites. In-person instruction with a traditional academic school day. Multiple health and safety measures have been implemented at each site. All students will have access to a device at times throughout the day. Increased utilization of technology in order to be flexible and retain the ability to adapt should state officials determine there’s a need to do so. If the state closes school again, students would move to the Virtual Learning Plan. If the state limits how many students can be in the buildings, the district would use the Contingency Plan and students would learn through a mix of in-person and virtual instruction. If a student gets sick or someone in the home is positive for COVID-19, the student would learn remotely until the student was able to return to school for in-person instruction.

The information presented has been compiled over the last several months. Research and planning through a series of work groups, task force and surveys have been used to develop the best plan of action for the district. The health and safety of our students and staff are central to the planning for the 2021-2022 school year. Paoli Public School will need the help of teachers, parents, and support staff to assist with reviewing, editing and finalizing our plan to return to school. Thank you for your cooperation and willingness to help us do whatever it takes to provide the best education possible during this pandemic.

APPENDIX A: District Calendars

APPENDIX B: COVID-19 School Procedures

APPENDIX C: Parent Letter for Transportation

