

Required Documentation
American Rescue Plan Safe Return
to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

PART I.

Describe how the district will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff and the extent to which it has adopted policies, and a description of any such policies, on each of the following safety recommendations established by the CDC:

(A) Universal and correct wearing of masks.

Wearing facial masks at school and school-related activities was a required safety precaution. Staff was encouraged to model the correct wearing of masks for students and students were reminded to wear facial masks over the nose and mouth at school and school-related activities.

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

Numerous spaces were repurposed to educational spaces so students could spread out to allow for physical distancing. Traditional classroom space was also altered to allow for increased physical distancing. Items were removed from classrooms and stored off-site to provide more space in each classroom so distance between desks could be increased.

Students were not allowed to cluster or group throughout the school day or at school-related activities. When students arrived to school, they would go to a classroom, lunch tables were spread throughout hallways, attendance caps were established for games, events, etc.

(C) Handwashing and respiratory etiquette.

Regularly scheduled “handwashing” breaks were taken throughout the school day. Also, hand sanitizer was given to staff to be used by them and students in each classroom and hand sanitizing stations were installed throughout each school to provide adequate access to sanitizer. Finally, water fountains were not operational and were replaced with bottle filling stations.

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

Disinfecting occurred daily in our schools. High touch areas (restrooms, door knobs, etc.) were disinfected multiple times throughout the day. Each day after school, classrooms were sprayed with disinfectant. After each bus route, buses were sprayed with disinfectant.

iWave ionizing air purifiers were installed in all supply air ductwork. We increased the outdoor air supply to each space which increased the air change over rates. We increased filter change cycles from twice a year to four times a year. We start units two hours prior to occupant arrival and left systems on two hours after occupant departure to increase air quality. Systems that allow constant air flow without jeopardizing space occupant comfort are left running to maximize air changes per hour (ACH). We purchased six ActivTech AP300 ozone machines that we use overnight to clean the air in a particular space. We use these, as needed, for specific cases requiring additional attention.

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

A partnership with the Shawnee County Health Department was established in March 2020 which turned into weekly meetings as the 2020-21 school year began in August 2020. The Shawnee County Health Department trained school nurses on contact tracing protocols so they could trace in their schools and contact parents. Communication to/from our school district and the Shawnee County Health Department was stellar.

(F) Diagnostic and screening testing.

Many diagnostic and screening sites were established in Shawnee County so accessibility was not a concern. Staff, students, and family members were encouraged to get tested in they had symptoms or where a close contact to a positive case. Around March 2021, our school district was given 1,000 test kits so we could proactively give them to those who needed to be tested.

(G) Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities.

The following three things occurred to provide vaccinations to our school community:

1. We partnered with the Shawnee County Health Department to provide staff with the opportunity to get vaccinated in March 2021. Approximately 85% of our staff were vaccinated by mid-April 2021.
2. We partnered with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to host a vaccination clinic at our high school in April 2021 for students 16 years of age and older.
3. We partnered with the Shawnee County Health Department to host three vaccination clinics at our high school in June, July, and August 2021 for students 12 years of age and older.

(H) Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies.

Guidelines provided from the Center for Disease Control, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, and Shawnee County Health Department were followed. At times, depending on disability, additional accommodations were implemented to ensure health and safety. Additional accommodations were created in partnership with trained staff in our schools and with families.

(I) Coordination with State and local health officials.

Weekly meetings took place with the Kansas State Department of Education and the Shawnee County Health Department. Due to these weekly meetings, we were able remain informed on factual knowledge not only locally but also across Kansas. Much of the information discussed and learned in these meetings was taken back to leaders in each school so the appropriate action could be taken to ensure safety for students and staff.

Part II.

Describe how the district will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to:

(A) services to address students' academic needs

During the 2020-21 school year, the following three Phases of Education were established:

- 1) Phase 1: Remote learning for those who needed to learn from home (off-site)
- 2) Phase 2: Hybrid learning for those schools without the space necessary to have all students on-site with room to physical distance.
- 3) Phase 3: On-site learning when it was safe to have all students on-site for in-person instruction each day.

A primary focus in each school was to provide effective and meaningful teaching and learning opportunities to students regardless of the Phase of Education students were in. During the year, summative and formative assessments were given to frequently monitor academic progress. Based on academic data, our team will modify and adjust learning targets to meet student needs. In addition, many summer learning opportunities were provided for summer 2021 to engage students in both remediation and enrichment activities.

(B) students' and staff social, emotional, mental health

School based mental health teams closely monitored attendance, grades, behaviors, and interactions during the school day to see how students were handling the environment. Many calls were made to parents and team meetings routinely took place to discuss the social-emotional needs of students. Students were encouraged to reach out if something was bothering them or if the Phase of Education they were in was not meeting their needs. Home visits became common as the 2020-21 school year progressed to help ensure students were doing well.

(C) other needs, which may include student health and food services.

Free breakfasts and lunches have been and will continue to be provided to all students since April 2021. Families are encouraged to allow their students to take advantage of the free breakfast and lunch program so students receive healthy foods each day.

In many schools, pantries and/or “angel funds” have been created and made available to students and their families. Pantries include things like: toiletries, clothes, coats, gloves, food, etc.