

SAFE RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN

2021-2022

Discussion and public input – Monday, July 12th @ 7:00 p.m.

Approved – August 16, 2021

Palmer Public Schools

202 Commercial Street

Palmer, NE 68864

www.palmerigers.org

Section I: A Safe Return Plan

General Information (Pursuant to the Federal American Rescue Plan)

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021, Public Law. The ARP Act includes nearly \$122 billion for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER III) Fund that allows state and local education agencies (LEAs) to take additional steps for continued safe in-person instruction and to address unfinished teaching and learning to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic. The ARP Act requires each school district that receives ARP ESSER funds to develop and make publicly available on the school district's website, no later than 30 days after receiving ARP ESSER funds, a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction, and continuity of services for all schools (Safe Return Plan). The ARP Act further requires that the district seek public comment on the Safe Return Plan and take those comments into account in finalization of the Safe Return Plan. A school district must periodically, but no less frequently than every six months through September 30, 2023, review and, as appropriate, revise its Safe Return Plan.

Please Note: The district plans to operate in a traditional learning environment during the 2021-2022 school year just as it did in 2020-2021. The only possibility of another education setting would be if there is a state or federal mandate that requires school districts to close.

Universal & Correct Wearing of Masks

The school may mandate masks if there was a state or federal mandate that requires school districts to mandate masks. Otherwise, masks will be optional unless the district believes an individual has been exposed. Then we would follow our protocol of having them wear a masks for the amount of time the CDC recognizes.

Modifying Facilities to Allow for Physical Distancing (e.g., Cohorts or Podding)

If the school would have a significant increase in COVID activity, the school would implement physical distancing in the facility and would follow the same protocols used in the 2020-2021 plan.

Handwashing & Respiratory Etiquette

Students will be asked to wash their hands frequently.

In addition, the district will Post signage about frequent hand washing, cough etiquette, and nose blowing. Signage will be widely posted, disseminated, and encouraged through various methods of communication.

Cleaning & Maintaining Healthy Facilities (Including Improving Ventilation)

The following essential actions will be taken to ensure that the facilities are safe for students and staff to inhabit. The district will:

- Change air filters regularly.
- Daily cleaning of all classrooms and student used areas.
- Post signage about frequent hand washing, cough etiquette, and nose blowing. Signage will be widely posted, disseminated, and encouraged through various methods of communication.

Contact Tracing (Isolation & Quarantine)

The district will monitor students and staff who may have been exposed. If symptoms occur, student or staff member will be sent home. The district will not be asking healthy students or staff members who are both identified as essential to quarantine if deemed as being possibly exposed. Those individuals will be required to wear a mask for the accepted amount of time.

Diagnostic & Screening Testing

Temperature check system is in place if needed. The district will not temperature check or screen students and staff until there is determined a need by the Superintendent based on current conditions. We will be asking all parents to continue helping eliminate the spread of any virus by keeping their students home when they are not feeling well.

Efforts to Provide Vaccinations to School Communities

The administration will work with the Central District Health Department to provide space at school for vaccination clinics if there is a large enough demand from our student body and staff.

Accommodations for Children with Disabilities

Students qualifying for extra support through an IEP or through a 504 plan will continue to receive services and support according to their plans throughout the 2021-2022 school year. Accommodations, modifications, and related services will be provided as outlined in a student’s plan during in-person learning.

Coordination with State & Local Health Officials

If there is a need, the Superintendent will meet with state and local health officials.

Continuity of Services

If the district is closed due to a mandatory closure by state or federal officials, K-12 students have a digital learning tool provided to ensure continuity of instruction. In addition, students will continue to be provided accommodations as stated in their IEP or 504 plans during remote learning. Parent input will be sought to develop a plan for the provision of remote IEP services and student progress will be reviewed by the student’s team when in-person learning resumes.

If school district is closed due to mandatory closure by state or federal officials, breakfast and lunch may be provided to students through a USDA approved system. School counselors and mental health support staff will be available online by appointment for any students or staff in need of assistance.

Public Comment Requirements

- July 12th, 2021 Draft sent to building level principals for review.
- July 12th, 2021 Draft sent to Board of Education and Staff for Review and Input
- July 12th, 2021 Draft reviewed and discussed at Public Board Meeting. Public Comment was taken for feedback.
- July 15th, 2021 Draft will be posted on School District Webpage and district will continue ask for continued feedback from all stakeholders on document.
- August 16th, 2021 Final draft will be shared with board members at School Board Meeting.

August 17th, 2021 Final draft will be share with all staff, parents and students on school web page.

February, 2022 The 6 month required review of document will occur and public feedback will be taken at that time.