

USD 316 Golden Plains

District Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

(For the purposes of ESSER III grant funding – WORKING DRAFT)

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.

USD 316 acknowledges CDC and local health authority guidance on the Covid-19 virus; however, we feel we are in a very different situation than urban areas and areas of high population that have a high risk of exposure to the virus.

At their March 15, 2021, regular meeting, the USD 316 Board of Education (BOE) took action to make mask wearing optional for staff and students in the school district, effective April 6, 2021. They also did away with mandatory temperature checks in lieu of temperature checks for students not feeling well, and/or displaying symptoms of Covid-19.

For the 2021-2022 school year, the plan will stay as indicated above concerning the wearing of masks. If we have students and/or staff that contract the virus, we will conduct a special BOE meeting to revise the plan accordingly.

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

Again, the district acknowledges the CDC guidance on social distancing. The state of Kansas did away with social distancing in most areas of the state and our district has followed suit as of May 2021.

For the 2021-2022 school year, the plan will stay as it has been for the month of May, 2021, and we will not require social distancing of students and staff. If we have students and/or staff that contract the virus, we will conduct a special BOE meeting to revise the plan accordingly.

(C) Handwashing and respiratory etiquette.

The school staff has always had a high expectation of handwashing and respiratory etiquette. We will continue to teach and stress the importance of both practices during the 2021-2022

school year. Hand sanitizer will be available to individuals entering the buildings, in individual classrooms, and at extracurricular events.

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

Special attention to the cleanliness of the building will be maintained for the 2021-2022 school year. Our ventilation systems are “as is” and have not been modified at any point during the pandemic. We do not believe our ventilation systems are an issue in the spread of the virus. The main heating system is hot water and steam so there is no transfer of air. Air conditioning is by way of individual classroom units, so minimal transmission of air takes place from one room to another. Air conditioner filters will be cleaned on a routine schedule.

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

If an outbreak of Covid-19 occurs during the 2021-2022 school year in USD 316, local health department guidance/protocols will be followed by the district regarding contact tracing, isolation, and quarantine.

(F) Diagnostic and screening testing.

USD 316 has relied on the Sheridan and Thomas County Health Departments for diagnosing the Covid-19 virus for our staff and students. The district relies on temperature checks on an as needed basis and recommends parents get their students tested for the virus at the health departments if a temperature exists. Staff and students are to remain out of school until temperature free for 24 hrs if they tested negative for Covid-19.

(G) Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities.

Vaccinations have and will continue to be offered to school staff and students by the Sheridan and Thomas County Health departments.

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

USD 316 has fully functioning Special Education departments in both buildings. All accommodations for children with disabilities will continue to be followed as needed.

(I) Coordination with State and local health officials.

Being a small rural school, USD 316 has good rapport with both the Sheridan and Thomas County Health departments. During the pandemic, both departments have provided school officials with the necessary recommendation to keep our students and staff safe. They have provided vaccinations to those wanting them. The administration of the schools has relied on both county health departments for guidance throughout the pandemic, and we will continue to use them as a resource for guidance during the 2021-2022 school year.

Part II.

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

(A) services to address students' academic needs

USD 316 will continue to offer in-class instruction during the 2021-2022 school year. The entire 2020-2021 school year was offered in-class and our students and staff did well with in-person learning and teaching. However, we do have the technology and the resources to offer classes remotely if needed. Should an outbreak of Covid-19 occur, the BOE will conduct a special meeting to plan for the continuity of learning services for our students, and will implement that plan accordingly.

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

We have a full-time school counselor in addition to another counselor that works in our district one day per week. We also hired a Student Advocacy Coordinator to help students and parents coordinate with local and regional mental health care providers and other professionals as needed. This position was made possible with ESSERII money provided by the federal government.

During 2021-2022, the district will be a part of Project EVERS, which provides professional development to staff on the social emotional needs of individuals. We have high hopes this project will further our understanding of, and our ability to help students with social emotional issues.

With these people present in our district, and the implementation of Project EVERS, we feel we can serve the needs of our students and staff in terms of social, emotional, and mental health.

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

Students' health needs and food service will continue as it has in the past for the 2021-2022 school year. We do not feel modifications of these services are needed at this time. Should an outbreak of Covid-19 occur in the district, the BOE will conduct a special meeting and develop a plan to deal with student health issues and food service issues as needed.