

# **Labette County Public Schools**

## **2023-2024 School Year**

### **Safe Return to In-Person**

#### **Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan**

**Date of Submission**

**June 12, 2023**

**LEA Name**

**Labette County Public Schools**

**Reopening Plan Point of Contact**

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*Outlined health and safety mitigation tactics will only be utilized for the 2023-2024 if required by Local, State and/or Federal guidelines.*

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## **Schedule for Periodic Updates**

*LEAs are required to periodically review and, as appropriate, revise their Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan **at least every six months** through September 30, 2023. Each review must include seeking public comment on the plan and developing the plan after taking into account the public comment.*

- July 12, 2021
- December 23, 2021
- June 23, 2022
- December 10, 2022
- June 12, 2023
- December 11, 2023
- June 23, 2024

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## **District Statement**

Since the start of the 2020-2021 school year, Lapeere County Public Schools has been pursuing full-time in-person learning for our entire K-12 student population. Additionally, we offered a high-quality streaming remote learning environment for our fully remote K-12 students.

Given our extensive planning and logistical work during the pandemic, we are well positioned for a safe return for the 2023-2024 school year, especially if Local, State and Federal guidance continue their trends of easing restrictions and ending mitigation requirements. Currently, we are planning for a full return in the Fall with an environment much more similar to non-pandemic years.

Should there be any continued requirements for social distancing, mask wearing, etc., we will be ready to safely return our students while adhering to local, state and federal requirements, as we did during this school year.

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## **Health and Safety Strategies**

*Describe how the LEA plan includes (or will be modified to include) the extent to which the LEA has adopted policies and a description of any such policies on each of the strategies listed.*

### **Mask Wearing**

Should there still be a mandate for wearing masks while in school, USD 506 will share all requirements through ongoing communication to parents, school signage as well as any action taken by the BOE at a scheduled meeting.

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### **Physical distancing (e.g., including use of cohorts/podding)**

Should social distancing and/or cohorting remain necessary for the 2023-2024 school year, the GPS District will address the following:

- Classrooms are set up to maximize social distancing up to 3-feet
- If desks are available, achieve 3-feet apart
- If desks are available, face the same direction
- If tables are utilized, sit on only one side of the table or if ample space clear dividers will be utilized
- Clear dividers for tabletop surfaces as needed for small group instruction and/or services

### **Low Transmission Risk: Elementary (Grades PreK - 8)**

- Full re-entry for K-5 maximizing social distancing and cohorting.
- Support from families to mitigate bus travel social distancing challenges

### **Low Transmission Risk: Middle and High School (Grades 9-12)**

- Full re-entry for 9-12

### **Handwashing and respiratory etiquette**

Included below is an overview of mitigation strategies to adhere to health and safety guidelines for handwashing and respiratory etiquette.

- Signage in all restrooms reminding students and staff to wash their hands (see below)

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- Hand sanitizer is available for all classrooms
- Hand Wash/sanitize before and after outside exposure.
- Provide literature for families and staff which include:
  - Social distancing;
  - Frequent hand washing and use of hand sanitizer
  - Use of face coverings that completely cover the face and nose
  - Respiratory and cough etiquette
  - Enhance cleaning/disinfection of surfaces
  - Work with Human Resources to make sure all substitutes view the online

### **Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation**

Included below are a list of mitigation strategies for keeping our facilities clean:

- Sanitizing wipes are available for all classrooms
- Each building has sanitizing throughout the day on door handles and other high touch surfaces

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- The building is disinfected each evening with a product considered safe and non-toxic, while also being proactive in eradicating evidence of the virus.
- Hand sanitizing available at entry/exit points.
- Detailed information for cleaning and disinfecting solutions is available per request.

**Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments**

USD 506 takes pride in its extensive contact tracing and transparent reporting on COVID-19 cases, exposures and quarantine for the District. Our District has one of the most robust tracking processes in place, and we will continue to maintain it, as necessary.

**Contact Tracing, Isolation and/or Quarantine Requirements**

GPS will continue to take direction from the CDC, KDHE, and Labette County Department of Health on requirements for contact tracing, reporting quarantine and isolation for those impacted by COVID-19.

**Containment Planning**

- If necessary, the District will continue its protocol for containment to ensure immediate responses if an individual has signs or symptoms.
- The Plan includes:
  - Notification and coordination with local Health Department.
  - Identification of and mobilization of a response team within each school.
  - Consideration and application of school dismissal, quarantine and return to school timing and procedures.
  - Identification of an isolation room in each school.
  - Cleaning protocols and procedures after confirmed positive cases or confirmed exposure are equal to the deep disinfecting performed each evening.



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## **Diagnostic screening and testing**

Included below is a list of expectations for our USD 506 Community should we need to adhere to strict health and safety protocols. As shared earlier, we are anticipating a normal return to school.

### **Expectations for Teachers & Staff**

- Stay home if you feel sick.
- Daily monitoring of one's own health. Is your temperature below 100 degrees?
- Must wear a mask at all times, unless on a prescribed "mask break"
- Maintain social distancing.
- Wash hands often, and utilize hand sanitizer when a hand washing station is not available.
- Do not congregate with colleagues in groups.
- If possible, stay within a small cohort of people while at school.
- Be responsible before and after school.
- Enter the building with social distancing.
- Move down the hallways following all directions.
- Stay home and quarantine for the required period of time if a member of the family has COVID.

### **Expectations for Students**

- Stay home if you feel sick.
- Daily health check by parents.
- Must wear a mask at all times, if required by KSDE.
- Maintain social distancing.
- Wash hands often, and utilize hand sanitizer when a hand washing station is not available.
- If possible, stay within a small cohort of people while at school.
- Be responsible before and after school.
- Enter the building with social distancing.
- Move down the hallways following all directions.
- Stay home and quarantine for the required period of time if a member of the family has COVID.

## **Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible**

While USD 506, as a school district, does not provide vaccinations directly to educators, other staff and/or students, we do share information and resources about how and where to obtain a vaccine should our community members be interested in doing so. These types of messages include: links to resources and information about the types of vaccines (provided by the CDC, CT State Department of Health, and other health-related organizations; which local facilities are offering the vaccine; unique links for clinics that are offering space for our USD 506 community members; and any updates shared from the KS State Department of Education.

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We remind our GPS community frequently that the COVID-19 vaccine is currently an optional, personal or family choice.

**Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies**

The plan for addressing the needs of students with IEPs was developed with the understanding that there has been no waiver of requirements under the IDEA for provision of a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment (LRE). Should we need to adhere to strict health and safety mitigation protocols for the 2023-2024 school year, the district will continue to provide FAPE consistent with the need to protect the health and safety of students, as well as those individuals providing education, specialized instruction, and related services to these students. Federal disability law allows for flexibility in determining how to meet the individualized needs of students receiving special education services.

Students eligible for special education and other special populations are general education students first. Guidance and policies related to school reopening plans apply to all students, including students with special needs who qualify for individual education programs under the IDEA and accommodation plans for eligible students under section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If students with disabilities are unable to access the district's reopening plan as designed for strict health and safety protocols (if necessary, school teams will facilitate individualized and alternative plans based on student need, present levels of functioning, developmental levels, and student/parent input.

Parents are partners in the planning for students with disabilities and will be included in decisions made about program modifications in both general and special education.

- Students are provided with transportation consistent with their current IEPs.
- Students will follow the school routines with accommodations and modifications required per the IEP or impact of the student's disability.
- Related services will be provided primarily through individual sessions in a separate setting with staff wearing appropriate PPE. The room and materials will be cleaned between each session.
- Special Education services will be provided as described in the student's current IEP to the maximum extent possible in order to maintain safety of the student and staff. Any

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## **Continuity of Services**

*Describe how the LEA plan will ensure continuity of services including but not limited to services to address the students' academic needs, and students' and staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services.*

### **Academic Needs**

#### Prior to the start of school:

- Building administrators will provide time for vertical teams to collaborate.
- Teachers and building administrators will continue to receive resources and training opportunities on to review student accomplishments of standards.
- Teacher teams will be allotted time to plan the first unit of instruction

#### Start of the school year:

- Teachers will establish classroom norms with their students.
- Teachers will implement the first unit of instruction to be highly engaging and to allow for maximum student success.
- By the end of the first month of school, teachers will have administered assessments for K-8
- Grades 9-12 will assess for baseline information so that teachers can monitor and adjust as needed for each student

#### Ongoing throughout the year:

- Teachers will periodically utilize formative assessment practices to gauge the impact of their teaching by eliciting evidence of student learning, providing feedback, and adjusting their teaching.

#### End of the school year:

- At the end of the year, students should be administered a summative assessment (which may be the state assessment if available for students in Grades 3 through 8, 11, or a locally developed assessment to evaluate overall achievement on the state standards.

### **Social and Emotional Learning**

The USD 506 Student of Concern Team and Social Emotional Learning Teams will partner with school administration and staff to develop enhanced Social Emotional Learning offerings for students to ensure increased access to SEL content and experiences.

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## **Food Services**

### **Food Service Set-up**

Outlined below are protocols for health and safety mitigation strategies for Food Services and will be utilized should that be deemed necessary.

#### **Low Transmission Risk**

- Students may eat in the cafeteria with their cohort if social distancing can be obtained.
- Students will go through lunch line.
  
- Train all food service staff on the food safety processes and Standard Operating Procedures relevant to their role in providing meals.
- Identify any additional equipment or supplies such as thermometers, alcohol wipes, etc., that may be needed to keep food safe when transported and served in other areas of the school.
  
- Obtain and develop posters and other aids to assist non-food service school staff to implement safe food practices when they participate in the service of meals.

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- ❑ Ensure written procedures for food safety, meal preparation and meal counting and claiming are available and easily accessible to the staff when needed.
- ❑ Ensure schools are properly staffed for food service production and service methods that are and will be used, and that regularly assigned staff and substitute staff are properly trained.
- ❑ Identify other school staff who may be trained to carry out select food service processes or tasks when staff shortages are expected.
- ❑ Ensure all required state and local health and safety guidelines will be followed.

### **Transportation**

Currently, USD 506 District has planned and budgeted for a full return to normal bus service operations. However, should we need to revert to any planning from the 2023-2024 school year, we will refer to that plan (please [see the Appendix](#) for the planning document link, which includes robust details about transportation, including: social distancing and ridership on the bus, health and safety mitigation, scheduling and more.

### **Public Comment**

*Describe how the LEA plans to provide the public the opportunity to provide input and for public comment in the development of the plan, a summary of the input (including any letters of support), and how the LEA took such input into account.*

### **Surveys**

We surveyed the USD 506 Community via SurveyMonkey regarding school reopening plans. All responses were anonymous. Input, feedback, suggestions and insights will help influence the planning for the 2023-2024 school year.

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### **Town Hall Session**

USD 506 will hold a School Community Town Hall Meeting on July 10, 2023 at 6:55PM to discuss the current plans for our 2023-2024 school year. This Town Hall Session will share information and take Questions and Answers from the community.

### **Understandable and Uniform Format**

*Describe the unique needs of the LEA's audience and confirm the LEA's approach to ensuring the document is accessible.*

USD 506 has confirmed that this document is fully accessible by current ADA standards.

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## **Appendix and Other Resources**

### **Return to School Planning Document for 2023-2024**

[www.usd506.org](http://www.usd506.org)

*These documents were created in July 2020, and submitted to the KS State Department of Education, per their requirements during 2020-2021 school year planning. It outlines, in great detail, our safe return to school, including adhering to all necessary health and safety mitigations.*