

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

Background: On July 27, 2020, the Piper School District USD 203 approved a Re-Opening Plan “Piper Returning to Learning” to be submitted to the Wyandotte County Health Department for their approval. On August 1, 2020, the plan was then approved by the Wyandotte County Health Department. The mitigation strategies included in the reopening plan were to remain in place through the Board of Education’s June 14, 2021 Meeting. On June 14, 2021, the Board of Education removed the mask-wearing mitigation strategy of the plan in accordance to the Wyandotte County Health Department retiring the County’s Executive Order mandated mask-wearing.

### **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.**

The Piper School District USD 203 does not have a mask requirement. For those staff and students who would like to wear a mask, the wearing of barrier face masks is optional.

The Superintendent is authorized to adopt reasonable safety measures to protect the safety of District personnel, students, and visitors on District premises and during school-related activities. Reasonable safety measures include adoption of cleaning/sanitization plans, use of physical safeguards/barriers, and required use of personal protective equipment. Exceptions to any requirements adopted by the Superintendent may be granted as required by law and on a case-by-case basis. The Superintendent will continue to monitor national, state, and local government and health agency mandates and report to the Board.

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

Although appropriate distancing is not required, where and when possible, classroom seating with the minimum of 3 feet of social distancing will be encouraged. For those staff and students who would like to practice social distancing, the District will accommodate as much as possible.

#### **(C) Handwashing and respiratory etiquette.**

Individuals are encouraged to wash hands or use hand sanitizer frequently. Signage is posted throughout buildings as reminders of handwashing and respiratory etiquette. In addition, hand sanitization stations/liquids are available in all classrooms. Hands should be washed or sanitized before and after using shared supplies. Covering coughs and sneezes is always recommended.

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

In spaces that are regularly occupied, enhanced cleaning and maintenance protocols will continue to be used. Increased outdoor air will continue to be used as a mitigation strategy. The activities taking place in each space in a building will help determine the amount of fresh outside air utilized.

Custodial staff have been reassigned to daytime shifts to continually clean high traffic and high contact surfaces. The District uses cleaning solutions that are rated to kill the SARS virus.

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

The Piper School District employs five full-time nursing staff and they complete contact tracing. The nursing staff working with the school administration will contact individuals who have been in close contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID and recommend that they quarantine/self-isolate for up to 10 days.

**(F) Diagnostic and screening testing.**

Testing (Test kits) of symptomatic students may be available at school via the Wyandotte County Health Department. Nurses monitor for symptoms and request that students and staff to medical services as appropriate. Additionally, diagnostic and screening testing is available throughout the community.

**(G) Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities.**

The Piper School District has collaborated with the Wyandotte County Health Department to offer vaccinations to all staff members who wanted vaccinations. In addition, we have provided onsite vaccination administrator for all students ages 12 to 18. Additionally, the District continues to encourage students and staff who want to be vaccinated to visit their family physician or the Wyandotte County Health Department.

The District will act in accordance with state and federal law with respect to vaccinations for its staff and eligible students. The District will not refuse, withhold from, or deny a person any services, goods, facilities, advantages, privileges, licensing, educational opportunities, health care access, or employment opportunities based on the person's COVID vaccination status.

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

The District will provide accommodations to its policies for students with disabilities as determined appropriate based upon the individual student needs and in accordance with an individual accommodation plan or individualized education plan. Students requiring accommodations should contact the building administrator to request information on plans for students with disabilities.

**(I) Coordination with State and local health officials.**

The Piper School District Superintendent meets regularly with the other Wyandotte County School Superintendents along with officials from the Wyandotte County Health Department.

**Part II.**

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

**(A) services to address students' academic needs**

The Piper School District plans to utilize our ESSER funds and KSDE per-student additional allocation, to meet the needs of our students in multiple ways. The first will be a Summer Learning Experience (based on NWEA MAP testing, FastBridge CBM testing, Panorama SEL data and teacher feedback), and the funds will include paying for the staff (small size classes) transportation, and new instructional resources. Defined Learning, a Project-Based learning tool, will be our primary instructional tool for our Summer Learning Offering. Additionally, we have hired a full-time Early Childhood Coordinator who will oversee the programming of our Early Childhood program while also providing intensive literacy interventions to our kindergarten and first grade students who did not hit grade-level proficiency levels in the spring of 2021 on FastBridge CBM testing. We believe many of our youngest learners did not have accessibility to literacy interventions due to COVID-19. Interestingly, our Pre-K and K 2020-21 enrollment was the lowest it has been in years, and we are anticipating an influx of students who possibly missed out on an early childhood education; therefore, missing many of the foundational literacy skills that we would hope to be secure.

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

On our Panorama SEL Screening tool, our current 3-5<sup>th</sup> graders scored in the 30<sup>th</sup> percentile in the area of Positive Feelings and in the 10<sup>th</sup> percentile in the area of Grit. Our 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students scored in 30<sup>th</sup> percentile in the area of Grit. These will be areas of focus for us as a district. In order to meet the social-emotional and mental health needs of our students, we have hired full-time elementary counselors (based data garnered from Panorama SEL screener) to provide Tier 1 counseling support to all students, along with Tier 2/Tier 3 small groups and individual counseling, to students who are struggling emotionally as they return from remote learning to onsite learning.

While our primary focus is the social-emotional health of our students, supporting the physical and emotional health of our staff is critical to the District. Over the course of the year, the Piper School District Human Resources Department enhanced the offerings of the free employee assistance program to ensure easier access to mental health supports. Additionally, in May 2021, we offered a free onsite health/physical screening to all employees.

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

All Piper School District students will be eligible for free meals during the 2021-22 school year. The District provides a full-time nurse in every school building accommodate student and staff health needs.