

Gore Public Schools Safe Return Plan

Gore Schools has developed this safe return plan beginning July 1, 2021 to ensure our students, staff, patrons and guests are safeguarded against the contraction or spreading of the Corona Virus. The components of this plan include the following categories:

- **School Operations**-Integrating public health strategies for the prevention of COVID-19 into schools.
- **Academics & Growth**-Ensuring continuity of learning; preparing for distance-learning options.
- **Whole Child & Family Supports**-Supporting the whole child, including social and emotional wellness.
- **School Personnel**-Supports for school personnel as they navigate new and emerging challenges

These categories will detail GPS's protocols in each area. These are intended protocols' and may be revised as conditions change. Please check back for current conditions updates and revisions.

SCHOOL OPERATIONS

School operations is a broad category that encompasses every program, protocol and policy that shapes a school and its culture. As a result of the myriad operational adjustments necessitated by COVID-19, and in keeping with the most up-to-date information on spread of the virus, this section includes considerations for districts in the following categories: management and communication, public health protocols, environmental factors and mitigation strategies, calendars and schedules, the school day and school meals.

Management & Communication

Having a structure in place to support decision-making, and communicating those decisions, is essential to districts successfully managing the changing COVID-19 situation..

- **Establish a district leadership team**

Convene a team of representatives from across the district to support planning and key decision-making. The group's role shall be crucial to:

- 1) understand the needs of the district as informed by the experience of the 2019-20 and 20-21 school years;
- 2) utilize data and evidence to make decisions.
- 3) ensure all in the district are using common language and metrics for success; and
- 4) ensure unified communication, support and messaging throughout the district.

Consider including the following members in a district leadership team:

- District superintendent
- School board members
- Local and state health officials
- Representatives of subject areas/team leads (e.g., special education, English learners early childhood, counseling, etc.)
- School nurse
- Safe school committees
- Family members of students
- Community representatives
- Determine policies to be reviewed or adopted
- Advise on school calendar options for the 2020-21 school year
- Determine instructional models and plans that support students and families
- Review district information technology (IT) and connectivity plans for student access to curriculum for continuous learning

This team can be consulted to:

- Develop communication protocols with staff and families
- Adopt health and safety protocols, including coordination in the event of closures or disruptions to Learning.

Communications Plan

Develop and implement a family and community communication plan

Regular and frequent communication with families and community is essential during distance learning and when outbreaks occur. With this in mind, provide families the opportunity to engage in meaningful two-way communication moving forward is essential.

The primary form of communication with stakeholders will be the district web site at www.gorepublicschools.org, our Facebook page, Gore Public Schools, our district call list for all students, parents and staff. Please make sure that your contact phone number and email address is current with the district office.

Screening

GPS has screening at each main entrance. Masks are not required but optional for entry to a building. The Oklahoma School Safety Protocols shall be referenced for GPS' Safe Return Plan. Any person that has symptoms of the Corona Virus should refrain from entering any school facility and avoid others until they can be tested for the virus.

It is the duty of the parent or guardian, and the school, to exclude such person until the period of isolation or quarantine ordered for the case expires, or until permission has been given by local health officers. See 63 O.S. § 1-507.

Individuals exhibiting any of the symptoms of coronavirus that are not explained by known prior conditions (i.e., allergies, migraines) should be prohibited from coming to school or sent home if exhibiting symptoms at school.

Social Distancing and Gatherings

Currently, GPS has no restrictions on gatherings for school events. We currently have protocols in place for social distancing per current CDC guidelines. These may change as conditions change. Efforts will be made to separate all visitors on campus from students and staff.

Student Daily Schedules for Social Distancing:

Meal time, passing periods, transportation and commons areas will remain staggered to minimized student contact with peers. Classrooms will continue spacing of desks and work areas.

Interactive activities such as athletics and PE classes will continue with equipment sanitization, hand washing before and after participation, separate drink usage.

Covid Identification Protocol

In the event a positive case has been identified and has been in contact with students or staff, the **current** CDC guidelines shall be followed.

GPS shall work with the Sequoyah County Health Department for contact tracing, as required. The point of contact for this will be the site principal.

Transportation

Students will be spaced as vehicles permit. Additional vehicles may be required for transportation of large groups. Entry into a school vehicle requires hand sanitization. Screening of Covid symptoms shall be done before entry of a school vehicle.

School Closure

If conditions warrant, GPS may close the physical facilities and move all courses to Distance Learning.

This decision will be the responsibility of the superintendent and the leadership team. Students and parents should be prepared to move to distance learning at any time. In the event campuses close, office hour will be posted to all communication formats for students to pick up needed supplies for Distance Learning.

On Line Access: All students will be provided with an on line access device such as a Chromebook. Hot Spots may be available for those who do not have access to home internet.

Full Covid Protocols per CDC will be in place for anyone entering a school site such as temperature checks, masks, and hand sanitization during closure. Teachers will post all lessons on Google Classroom or a pre determined on line platform as determined by site principal and teacher.

Buildings will be deep cleaned and sanitized during a closure.

The length of the closure will be coordinated with local and state health officials for a safe reopening but may extend beyond the current 10 day recommendation.

No building use will be granted to outside groups during this time. Scheduled events may continue or may be rescheduled. This will be determined on the existing conditions and recommendations by the local health department or regulating agency such as OSSAA.

Meals may be served on a grab and go basis if conditions exist to safely do so.

Scheduling beginning August 2021

Parents may opt for any of the following instructional schedules. Additional regulations may be imposed for activity participation by the sanctioning agency. These include attendance, grades, on campus class time, time of day on campus and other stipulations.

Traditional on campus learning-regular class meets daily (M-F) on campus

Blended Learning--combines both on-site and distance learning

Distance Learning-done remotely but as a continuation of learning that normally would take place on-site. Students that are enrolled on full time distance learning may use an on line classroom curriculum such as E2020. This will require a student to complete the enrolled course entirely on line. There is no switching from E2020 class to a GPS staff facilitated course. The E2020 course will be completed satisfactorily for a grade or the course will be recorded as an F at the end of the enrolled semester.

Attendance:

Students must log on each day, in each class, for blended or GPS staff facilitated learning, or an absence will be recorded. Special arrangements may be made with the building principal for extreme illness. On campus attendance will be recorded per site handbook.

Mandatory Drills:

During times of Covid, drill will be adjusted by classes to maintain social distancing guidelines.

Academics and Growth

Post pandemic learning will be a focus on grade/subject level proficiency, remediation, emotional support and content knowledge. With the loss of learning opportunities, comes assessment, evaluation of delivery methodology, student obstacles to access and learning, and finally planning to meet the needs as identified by these processes. Nothing can replace one on one instruction with a teacher in a classroom learning environment. The identifiable deficiencies and obtainable objectives must be determined to not only play catch up but further the learning experience. To do this the following practices will be implemented by each site.

- Ensure planning for instruction have a deep understanding of the on-grade-level content and disciplinary practices associated with the **Oklahoma Academic Standards**.
- Identify the content knowledge and disciplinary skills from previous grade levels that serve as prerequisite skills and knowledge for on-grade-level learning.
- Identify the content knowledge and skills students might struggle with in their current grade that may have been abbreviated or unaddressed in the 2019-20 school year. In particular, focus on serving English learners, students with disabilities and other special populations. Leverage OSDE resources to **support Diverse Learners**.
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- Use the resources provided in the **Oklahoma Curriculum Frameworks** to fully understand the intent of grade-level standards and how content knowledge connects and progresses across grade levels.
- Prepare scaffolded instructional supports for students who may need support with prerequisite knowledge and disciplinary skills to be successful in their current grade level.
- Develop or adapt a year-long scope and sequence that includes connections between content knowledge and disciplinary practices from previous grades and the current grade.
- Allow flexibility in scope and sequence to reflect where teachers may need to provide additional supports for students.
- Curriculum and instruction used will support students with social-emotional well-being and build in structures that promote a safe and equitable learning environment for all students.

Academic and Emotional Counseling will be made available to all students, parents and staff. See the “Counselor’s Corner” on our district web site for contact information, outreach, and scheduling.

Professional Development will be provided with ongoing support for staff and parents on the use of technology, social emotional well being, planning, and on line lesson delivery/submission.

Whole Child and Family Support

Emotional well being is critical to a student’s ability to learn. The pandemic has caused the loss of peer contact, teacher-student interaction and consistent daily routine for students. These changes have placed undo burden on students well being. To address these issues, GPS has established ongoing reporting protocols for staff, peers, and parents to report a student who may be suffering. On campus counseling, outside counseling services and other help agencies are available. The first step is identifying students who are in need. Training for staff and students will be provided annually on how to identify and report students who may be struggling with mental health issues. This training shall include how to self assess one’s own state and how to cope with stress related to the pandemic.

School Personnel

With the pandemic, changes to learning will fluctuate. When a staff member has been effected, students may see changes to the curriculum due to a substitute teacher for a short time. This unfortunately is unavoidable. Illness cannot be predicted and no one can replace a teacher with the same effectiveness. Therefor schedules and content may temporarily be adjusted until the teacher can return to duty. No student will be penalized for a disruption caused by a staff issue due to the Covid Virus.

CDC, local and state guidelines will be followed when a staff member is in contact with a positive case.

Leave Provisions:

Leave provisions will follow current school policy and be amended by state or federal agency provisions. There are currently no specific provisions for Covid related issues or exposure for staff.

Additional Federal Resources have been allotted to school to address Covid Related issues. The goal is to return to a normal educational setting, safely.

GPS will consult with all stakeholders on issues via public meetings, surveys, emails, and social media platforms for guidance and input. Please check out website and Facebook postings for the most current information.

Ty McCrary, Gore Supt.