

USD 350 Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

2023-24 School Year

School operations have essentially been normal since January 2022. The district will continue to operate schools in a normal fashion. If modifications become necessary, the Board of Education will refer to the prior USD 350 School Operations Plan for Covid and adjust operations as they see fit.

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.

Masks have been optional in our school district since April 2021. Masks will be optional during the school year unless circumstances warrant a change. Decisions will be made using the previous policies contained in the USD 350 School Operations Plan.

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

No modifications are needed at this time. Decisions will be made using the previous policies contained in the USD 350 School Operations Plan.

(C) Handwashing and respiratory etiquette.

Correct handwashing procedures and respiratory etiquette will be reinforced by school staff.

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

The district will pursue options for improving air quality including replacement of windows and the HVAC system.

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

USD 350 will cooperate with state and local officials to ensure necessary isolation and quarantine procedures are followed. As of now, there is no contact tracing necessary.

(F) Diagnostic and screening testing.

The district may continue to offer diagnostic and screening testing on a strictly volunteer basis during the 2023-24 school year.

(G) Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities.

USD 350 will help facilitate vaccination clinics and help communicate messages about vaccinations to the school community. Vaccinations will not be required.

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

We will work with our special education staff to ensure that our special education students have full

access to appropriate educational supports even if we are forced to alter our delivery model.

(I) Coordination with State and local health officials.

School district personnel will be in regular communication with state officials and the Stafford County Health Department to monitor the situation.

Part II.

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

(A) services to address students' academic needs

The district has hired an intervention specialist to help ensure that the achievement gaps due to learning loss during the pandemic are narrowed. ESSER funds will be used to provide this additional position. Staff will also participate in staff development to address the learning loss observed during the pandemic.

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

Professional development will be provided for social & emotional learning as well as for trauma informed schools.

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