

Gallatin Gateway School District

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

Date of Adoption: August 18, 2021

Revision Dates: No later than February 18, 2022

SAFETY MEASURES

The District is taking the following measures to safely provide in-person instruction, including consideration of guidance by the CDC and state and local health officials as follows:

Universal and correct wearing of masks

- All individuals are recommended to follow the CDC guidelines for the universal and correct wearing of face shields or masks in the building
- The decision regarding the recommendation for the universal and correct wearing of face shields or masks in the building is at the discretion of the individual or, in the case of a student, their parent or guardian
- The universal and correct wearing of face shields or masks are required on school buses
- GGS will supply every student and make available to all visitors a washable cloth or disposable face mask.

Physical Distancing

- Individuals will maintain a three-foot distance, described as their “Social Bubble,” in the classrooms, cafeteria, buses and other indoor spaces. In instances where a three-foot distance is not manageable, the close proximity of individuals will occur in time periods of less than 15 minutes.
- Clear Desk Carrels are provided for each student when needed for a physical barrier
- Floor markers and assigned seats in classrooms, on buses, and in the cafeteria will assist with helping students maintain three-foot distancing and providing contact tracing information.
- No more than two students at any one time will be allowed in any of the public restrooms.
- We encourage instruction to be held outdoors, and learning spaces and portable desks are available.

Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette

- All individuals will wash or sanitize their hands when entering or leaving the building, after recess, and prior to breakfast and lunch
- The district provides hand sanitizer in every instructional area, at the front entrance, in the cafeteria, and in the gymnasium
- Students and Staff will receive direct instruction regarding proper coughing/sneezing etiquette as recommended by the CDC, and visual aids will be posted in public areas.

Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities (including improving ventilation)

- Buses will be sanitized after each route.
- Touchless systems are provided in the Library, in restrooms, and cafeteria.
- Individuals use personal water bottles – no water fountains remain in the school
- Nightly sanitizing of all classroom desks, tables, chair uppers, door knobs, classroom sinks, fixtures, and light switches occurs
- Classroom computer monitors and keyboards sanitized by students after each use and 2 times per week by Custodial Services.
- Nightly sanitizing of all windows, benches, doors, handles and frames occurs
- Weekly sanitizing of exterior of lockers occurs
- We encourage open windows to facilitate the flow of fresh air, fans are available in every classroom, and air scrubbers are installed in every instructional space.
- Mold, Radon, and other air quality improvement or mitigation will occur as necessary

Contact Tracing

- All Contact Tracing follows the guidelines of the Gallatin City/County Health Department.

Diagnostic and Screening Testing

- COVID-19 Testing is available from the School Nurse for students, staff, parents, or non-school age siblings of students and staff.
- Any individual with COVID-19 symptoms should stay at home.
- Parents are asked to take their child/children's temperatures prior to boarding the bus or bringing them to school.
- Students/Staff who indicate a fever (>99), after they have come to school, will be sent home immediately. Students waiting on parent pick-up will be isolated in a designated waiting area.
- Students/Staff should be fever free for 24 hours with improving symptoms of any illness prior to returning to school.
- Students/Staff who have a fever of 100.4 or higher OR at least two other COVID-19 Symptoms will be isolated in a designated waiting area and sent home.
 - Students/Staff with a positive COVID-19 test result **or** if COVID-19 cannot be ruled out with a negative test will be asked to stay home in isolation, until it is safe to be around others, which is after 24 hours with no fever, respiratory symptoms have improved, **AND** 10 days since symptoms first appeared/positive test result.

Vaccinations

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 vaccination status.

Accommodating Students with Disabilities

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 a individual accommodation plan or individualized education plan. Students requiring accommodations should contact the Superintendent to request information on plans for students with disabilities.

CONTINUITY OF SERVICES

The District will provide for continuity of services as follows:

Student Academic Needs

- Students are provided with a 30-minute intervention/acceleration time, called Growing Gators, for targeted instruction based on individual student needs.
 - Targeted instruction may be teacher-driven, electronic, or provided by an instructional paraprofessional
 - Targeted instruction will accommodate English Language Learners, Gifted and Talented Learners, Special Education Learners, and 504 Learners
- After-school programming called “Later Gators” is provided for students who need additional assistance or enrichment. Programming for Later Gators is dedicated to a STEAM curriculum.
- Students are provided an individual Chromebook for use during the school year both in the classroom and if the student is quarantined or medically isolated due to COVID-19
- Google Classroom is used for student instruction and teacher planning for ease of transition if a student is quarantined or medically isolated due to COVID-19

Student Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs

- The Montana Mindfulness Project is being explored by the District Whole Child Committee
- The School Counselor has dedicated Montana Behavior Initiative and Social Emotional Learning time with each grade level throughout each month
- The School Counselor has dedicated time for individual and small group counseling each day.
- The District has committed to a partnership through the Gallatin Madison Special Education Cooperative to provide 8-10 hours of professional counseling on-site weekly.

Other Student Needs (which may include student health and food services)

- The District has committed to having a nurse present, on campus, at least two-times weekly
- GGS will continue to participate in the Seamless Summer Option of the Federal School Breakfast and lunch program which provides free breakfast and lunch for all students
 - Breakfast will continue to be served in the classroom

Staff Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs

- All but one of the Teacher Health Care Plans provide for counseling services (first 3 visits free)
- The district provides flex funding for all employees which can be used for social, emotional and mental health needs.
- The School Counselor provides services to staff when needed

Other Staff Needs

Any other staff needs will be addressed either through collaboration or through a memorandum of understanding.

PUBLIC INPUT

This plan will be placed on the District Website with a Google Form to allow for public input no later than June 24, 2021. There will be a discussion item and opportunity for public input at the June 30 Regular Meeting of the Gallatin Gateway Board of Trustees. The Superintendent will hold a public meeting on August 16, 2021 for final public input prior to submission to OPI on August 24, 2021.

The District will review this Plan at least once every six months and will provide an opportunity for public input in association with any review of the Plan.