

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



2021-2022 School Year

Concordia R-II Community:

In order to receive funds through the American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ARP ESSER) we are required to have a plan in place. Thus, we have created a Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan for the Concordia R-II School District for the 2021-22 school year as required. This plan is obviously subject to revision to reflect local conditions and circumstances.

Fortunately, our district was able to remain open for in-person education during the 2020-21 school year except for approximately 2 weeks in October and November. We have instituted several resolutions since the pandemic began to help the district remain open that are accessible on our website for review. Our intention is to provide in-person learning every school calendar day again for the 2021-22 school year. We appreciate everything that our students, staff, and community has done to help in this regard. We ask that any concerns, suggestions, or ideas be communicated directly to the building level administration and we look forward to providing the safest and most successful learning environment for our students during the 2021-22 school year.

Sincerely,

**Brent Cooper
Superintendent of Schools**

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

- ❖ District Vocabulary
- ❖ Comment Period
- ❖ General (ongoing) Mitigation Strategies
- ❖ Continuity of Services
- ❖ General Health Information
- ❖ Transportation
- ❖ Communication
- ❖ Periodic Revision
- ❖ Understandable Language
- ❖ Use of ARP Funds
- ❖ Closing Remarks

❖ **Important district vocabulary to comprehend:**

Homeschool – Students’ curriculum and learning is the complete responsibility of the parent. The local public school is notified of the parent’s intent in writing and is no longer involved in the process of educating the student. At times, homeschool students may enroll in the public school on a part-time basis. In this case, the public school is only responsible for the curriculum and instruction for courses in which the student is enrolled.

Virtual Learning - Students learn online with a certified teacher. Students involved with virtual learning at the Concordia R-2 schools do not attend school in person. They may participate in curriculum and instruction provided through a third party company.

Distance Learning - Students learn online or through other curriculum materials provided by the Concordia R-2 District. Students are instructed through Concordia R-2 teachers. This happens during periods of long illness that is expected to keep a student out of school for greater than three days, quarantine, or should the class, school, or district need to close to students for a period of time.

❖ **Commentary regarding COVID-19 guidelines and protocols**

- The Concordia R-II School District is committed to providing a quality education to all students, while also ensuring their safety and well-being.
- Parents/guardians with questions or concerns are asked to call the Concordia R-II School District at 660-463-7235; CHS at 660-463-2246; and CES at 660-463-2261 to discuss and address those concerns with district or building administration.
- Public commentary was available during the development of this plan.

❖ **General Mitigation Measures for Students and Faculty/Staff**

Masks:

- Students and staff have the option to wear masks if they are not experiencing Covid symptoms.
- Per CDC and state guidelines, students who are exposed in the school setting may continue to attend classes given that they wear a mask and are not experiencing any Covid-like symptoms.
- Concordia School District staff have been deemed Essential Workers by the CDC and state and therefore may return to work after 7 days of quarantine if not experiencing Covid symptoms and they receive approval from their county health department. They must wear a mask for 14 days from the first day of quarantine.

Physical Distancing:

- Social distancing will be encouraged to the extent possible by all staff and students.
- Rooms will be organized and seating arranged to accommodate distancing where possible.

Hand Washing/Sanitation:

- Students will be guided to wash hands multiple times per day with proper procedure.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided at multiple locations throughout the school.

Cleaning/Sanitation Practices:

- Daily sanitizing and disinfecting will be a priority at all district facilities. Equipment has been purchased that enables the complete sanitation of all surfaces, to include classrooms (desks, tables, etc.), hallways (interior and exterior doors/doorways), lockers and locker rooms.
- Busses are also fogged/sanitized on a daily basis at the conclusion of routes.

Diagnostic/Screening of Students:

- While students and staff will not be required to have their temperature taken upon arrival, vigilance of the recognition and reporting of symptoms has been part of staff training.

Vaccination Assistance:

- The district has collaborated with area health organizations to provide on-site and off-site vaccination opportunities.

Ventilation/Air Quality:

- The district purchased i-Wave air filtering devices for all HVAC units in all district buildings during the 2020-21 school year.

Other Mitigation Measures:

- Students will be encouraged to bring personal water bottles from home, rather than use the drinking fountains. They should be labeled with the student name, and in clean, sanitary condition. Drinking fountains with bottle fillers have been installed throughout the district.
- Student activities and athletics will be conducted as usual to the extent they are permissible under local, state, and federal guidelines. These are voluntary activities where students and parents have a choice to participate or not.

- Attendance incentives for students and staff will cease. Staff and/or students who are sick need to stay home. Absences due to COVID will be excused under the attendance policy.

❖ **Continuity of Services**

- The Concordia School District is committed to providing education for our students. Students who are not able to or choose not to attend because of Covid related concerns will be provided information about MOCAP as an alternative option. This process will be facilitated by the building principal.

❖ **General health information for students and faculty/staff**

- Parents and students, as well as staff members, are encouraged to self-screen for potential COVID-19 symptoms before coming to school. Anyone with symptoms of illness should stay home.
- Students at school who display health symptoms that could suggest COVID-19 concerns will be checked by the nurse or other office staff. If their evaluation suggests potential for COVID-19 infection, the student will be masked (if the student does not have one) and isolated until picked up by a parent/guardian.
- Students with a temperature of 100.0 degrees or higher will be sent home per our regular policy. If the student presents no other COVID symptoms and has no known exposure, they can return after being fever free for 24 hours.
- A student excluded from the school environment due to COVID-19 concerns may return to school in accordance with guidelines provided by the health department. These guidelines are fluid and change as deemed necessary by the health department as a result of many variables.

Other scenarios regarding student health will be handled according to guidance from and consultation with the Lafayette County Health Department.

❖ **Transportation information**

- Students will continue to be transported as necessary and seating will accommodate social distancing when possible.
- All surfaces of the busses interior will be disinfected daily.
- Students who must be sent home because of illness or quarantine by health/district officials must be picked up by parents/guardians.

- **Communication Procedures**

- Administration will share information with students, staff and community on an as needed basis through text, email, website, and other avenues of communication.

- ❖ **Understandable Language**

- This communication has been provided in the spoken language of ELL students/families.

- ❖ **Periodic Revision**

- This document may be revised periodically to adjust to the often-changing variables.

- ❖ **Use of ARP Funds**

- Revenue received through the (ARP) will be used within the guidelines (<https://oese.ed.gov/files/2021/03/FINAL ARP-ESSER-FACT-SHEET.pdf>) provided by the federal government of the United States and the State of Missouri. At the time of this publication, monies have not yet been allocated and the district has until September 2023 to obligate its allocation of funds. Therefore, district administration will take time to evaluate and prioritize its needs and use these proceeds in a way that will most benefit the students and the district as a whole.

- ❖ **Closing Remarks**

In closing, after the completion of a very successful summer school program this June, the district would like to thank our students, staff and community members for their part in making the 2020-21 school year a truly successful one. Moving forward, we collectively hope that you will again entrust our staff to provide your children with a quality education while taking every reasonable step to keep them in a healthy environment for the 2021-22 school year. We are optimistic that the (ARP ESSER) federal funding will provide great benefit to our students and district, and are currently working on a prioritized list of potential academic and facility improvements with these funds. Please don't hesitate to call or email if you have a question or would like to provide input by serving on our CSIP committee (5-year planning committee).

Sincerely,

Brent Cooper
Superintendent of Schools