

SUTTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SAFE RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN 2022-2023



Reviewed and public comment – Monday, Dec 19th, 2022 @7:30PM, during regular BOE meeting.

Discussion and public comment – Monday, July 18th, 2022 @8:00PM during regular BOE meeting.

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Sutton Public Schools

1107 N Saunders Ave.

Sutton, NE 68979

suttonpublicschool.org

A Safe Return Plan

General Information (Pursuant to the Federal American Rescue Plan)

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021, Public Law. The ARP Act includes nearly \$122 billion for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER III) Fund that allows state and local education agencies (LEAs) to take additional steps for continued safe in-person instruction and to address unfinished teaching and learning to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic. The ARP Act requires each school district that receives ARP ESSER funds to develop and make publicly available on the school district's website, no later than 30 days after receiving ARP ESSER funds, a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction, and continuity of services for all schools (Safe Return Plan). The ARP Act further requires that the district seek public comment on the Safe Return Plan and take those comments into account in finalization of the Safe Return Plan. A school district must periodically, but no less frequently than every six months through September 30, 2023, review and, as appropriate, revise its Safe Return Plan.

***Please Note:** The district plans to operate in a traditional learning environment during the 2022-2023 school year, just as we did in 2021-2022. The only possibility of another education setting would be if there is a state or federal mandate that requires school districts to close.*

Universal & Correct Wearing of Masks

The school may mandate masks if a state or federal mandate requires school districts to mandate masks. Masks will be optional unless the district believes an individual has been exposed. Mask wearing protocols may be implemented should the situation warrant.

Masks must be worn over both the nose and mouth at all times. School staff shall model correct and consistent mask use. Students who refuse to wear masks will face consequences consistent with the district's discipline policies. Parents may provide an approved face covering for their child(ren), but the district will have them available at no cost to the student.

Modifying Facilities to Allow for Physical Distancing (e.g., Cohorts or Podding)

If the school would have a significant increase in COVID-19 activity, the school would implement physical distancing in the facility and would follow the same protocols used in the 2020-2021 Return to School Plan.

Handwashing & Respiratory Etiquette

PK-12 students will be asked to wash their hands frequently. In addition, the district will Post signage about frequent hand washing, cough etiquette, and nose blowing. Signage will be widely posted, disseminated, and encouraged through various methods of communication.

Cleaning & Maintaining Healthy Facilities (Including Improving Ventilation)

The following essential actions will be taken to ensure that the facilities are safe for students and staff to inhabit. The district will:

- Change air filters regularly.
- Daily cleaning of all classrooms and student used areas.
- Post signage about frequent hand washing, cough etiquette, and nose blowing. Signage will be widely posted, disseminated, and encouraged through various methods of communication.

Contact Tracing (Isolation & Quarantine)

The district will monitor students and staff who may have been exposed. If symptoms occur, student(s) or staff member(s) will be sent home. The district will not be asking healthy students or staff members to quarantine if identified as being exposed. Those individuals will be required to monitor symptoms by means of a district established screening process.

Diagnostic & Screening Testing

The district will not temperature check or screen students and staff until there is a determined need as identified by the Superintendent or designee based on current conditions. For example, to ride the school bus, participate or attend school activities, or enter the school building, diagnostic and screening testing will be administered per the guidance in the Sutton Public Schools 2020-21 Return to School Plan as posted on the school website. Last year's plan continues to be the reference document should COVID-19 cases increase to a level that warrants an adjustment in protocols. Any changes to protocols will be communicated to staff, students, and parents. We ask all parents to continue helping eliminate the spread of any virus by keeping their students' home when they are not feeling well.

Efforts to Provide Vaccinations to School Communities

The administration will work with South Heartland District Health Department to provide space at school for vaccination clinics should the demand for the vaccine warrant.

Accommodations for Children with Disabilities

Students qualifying for extra support through an IEP or through a 504 plan will continue to receive services and support according to their plans throughout the 2022-2023 school year. Accommodations, modifications, and related services will be provided as outlined in a student's plan during in-person learning.

Coordination with State & Local Health Officials

Similar to the 2020-2021 school year, the superintendent will meet as needed on a regular basis with the state and local health officials.

Continuity of Services

If the district is closed due to mandatory closure by state or federal officials, ALL K-12 students have a digital learning tool provided to ensure continuity of instruction. In addition, students will continue to be provided accommodations as stated in their IEP or 504 plans during remote learning. Parent input will be sought to develop a plan for the provision of remote IEP services and student progress will be reviewed by the student’s team when in-person learning resumes.

If the school district is closed due to mandatory closure by state or federal officials’ lunch may be provided to students through a USDA approved program. School counselors and mental health support staff will be available online by appointment for any students or staff in need of assistance.

Closures

The Board of Education and Administration would like to personally thank all Sutton Public staff members, students, and parents for your dedication and efforts during the 2020-2021 school year. Everyone worked tirelessly to ensure that students were being educated in-person during a global pandemic. The district is appreciative of everyone’s flexibility and patience. It is possible that there will be some uncertainty regarding what lies ahead this school year concerning the COVID-19 pandemic, but the district’s plan is to operate in a traditional learning environment during the 2022-2023 school year.

Public Comment Requirements

- July 9th, 2021 Draft sent to building principals for review
- July 9th, 2021 Draft sent to Board of Education for review
- July 12th, 2021 Draft sent to all Staff for review
- July 15th, 2021 Draft will be posted on the school district website
- July 15th, 2021 Survey will be posted on the school district website for public feedback
- July 19th, 2021 Draft reviewed and discussed at public board meeting – public comment permitted during public comment agenda item
- August 2nd, 2021 Final draft shared with BOE at school board work session
- August 4th, 2021 Final draft shared with all staff, parents and students on school webpage
- December 20th, 2021 6 month required review of document will occur and public feedback will be gathered. Reviewed at the Regular Board Meeting.
- July 18th, 2022 6 month required review of document will occur and public feedback will be gathered. Reviewed at the Regular Board Meeting.
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