



Gooding Joint School District #231

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Gooding Jt. School District #231 American Rescue Plan: 2023-2024 Safe Return to In-Person Instruction

Reviewed and updated on 9-12-2023

Introduction

Beginning in the 2020-2021 school year, districts were required to have a Reopening/Closure plan. This plan was created with input from stakeholders (administrators, parents, students). Changes were made throughout the year to reflect new guidance from the CDC and local health department. For the 2021-2022 school year, the plan was renamed “The Safe Return to In-Person Instruction” plan and again was updated as new guidance was received. This plan was last reviewed on 3-14-2023.

As part of the American Rescue Plan requirements for the 2023-2024 school year, districts are still required to maintain a Safe Return to School plan. While much of the information was contained in our original plan, some updates were required. Based on stakeholder feedback, changing recommendations of the CDC, as well as the number of COVID-19 cases in our schools and community, the plan below outlines the updated protocols for the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year.

HEALTH AND SAFETY STRATEGIES

Face Coverings: Face coverings are available for staff, students, and visitors.

PPE: Staff may also choose to utilize clear, plastic barriers.

Hygiene: Hand sanitizer is available throughout each school. Each classroom and office has pump dispensers. Wall mounted dispensers have been placed near restrooms and gymnasiums. Posters communicating the importance of hygiene (handwashing and respiratory etiquette) will be displayed. Proper handwashing will be taught to all students and staff.

Social Distancing: Staff and students will strive to maintain social distancing.

COVID Positive: Students and staff who are COVID-19 positive will be excluded from school/work and all related activities for 5 consecutive days from the onset of symptoms. Staff because they are essential workers, may return to work if there are no symptoms or if they are fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and symptoms have diminished. For more information on staying home when sick with COVID-19, including recommendations for isolation and mask use for people who test positive or who are

experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19, see [Isolation and Precautions for People with COVID-19](#).

COVID-19 Exposure: Exposed individuals may remain at school but will be monitored for symptoms by staff. It is recommended that exposed individuals wear masks. People who have symptoms of respiratory or gastrointestinal infections, such as cough, fever, sore throat, vomiting, or diarrhea, should stay home. Testing is recommended for people with [symptoms of COVID-19](#) as soon as possible after symptoms begin. Staying home when sick can lower the risk of spreading infectious diseases, including COVID-19, to other people.

School Cleaning: Custodial staff will continue to clean and sanitize facilities with products known to kill the Covid-19 virus.

Communications Plan: Changes to the plan will be posted on the district website.

Immunization: Gooding Jt. School District does not require or track vaccinations of staff, students, or visitors, though we will continue to partner with the South Central Public Health District to communicate updates and recommendations regarding COVID-19 vaccinations.

Continuity of services

In-Person Option: Gooding School District's desire is to keep school activities as normal as possible. Therefore, instruction will be face-to-face to the greatest extent possible. All schools will operate educational services and activities in a traditional fashion whenever possible.

Remote Option: Parents or guardians who have concerns about their student(s) being in school due to COVID-19 should talk to the building principal. Remote learning options for their student may be available through Idaho Digital Learning Academy (IDLA) and/or through Edmentum (PLATO) software.

Continuity of Education: When students miss instruction due to testing positive for COVID-19, students will be able to continue their schooling through platforms utilized during class such as Google classroom. Students may need to join calls via Zoom or Google Hangouts. At the elementary level, teachers will provide work packets for the students who miss school due to COVID-19. All staff will work with families and students to ensure access to instructional materials and/or assignments.

Special Education: IEP teams will ensure student needs are met in both face-to-face and remote learning settings. Special education teachers and general education teachers will work together to ensure all IEP components are met. Unique circumstances resulting from COVID-19 will be addressed with parents and all necessary staff in order to meet the needs of each student.

Digital Access: All secondary students will be allowed to take a Chromebook home to complete work remotely when excluded from face-to-face instruction due to COVID-19. In addition, the district has purchased Wi-Fi hotspots which parents can check out for internet access, if needed, during times they are excluded from school due to COVID-19.

Student/Family Support: School counselors and social workers will be available to students who need assistance with social, emotional, and/or mental health. Counselors and social workers will make available a list of resources for parents in order to support their student(s). These resources may include peer support programs, such as Sources of Strength, referral for counseling services both on and off campus, and social emotional wellness education programs.

Staff Support: The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) will be utilized to assist any staff member who needs assistance with social, emotional, and/or mental health. In addition, staff will be notified of programs and other opportunities designed to assist staff with individual needs during difficult times. Employees who need leave due to COVID-19 related reasons will have access to medical and personal leave as outlined in FMLA, Board Policy, and the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

LEA Support and/or Technical Assistance: Since the onset of the pandemic in March of 2020, Gooding School District has consulted and collaborated with other regional school districts, Idaho State Department of Education, Idaho State Board of Education, and the South-Central Health Department to develop policies, procedures, and responses to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

This is a living document and administration may make additional adjustments as needed

Plan Review

This plan will be reviewed and revised at least every six months and will include a process for stakeholder input. The next review will be completed on or before 3-12-2024. Timing of the review will be related to the health conditions within the Gooding School District and Gooding community.