

# Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Maize USD 266

## Introduction:

As part of the American Rescue Plan (ARP), Congress requires all school districts that receive an ESSER III award to post a plan to the district website within 30 days of receiving the grant award. Included here is a copy of the district's working draft of our plan to reopen schools in 2021-2022. This plan will be reviewed with the board of education and staff through the summer. The plan may continually evolve as school begins and as the school year progresses.

***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:**

Maize USD 266 district has removed the mask mandate based on vaccination rates and infection rates for the school. Masks are optional for students and staff if they so choose to wear them.

If needed, we may adopt reasonable safety measures to protect the safety of district personnel, students, and visitors during school-related activities. Reasonable safety measures may include, but may not be limited to, cleaning and sanitization plans, use of physical safeguards and barriers, and the use of personal protective equipment (PPE). Exceptions to any requirements may be granted as required by law, state, county, and/or local health officials, and on a case-by-case basis. We will continue to monitor national, state, and local government and health agency mandates, guidance, and recommendations as well. Lastly, the district will continue to post signage outlining the proper wearing of personal protective equipment as needed.

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

Where possible, social distancing practices will be utilized. Strategic grouping or assignment of seating may be utilized where and when necessary.

### **Handwashing and respiratory etiquette.**

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette will continue to be taught to students with emphasis and practice protocols rehearsed more frequently in the primary grade levels. Signage will continue to be posted throughout our buildings as reminders of handwashing and respiratory etiquette. In addition, hand sanitizing stations and liquids will continue to be made available for use in all classrooms.

### **(C) Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation.**

Custodial staff have been and will continue to follow specific cleaning protocols and procedures. We will continue to consider assignments/reassignments to applicable shifts in order to continually clean high traffic and high contact surfaces. Our district will continue to use cleaning solutions that are rated to eliminate the COVID-19 virus. We will continue to monitor ventilation efficiency and effectiveness for opportunities to continually improve air quality.

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

School Administration will continue to work with the Sedgwick County Health Department (SCHD) who will contact individuals determined to be in close contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 and recommend that those individuals follow current quarantine/self-isolation guidelines and recommendations.

### **(E) Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities.**

Maize USD 266 will participate and partner with vaccination efforts in accordance with state and federal law for staff and eligible student groups.

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## **(F) Diagnostic and screening testing.**

Students, staff, and community members can access COVID-19 diagnostic or screening tests through a variety of community partners. School nurses and health support staff will continue to monitor for symptoms, trends, and clusters, and request that students and staff seek medical services as appropriate. The district may provide testing of students and employees in order to minimize virus transmission and reduce time away from school and/or work.

## **(G) Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies.**

Maize USD 266 will provide reasonable, necessary, and appropriate accommodations to its policies and practices for students with disabilities as determined by individual student needs and in accordance with an individual's documented accommodations and/or individualized education plan (IEP). Parents or guardians of students requiring accommodations should contact the applicable building administrator(s) to request information on plans for students with disabilities

## **(H) Coordination with State and local health officials.**

Applicable district personnel currently participate, and will continue to participate, with our local county health department and/or agencies on a frequent basis to determine next steps as needed.

### ***Part II. Describe how the district will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to:***

#### **(A) Services to address students' academic needs**

Maize USD 266 has implemented a summer learning program to assist students with academic recovery. Maize USD 266 plans to continue full time, in-person instruction beginning the Fall of 2021. Where possible, specialists, paraeducators, and educational consultants will be available and utilized during the instructional day, on professional development days, and/or during before and after school tutoring programs throughout the year to support students.

Federal stimulus funding has and will continue to be utilized for the purpose of addressing students' academic needs in the form of additional instructional opportunities and the acquisition of additional support staff.

#### **(B) Students' and staff social, emotional, mental health**

Maize USD 266 has PK-12 staff to monitor and address the social and emotional learning needs of our students. We will continue to partner with social workers and local mental health services with the goal of helping students and families overcome obstacles with connecting to school.

Our district has provided staff with opportunities for social and emotional supports through our district's participation with an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) provider. Staff social and emotional wellness and mental health are also considered in district communications.

Federal stimulus funding will be utilized for the purpose of addressing the social, emotional, and mental health needs through the acquisition of additional support staff and partnership with outside agencies.

#### **(C) Other needs, which may include student health and food services.**

Free meals will be made available during the 2021-2022 school year. Families may also be in contact with their child's school for any other health or food service needs.

**To provide comment or input on this plan, please use the form linked [HERE](#).**