

ANNA-JONESBORO

CHSD #81

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

2023-
2024

INTRODUCTION

On March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plans (ARP) Act was signed into law. In it, the U.S. Department of Education is providing an additional \$121.9 billion for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER III Fund). This legislation will award grants to state educational agencies (SEAs) for providing local educational agencies (LEAs) with emergency relief funds to address the impact that COVID-19 has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools across the nation.

Anna-Jonesboro Community High School will be continuing to provide full in-person instruction for the 2023-2024 school year. This means that we will continue to have a normal full day schedule, 5 days a week.

This plan describes how AJCHSD 81 will provide for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services for our students. This report complies with all reporting requirements of the ARP Act and the ESSER III grant terms, conditions, and assurances.

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I. Policies or Practices Regarding CDC Recommendations

The following plan was developed with guidance from the CDC, the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Department of Public Health. This plan is subject to change as these guidelines evolve.

AJCHS is committed to the health and safety of our students, staff, and their families. The following plan has been developed with that in mind. While our plan specifies guidelines for our staff, students, and buildings to follow, everyone's health and safety is dependent on each individual. Each staff member should ensure their own health and safety by adhering to these guidelines and reporting any issues or safety concerns to their building principal. Each of us will play a role in our collective safety. Every effort should be made to ensure the health and safety of staff and students,

Social Distancing

AJCHS is no longer following social distancing guidelines. This is always subject to change based on changing guidelines.

Masks

There are currently no federal or state mask mandates in place. As a result, masks are not required at this time.

Hand Washing and Respiratory Etiquette

Frequent hand washing and hand sanitizing is key to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Staff members must clean hands as often as possible with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol may be used. Staff should avoid touching their mouth, eyes or nose as much as possible. Each building will place signage reminding everyone of the need for proper hand hygiene in the appropriate areas. If assisting a student requires close contact, hand washing or sanitizing should be done before and after contact with students. Staff and students will also be encouraged to cough/sneeze into the elbow.

Cleaning and Maintaining Health Facilities, Including Improving Ventilation

AJCHS custodial staff will follow the established cleaning procedures for building cleaning and disinfection.

- Cleaning staff should clean and disinfect all areas (e.g., offices, bathrooms, and common areas) used by the ill persons, focusing especially on frequently touched surfaces.
- If surfaces are dirty, they should be cleaned using a detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.

All custodial/maintenance staff will be trained on the return to school guidelines. These procedures will include extra sanitation efforts using certified EPA products in both low/high contact areas including:

- Desktops
- Door handles
- Countertops
- Handrails
- Light switches
- Drinking fountains
- Restroom fixtures

Building custodians and cleaning personnel will conduct daily cleaning and disinfection. An EPA approved cleaner will be used for disinfection along with our standard cleaning protocols. All frequently touched surfaces (e.g., door handles/knobs, desktops/tabletops, countertops, light switches, pencil sharpeners, computer keyboards, hands-on learning items, phones, sinks and faucets) will be cleaned on a regular basis. Restrooms, hallways, cafeterias, and common areas will be cleaned throughout the day.

The District office may be adjusting personnel schedules to meet the return to school needs. Cleaning schedules will be created and implemented for all facilities and equipment. Extra sanitation efforts, which will address high traffic/common areas, will occur during in-class learning.

- | High Traffic Areas | | Low Traffic Areas | |
|--------------------|----------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| ● Hallways | ● Entry ways | ● Gym | ● Cafeteria |
| ● Stairwells | ● Restrooms | ● Locker Rooms | ● Auditorium |
| ● Foyers | ● Main offices | ● Weight Rooms | ● Physical education equipment |

Ventilation will be improved by opening of windows when possible, use of new outdoor classroom areas, new HVAC units in the gymnasium and the servicing of all current HVAC units.

Contact Tracing, Isolation, Quarantine and Health Screenings, Including Communication with State and Local Health Offices

The school will no longer conduct contact tracing. Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 or who exhibit COVID-19 symptoms will be excluded based on current health guidelines.

We will continue to offer diagnostic testing for symptomatic testing and staff and those individuals who came into close contact with an individual with COVID-19.

Efforts to Provide Vaccinations to School Community

The district hosted a couple of vaccination clinics in the spring of 2021. We have also allowed our staff to take time from work, without loss of pay, to get vaccinated at local facilities. We have offered our facility to host future vaccination clinics for our youth as well.

Appropriate Accommodations for Children with Disabilities with Respect to Health and Safety

Our classrooms with special needs children were provided PPE supplies on an as needed basis. The classroom staff maintained distancing and ensured students were properly trained in hand washing and cough/sneeze hygiene. These classrooms operate consistently with federal and state law regarding access to in-person learning for students with disabilities including providing reasonable accommodations.

II. Continuity of Services

Academic Needs

Technology

AJCHS is currently a 1 to 1 program for the upcoming school year. Every student will be given a Chromebook and a limited number of mobile hotspots will be available.

Remote Learning

Remote learning will only be available, on a temporary basis, to a student that is under quarantine consistent with guidance or requirements from a local public health department or the Illinois Department of Public Health.

Safety Education for Students

Administration and staff will review protocol regarding building entry and exit, transitioning between classes, and restroom, cafeteria, water fountain, and locker usage.

Driver's Education Behind-the-Wheel

Behind-the-wheel training to students in driver's education will be in compliance with all Secretary of State and IDPH safety requirements.

Field Trips, Athletics

Field trips and fundraisers will resume as normal, as will athletic programs.

Physical Education, Gymnasiums, and Locker Rooms

Physical activity can support students' overall health and help reduce stress and anxiety.

Unique Circumstances

AJCHS will develop plans and procedures, as needed, to address the various unique challenges the different learning models may create for individual students, families, and employees. Our instructional and supporting services have also been actively working to plan and begin executing activities geared specifically towards learning loss.

Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs

SEL supports will be provided for our students and staff. A process to identify students and staff who maybe experiencing stress or trauma related to COVID-19 will be developed. We will continue to implement SEL curriculum with the addition of an intentional focus on student's emotional health which may been impacted by COVID-19. Other SEL supports may be developed to add supports to our students as needed.

Health Services

We have a full time nurse that provides health services throughout the day. We are also aligned with the SIU School of Medicine, who provide medical services one day a week in a mobile facility, as well as being available throughout the week remotely.

Food Services

The Cafeteria Staff has designed a meal plan that follows state guidelines and according to USDA standards. We have developed protocols for providing students that are not in attendance due to COVID related reasons.

III. Periodic Review

This Return to In-Person Instruction Plan was developed with the ability to evolve as new guidance is release by the Centers for Disease Control, Illinois Department of Public Health, Illinois School Board of Education and local health departments. The administration and Board of Education meet on a regular basis and make adjustments as necessary based off of new metrics and statistics provided. It will also be revisited when our District Vision team (See below) meets again near the end of the 2nd semester.

IV. Public Input

The Return to School Plan was discussed at our District Vision Team meeting on May 9, 2023. This team includes Board members, staff, administration, students, parents and community officials. It will also be posted on our school's website.