

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



## **Pulaski Community School District**

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# Introduction

The Pulaski Community School District's **Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Service Plan** is intended to provide support and guidance to District and school leaders by adjusting plans to ensure safety of our students and staff members as the COVID-19 Pandemic evolves. PCSD has established practices and procedures to be implemented in the 2021-2022 school year. The district medical advisor provides guidance to student health services, the district superintendent, and the school board, to assist in making informed decisions related to school planning and best health/safety practices.

This plan describes how the Pulaski Community School District will provide a safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services for all schools, including those that have already returned to in-person instruction.

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# Maintaining Health and Safety

## Overview

Given the fluid nature of the COVID-19 virus and corresponding effects, it is necessary for Pulaski Community School District Administration to have oversight to ensure students experience in-person learning while at the same time being in a safe learning environment. As we have in the past, the administration will work in collaboration with local health officials to make necessary decisions to mitigate the transmission of the COVID-19 virus in our schools based on collective conclusions related to guidance from the CDC, AAP, and other health organizations. When interpreting this guidance, the administration will make decisions based on all available data. Accordingly, the District:

- Strongly recommends masking, regardless of vaccination status
- Promotes hand hygiene by placing visual cues such as handwashing posters and other materials in highly visible areas
- Continues to social distance the best we can in various settings when feasible, and avoiding large groups of students in indoor spaces will continue
- Introduced outside air into all spaces within the buildings along with increased filter ratings

The Pulaski Community School District will offer in-person learning five days a week according to the Board adopted [2021-2022 Raider Roadmap](#). The school district has also provided families the option to enroll their students in virtual learning. In the event of school closure due to the pandemic, the district has provided Chromebooks for all students to continue virtual learning.

Regardless of the mode of instruction, the Pulaski Community School District will continue to provide meals under the community provision as long as USDA continues the allowance. Meals will be provided for summer school attendees as well as all eligible youth during the school year. If school is closed due to a pandemic, the district will assess its ability to distribute meals utilizing the same process it used during the spring of 2020.

The Pulaski Community School District employs two full-time school nurses and one part-time nurse who will continue to offer health services in-person or virtually.

# **Mitigation Measures**

## **Universal and correct wearing of masks**

Pulaski Community School District strongly encourages students, teachers, staff and visitors to wear masks indoors, regardless of vaccination status. Masks are required on all public transportation provided by the district while the Federal mandate is in effect.

## **Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing**

Mitigation measures such as proper signage, the installation of floor decals and water bottle filling stations, and the promotion of social distancing have been implemented at each facility. We will continue to social distance the best we can in various settings when feasible, and avoiding large groups of students in indoor spaces will continue. We will take advantage of nice weather and encourage teachers to conduct instructional activities outdoors whenever possible.

Cohorting by grade level and/or staggered meal service has been implemented to support social distancing while ensuring adequate time for students to consume their meals. Individual schools will determine the cafeteria service that best suits the needs of their students. Cafeterias and/or classrooms may be used as settings for student meals.

Transportation will comply with CDC guidelines regarding capacity that are in effect during the 2021-22 school year as well as requiring face coverings.

## **Handwashing and respiratory etiquette**

The district will continue to promote hand hygiene by placing visual cues such as handwashing posters and other materials in highly visible areas. Hand sanitizer will be available in school entrances and high traffic areas. Washing your hands is easy, and it's one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of germs. Clean hands can stop germs from spreading from one person to another and throughout the entire school community.

## **Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation**

Buildings are cleaned and disinfected nightly. Outside air is being introduced into all spaces within the buildings along with increased filter ratings. Hand sanitizer will be available in every classroom and throughout common spaces and all high-touch surfaces disinfected daily.

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

The Pulaski Community School District will continue to provide current health information to staff, students, and families about the signs and symptoms of COVID-19, when they should stay home, and when they can return to school. A

copy of the [Student Exposure Protocol](#) can be located on our website.

### **Diagnostic and screening testing**

The Pulaski Community School District recommends students and staff get tested for COVID by their medical provider or a local pharmacy. The turnaround time for results averages within 48-72 hours.

### **Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible**

All eligible staff employed in 2020-2021 were provided information on sites and scheduling procedures necessary to be vaccinated.

### **Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies and practices**

When circumstances require specific policies or procedures designed to protect the health and safety of students, 504 and IEP teams will determine if modifications and/or reasonable accommodations are needed for individual students with disability-related issues.

### **Coordination with state and local health officials**

The CDC recommends that all decisions about implementing school-based strategies should be made locally, collaborating with local health officials who can help determine the level of transmission in the community. The Pulaski Community School District continues to work with local County Public Health Departments to implement mitigation strategies for the safety of students and staff.

# Continuity of Services

## Overview

The Pulaski Community School District will return to school for in-person learning on September 1, 2021. With that in mind, we understand the importance of flexibility in being able to shift our plans and methods of instruction should the need arise. The Pulaski Community School District is prepared for virtual learning, should this become necessary, and has an established framework in place to provide digital instruction via the use of our Learning Management Systems, Seesaw and Canvas.

## District response on continuity of services

The District will provide for continuity of services as follows:

### **Student Academic Needs**

The Pulaski Community School District understands the importance of meeting our students where they are and aims to provide instructional methods that will continue advancing the learning of all students. As individual barriers to learning are met, methods will be differentiated so as to address gaps in learning that may have become more pronounced over the last year.

### **Student Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs**

We understand that the 2020-2021 school year presented unique challenges for our students and staff. As a result, the overall emotional health and well-being of our students and staff will remain at the forefront of all planning efforts. In coordination with the District's Teaching and Learning Department and Student Services Department, a continued focus will be placed on building a positive and supportive culture among students and staff.

### **Other Student Needs (which may include student health and food services)**

Food services will continue to provide meals under the community provision as long as USDA continues the allowance. Meals will be provided for all eligible youth during the school year.

### **Staff Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs**

The District has provided staff with opportunities for social and emotional supports through Professional Development days. Other trainings have also been provided like Compassion Resilience, New Teacher Education Programs, sessions at staff meetings, etc. The staff's social, emotional, and mental health needs may also be addressed through the Employee Assistance Program provided through the District insurance program.

### **Other Staff Needs**

The District will follow national, state, and local governing agencies' laws and directives concerning staff employment and benefits.

## **Periodic Review**

### **Overview**

Districts are required to review and, as appropriate, revise their Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan at least every six months through September 30, 2023, including seeking public input and taking such input into account in determining whether to revise the plan and, if revisions are determined necessary, on the revisions it makes to its plan.

### **District response on ensuring periodic updates to its plan**

The Pulaski Community School District will periodically review and, as needed, revise the plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services. Plan revisions will address updated CDC and County Public Health guidance on safely reopening schools if any are issued.

# Public Input

## Overview

The ARP Act requires that school districts make their Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan available to the public online and that the plans be in an understandable and uniform format; to the extent practicable, are written in a language that parents can understand or, if not practicable, orally translated; and upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability, provided in an alternative format accessible to that parent. Before making its plan publicly available, school districts must seek public comment on the plan and develop the plan after taking into account public comment.

### **District response on public input in the development of its plan**

The Pulaski Community School District has taken the following steps to make its plan available to the public:

- The plan is posted at <https://www.pulaskischools.org/reopening>
- Q&A accessible on our website for parent questions and feedback
- The plan was sent to parents, students, and employees via our messaging systems and a survey was conducted using the DPI Google template
- The plan was shared at the Pulaski Community School District Board of Education meetings on August 18 and September 15, 2021 as well as updates at each of the school board meetings. An opportunity for public comment was available during each Board meeting.
- A stakeholder engagement session was held seeking public input to the plan.
- Upon request, a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA may be provided with the plan in an alternative format accessible by contacting our district office.