

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

2021-2022



North Nodaway R-VI School District

June 2021

Board Adopted: June 16, 2021

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Introduction:

North Nodaway School District will be re-opened to educate and provide a safe environment for students and staff members in the upcoming 2021-22 school year. This plan is a requirement of accepting and utilizing ESSER III funding provided by the federal government through the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. The experience that was gained from COVID-19 in the past two years will help guide us and our decision for the school year of 2021-22. This plan will focus on how our district intends to educate students and continue to provide services depending on the health risks and assessments that are taking place within our area and in the state of Missouri. Some options focus on us being possibly being remote at home, with limited interaction, and being in-person at school with additional safety guidelines. Therefore, this plan takes many aspects into account to make our district and students as safe as possible. This plan is not inclusive of everything possible as COVID-19 has been unpredictable. The purpose of this plan is to reopen our school in a way that is safe and responsive to the needs of our families and the community.

The path to reopening is based on the direction of public health and the current guidance of social distance measures being mandated or applied locally in Northwest Missouri and more specifically Pickering and Hopkins. Depending on the direction of public health, our district may experience times of stopping and starting, staggered openings, and periods of normal operation. The previous year showed that our district could put safety measures in place and keep students at school for most of the year.

The North Nodaway administration staff members have devised this plan from stakeholder input to best understand this pandemic and what is needed to contain and mitigate any concerns. A Safe Return to Schools Committee has been formed and will meet on the following dates June 16th, December 15, and May 18, 2022 to re-evaluate our district plan. This

plan is subject to change depending on health and wellness conditions in our area.

SRCSP Committee Members:

Chris Turpin- Superintendent/Transportation Director

Roger Johnson- High School Principal

Ashley Marriott- Elementary Principal

Tiffany Whipple- Executive Assistant/Parent

Lynette Berg- Kitchen Supervisor/Parent

Kit Meiners- School Counselor

Linda Russell- School Nurse

Troy Nally-Teacher

Nicki Herndon/Technology Coordinator/Parent

Emily Frueh-Teacher/Parent

Cody Jenkins- Teacher

Sarah Emery- Special Education Teacher/Parent

Bo Hansen- Maintenance/Custodial Supervisor/ Parent

Sami Jackson- Teacher

Catherine Auffert- Special Education Teacher

Samantha Brown-Board Member- Parent

Vicki Riley- Board Member

Tim Blackford- Board Member/Parent

Jerime Bix- Board Member/ Parent

Kane Oberhauser- Board Member

Jennifer Clements- Board Member/Parent

Cari Cline- Board Member/Parent

Educational Strategies/Phases:

There are three educational strategies/phases that we are anticipating to educate the students of North Nodaway. This is all depending on the community spread of COVID-19 and recommendations presented by local

health authorities. Recommendations that were implemented in the 2020-21 school year that seemed to be impactful were: the mask mandates from the state that our local school board adopted, encouragement of social distancing, sanitation of hard surfaces, increased sanitizing by students, protective barriers, hands-free devices, daily procedures that were modified such as extra lunch shifts and modified bus procedures . During the school year 2020-21 our district only utilized the normal operation phase as we only had a few students/staff out at a time with our increased mitigation that was put into place.

- **Normal Operation/No or Minimal Spread-** Our initial plan is to open school as closely to normal as possible based on no or minimal community spread of COVID-19. All students will be allowed to attend as “normal”.

Mitigation Strategies

1. Masks will be recommended and allowed but will not be mandatory.
2. Social distancing of 6 feet will continue to be incorporated in all settings where it is possible. The district will continue to use set setting charts for students in classes, at lunch, and on buses. Visitors will be allowed into the building during major school events only. Efforts will be made to ensure that large groups are not present together for more than 15 minutes at a time.
3. Frequent handwashing and practices consistent with CDC guidelines will continued to be taught and administered by staff members with students.
4. During this time, custodial staff will continue to clean and disinfect of classrooms daily and shared spaces consistent with CDC guidelines. Cleaning will take place mornings and afternoons in high-touch surface areas that multiple groups of students use.
5. The district will continue to use the local public

health authority guidelines for contact tracing and accurately keep track of student seating charts to ensure accuracy. The district will continue to educate parents of sick students and staff that they need to stay home when sick to keep spread from happening. Students and staff will be continue to be sent home when any symptoms occur. The district will continue to follow CDC expectations.

6. The district will ensure thorough communication that parents and students know their options concerning COVID-19 testing.

7. The district coordinated with the local health department to get 50% of teachers and staff vaccinated during the spring of 2021. The district would be willing to participating in further events to help others to get vaccinated.

8. All students with disabilities will have their accommodations of their IEPs followed throughout their learning no matter which type of learning is taking place.

- **Partial Remote Learning Strategy/Moderate Spread-** This method will be used when health authorities suggest that we limit the number of students and staff to confined spaces such as classrooms and buses. This method will be utilized if there is moderate community spread and a spike in cases in Pickering or Hopkins. This method will consist of students attending either Monday and Wednesday with an alternating Friday, or Tuesday and Thursday with an alternating Friday. We realize that this method creates some additional coordination amongst staff and for families, but the face to face interaction is valuable to assist and monitor student progress with learning. The administration staff will determine which families will be

assigned Monday/Wednesday and those that will be Tuesday/Thursday based on the families last name. For example, a family with the last name of Smith might be assigned a Tuesday/Thursday schedule. During this method of instruction students will receive educational instruction of the district curriculum and provided with additional resources and instruction to complete work independently, at home, on days not in school. It is our expectation that teachers provide a means that parents can request help or assistance concerning assignments being completed at home. During this strategy/phase the following will be done to help mitigate and reduce the further spread of COVID-19:

Mitigation Strategies:

1. Increase social distancing on buses.
 2. Suspend all non-essential activities.
 3. Limit visitors to the building.
 4. Increase hygiene and disinfecting practices.
 5. Encourage students and staff to wear protective equipment.
 6. Close all playground facilities.
 7. Pro-rate costs for preschool families.
 8. Continue special services and accommodations as specified in the student IEPs.
- **Complete Remote Learning/Wide Spread-** Complete remote learning is the strategy that our district will utilize as a last resort if school closures are necessary. This option will be discussed and practiced in classrooms in the fall of 2021. Closures may be a result of substantial community spread or a mandate from federal, state, or local authorities. This strategy will entail students being sent home with a Chromebook and teachers providing instruction remotely for all students. One Chromebook(s) will be assigned to each family for every two students and sent home with the oldest student enrolled. Should additional devices be needed, please contact the central office. The district will take measures to ensure that equitable access

is available to all students. This may include opening up access points to families in school parking lots, and/or providing "hot spots" to families in need. Teachers will utilize Google platforms for learning such as: Google classroom, Google hangouts, and Google Docs. Teachers in the elementary may send instructional packets home that assist or compliment the on-line learning. Students will be expected to check their school gmail accounts daily, as teachers will post assignments by 10:00 a.m. each morning. Middle school and high school students will log in Zoom, and their Google classroom during each instructional period each day to receive their remote learning. In the 2020-21 school year, this seemed to be the most effective manner to use for student learning and accountability. The district has purchased Edgenuity as an on-line resource for all grade levels.

Pandemic/Inclement Weather:

The state of Missouri has instructed all districts to submit a plan for an alternative method of instruction (AMI) for students should it be forced to close for inclement weather. The district's plan has already been approved for the 2021-22 school year. With an approved plan, the district may be exempt from making up missed instruction time up to 36 hours. North Nodaway will not utilize an AMI method for early out dismissals due to weather. Complete Remote Learning (described above) will be used after the 4th snow day of the school year. A school district textcaster will be sent out stating that the school district will be closed due to weather but students will be utilizing remote learning.

Communication:

Communication between the home and school is paramount in a time of crisis. We will take every effort as a district to keep students, staff, and patrons informed of changes associated with the spread of COVID-19. Our district's main form of communication will be via the school textcaster. We encourage families to sign up and utilize this service. The textcaster will feature messages or messages with instructions to check email, the school website, or a letter attached. The secondary form of communication that will be employed during this time will be letters sent from the school administration. We ask that teaching staff send their correspondence through student emails or other platforms approved by building administrators. Decisions concerning COVID-19 will be made with the collaboration of administration, staff, health officials, community agencies and the safe return committee. The contact personnel for North Nodaway is the superintendent followed by building administrators.

Student and Staff Expectations

As we try to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 we need to establish some expectations of students and staff. When determining expectations, we as committee had to keep the feasibility/practicality of our requests at the forefront of our decisions. Therefore there may be some expectations that could be considered "safer" but determined not to be feasible.

- Students and staff will determine for themselves should they wear protective masks to school. The feasibility of preschoolers or older students keeping them on or not bothering them seemed impractical. The board of education may or may not institute a mask mandate if it

reduces quarantine time for students. In 2020-2021 a mask mandate was in effect for all students during school hours and for spectators at in-side activities such as volleyball and basketball games.

- Students and staff will be requested to utilize social distancing practices in classrooms, public spaces, buses, and during extra-curricular activities.
- Students and staff will be encouraged to utilize proper hand washing and hygiene practices.
- Teachers will provide on-line learning instruction and training based on the strategy being employed.
- Teachers will post assignments by 8:00 am each day. Students will be expected to do the work by checking their emails each day or connecting on-line. Assignments may be turned in via on-line platforms, taking pictures, or other means requested by the teacher. Turning in assignments the next day in person or on-line will be used to justify attendance and monitoring progress of students.
- Teachers are expected to notify students and parents concerning how to receive assistance on independent work assignments.
- All teachers are expected to have at least one live video conference or on-line interaction per day as a minimum.
- Teachers will adhere to additional minimal expectations determined by their building principal or superintendent.

Cleaning/Disinfecting:

The district will make a concerted effort to increase the cleanliness of facilities during the pandemic. Custodial/teacher staff will clean desks, chairs, door knobs, and water fountains along with bathroom facilities throughout the day and again in the evening. Teachers will be asked to wipe down their desks with disinfectant wipes at the end of the day in the elementary and as necessary in the middle/high school. Bus seating and rails will be sprayed and wiped down after bus routes. Special surfaces will

be cleaned more often as needed such as bleachers and weight room materials. Because of the increased cleaning, more supplies and materials will be needed to provide a safe environment. During the 2020-2021 hands free equipment was installed such as: bottle filling stations, soap dispensers, paper towel dispensers, sink faucets, and toilet flushers.

Busing:

The district will evaluate busing needs depending on the Instructional phase the school is in. When possible the bus will be filled starting in the back and alternating every other seat back and forth across the aisle. Siblings and family members will be encouraged to sit together to maximize space. Bus drivers will be highly encouraged to wear masks. Students will not be restricted from entering the bus to ride unless specifically told by the nurse or administration. Busing protocols of social distancing will be stressed with students in extracurricular activities and travel to practices. If a mask mandate is in place students must wear masks on the bus.

Daily School Procedures:

- **Water Fountains-** Only bottle filling stations will be in use. Students/staff will need to bring a bottle for water. (All phases)
- **Social Distancing Markers-** Students and staff will need to adhere to social distancing/directional markers that will be placed within the building. More specifically at lunch, specials, hallways, bathrooms, and lining up locations for playgrounds, and busing purposes. These practices will definitely be used during the partially remote phase.
- **Morning Procedures-** In the elementary school, after students arrive, they will put their things away and sit where staff direct

them unless eating breakfast. In the high school, students will arrive through the commons door and proceed to the small gym to be dismissed for breakfast. The staff members on duty will make sure that social distancing is being maintained in the gym and cafeteria.

- **Breakfast/Lunch Procedures-** In order to minimize the spread of surface contamination, students will receive their trays and utensils from the cafeteria staff for both breakfast and during lunch. There will be 3 lunch shifts in the elementary (preK and K, 1st-2nd, and 3rd-5th). In the high school, there will be 3 shifts. Trading food, utilizing a share table, or serving yourself will be prohibited. A limited salad bar will be offered but placed in individual sealed containers. If seating becomes an issue, the administration may need to look at placing additional tables in areas such as the gym or have students eat in their classrooms. This may require the cafeteria staff to utilize disposable trays and utensils.
- **Passing Periods/ Attending Specials-** The elementary teachers will have to utilize safe judgement to get students from their classrooms to special classes throughout the day. In the high school/middle school, students will pass between classes accordingly: high school will dismiss on the first bell and the junior high will be dismissed on the second bell for each class.
- **Sick Student-** Sick students or those showing symptoms of having COVID-19 will be sent home immediately by the nurse/ school administration while waiting in a transition room. Temperatures should not be 100.4 degree or higher to be at school. The nurse/ administrator will notify the superintendent and then proceed with contacting the Nodaway County Health Department. The superintendent or his designee will start the proper communication to others. If students are complaining about being sick before coming to school, please don't send them to school or use fever reducing medicine prior to sending

them to school. The school is committed to keeping abreast and working to remain consistent with the current CDC guidelines.

Northwest Technical Center Students:

All North Nodaway students attending Northwest Technical Center are expected to attend days that they are in session even if the district is in a limited or remote phase of learning. The only time they would not attend is if we called for inclement weather or if they were not in session. The North Nodaway School District will provide transportation. Students are expected to ride the bus unless they are given special permission by the administration. North Nodaway students are expected to follow the guidelines for re-opening that are in place for Maryville R-II School District while in attendance.

Extracurricular Activities/ Events:

Participating in extracurriculars comes with extra risk often because of the nature of the activity. The North Nodaway School District will follow guidelines and recommendations put forth by the state athletic association. Athletic coaches will try to do as much practice outside as possible. Coaches will try to incorporate procedures that allow for social distancing when possible. Alternative schedules or minimizing the number of participants at a given time will be considered. Spectators at events may be limited or asked to wear masks based on available space or for mitigating purposes. Extra hygiene will be provided during events such as hand washing stations. Concessions will be available at these events with extra precautions taking place. Gate workers will be encouraged to wear protective equipment because of the personal contact of others. Should North Nodaway go to complete remote-learning activities will be cancelled as stated by MSHSAA.

Social & Emotional Support:

The North Nodaway R-VI School District understands that COVID-19 has caused stress and disruption into the lives of our students. The school guidance counselor will continue to provide services to students, staff, and families that are experiencing difficult times. This can be done in person or virtual. We promote employees and students to eat healthy, exercise, get plenty of rest, and find time to relax. Students and staff should talk with people they trust about their concerns and how they are feeling. The national distress hotline will be a piece of communication that we share with all families at the beginning of this year. That number is 1-800-985-5990, or text TalkWithUs to 66746.