

Tabernacle Township School District Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Service

Pursuant to the Federal American Rescue Plan Act, Section 2001(i)

January 12, 2022- This plan is subject to change based on updated guidance from the CDC and NJ Department of Health, NJ Department of Education or based on an Executive Order from the Governor.

1. Maintaining Health and Safety

A. Universal and correct wearing of masks If given the authority to make the decision locally, Tabernacle Township School District will be a mask-optional environment in 2021-2022.

Face masks must cover an individual's nose, mouth and chin and are to be worn by all students and staff at all times unless it will inhibit the individual's health. In the event that an individual is medically unable to wear a mask, a physician's note indicating such will be required. It is necessary to acknowledge that enforcing the use of face masks may be impractical for young children or individuals with disabilities.

- Face masks must comply with the requirements set forth in the applicable school dress code
- Proper use of face coverings will be taught and reinforced

B. Physical distancing: Our district will allow for social distancing within the classroom to the maximum extent practicable and in accordance with applicable NJ Department of Health and NJ Department of Education requirements. If we are not able to maintain this physical distance, additional modifications will be considered including using physical barriers, turning desks to face the same direction (rather than facing each other), and/or having students sit on only one side of the table, spaced apart. The following additional guidance is provided:

- Ensure that student and staff groupings are as static as possible
- Support social distancing and proper hand hygiene
- Stagger the use of communal spaces as much as possible and disinfect in accordance with cleaning and sanitizing protocols.

- Utilize larger instructional areas to promote/meet social distancing efforts
- Encourage all staff, students, and their families to follow applicable guidelines when gathering. This includes, but is not limited to, all areas within and/or on school premises.

C. Hand washing and respiratory etiquette: The district will continue teaching and reinforcing the importance of washing hands and covering coughs and sneezes among children and staff. In addition, the district:

- Will maintain adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors, including soap and hand sanitizer.
- Will have sanitizing stations throughout the district including:
 - in each classroom
 - at the entrances and exits of buildings
 - near lunchrooms and toilets
 - in offices and common areas
 - in hallways
- Will encourage that students wash hands at regular intervals, including before eating, after using the bathroom, and after blowing their nose/coughing/sneezing
- Will post signs on how to stop the spread of COVID-19, properly wash hands, promote everyday protective measures, maintain social distancing and properly wear a face covering, etc.

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation: The Tabernacle Township School District will adhere to existing required facilities cleaning practices and procedures, and will implement all new specific requirements of the local health department as they arise. An enhanced Facilities Cleaning Plan establishes cleaning/disinfecting schedules, targeted areas to be cleaned, and methods and materials in use.

Cleaning/Sanitizing procedures include:

- A schedule for increased routine cleaning and disinfection
- Use of all cleaning products according to the directions on the label.
- Adherence to the manufacturer's instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products (e.g. concentration, application method, and contact time, etc.)

- Sanitizing of bathrooms daily, or between use as much as possible, using protocols outlined by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
- Enhanced cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces and objects that are frequently touched or shared.
- Water fountains will be disabled or have bubblers capped or removed.
- Touch free bottle refilling stations are available in each building.

Ventilation/Ventilation Improvements: The district maintains adequate ventilation, including operational heating and ventilation systems in all indoor facilities where appropriate. Fresh intake and distribution will be physically inspected and adjusted to provide maximum fresh air circulation.

E. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments: The NJDOE Guidance does not include any “anticipated minimum standards” for contact tracing. Therefore, guidance is derived from State, county, and local officials in conjunction with the expertise of school nurses. In addition, The Tabernacle Township Board of Education adopted Policy-1648 which contains information about Contact Tracing.

F. Diagnostic and screening testing: The Tabernacle Township Board of Education adopted Policy-1648. Students, staff, and others are monitored to ensure they are healthy and not exhibiting signs of illness by first educating all stakeholders (students, staff, and parents/guardians) on the signs and symptoms of COVID-19. Students and their parents will be asked to self-monitor at home before sending children to school and/or reporting to school. In addition, all students and staff are required to complete an attestation form at the beginning of the school year. *Any student or staff displaying symptoms associated with COVID are sent directly to the nurse’s office for screening and placed in an isolation area if COVID symptoms are assessed by the nurse.* The district will follow the COVID-19 symptom list provided by the NJDOH. Students shall remain in isolation with continued supervision and care until picked up by an authorized adult. After the nurse screens a staff member showing signs of symptoms of COVID-19, they will be instructed to immediately leave school.

Students and staff will be referred to an authorized COVID-19 testing center in the event that testing is required. Authorized testing centers will operate and administer testing in accordance with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and NJ Department of Health (DOH)

requirements in order for the school district to recognize test results as valid. Final determination of test results will be referred to the DOH as necessary.

Additional guidance is provided by BOE Policy 1648. Executive Orders, Department of Education guidance and/or guidance from the county health department may supersede all BOE policy language and may lead to a change in our district protocols.

G. Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible:

The District has provided the staff members with links to register for vaccinations, coordinated vaccination sessions with Rite Aid, and shared information about vaccinations available at local districts. We have also shared vaccination information about local clinics with our families so that students eligible to receive vaccinations can do so. The district has and will continue to provide information to the learning community in regard to local vaccination opportunities. Executive Orders, Department of Education guidance and/or guidance from the county health department may supersede all BOE policy language and may lead to a change in our district protocols.

H. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies:

The Tabernacle Township School District recognizes that special populations of students will require unique considerations to ensure the continuity of learning as well as the health and safety of students within the least restrictive learning environment. The Plan includes the following:

- Maintain professional development for staff in order to leverage the various accessibility and accommodation features that are available in order to support technology-based instruction. Staff will continue to institute best practices as it relates to providing instruction to students while simultaneously maintaining strict health and safety standards that have been adopted by the district.
- Continuing to ensure that students receive individualized supports that meet the requirements of IEP and 504 Plans.
- Development of schedules that directly support the individualized needs of students with IEP and 504 Plans.

If masks are required, the district will ensure that they cover an individual's nose, mouth and chin to be worn by all students and staff at all times unless it will inhibit the individual's

health but acknowledges that enforcing the use of face masks may be impractical for individuals with disabilities.

2. Ensuring Continuity of Services

The Tabernacle Township School District will operate on a five full day instructional schedule for the 2021-2022 school year. The Tabernacle Township School District will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address students' academic needs and students' and staff's social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services, as follows:

- The Tabernacle School District employs a variety of staff members who are focused on supporting the needs of our students and their families. Our administration, school counselors, case managers, and District Homeless Liaison work with families in need to ensure that they have access to housing, food, technology, and transportation to and from school. Our school counselors and case managers are available to assist students in person, via phone, or via online sessions. The Tabernacle Township School District will continue to provide IEP and 504 mandated counseling services. In addition, the district will continue to strengthen its partnerships with outside agencies to ensure that all families are aware of and have access to outside resources to support their overall well-being.
- Teachers are encouraged to monitor behavioral concerns. The administrative team, along with teachers, counselors, case managers and other personnel will develop strategies for teachers to use to help students become more productive in the classroom such as tangible reinforcers, routines, positive phrasing and breaks. In addition, mindfulness techniques, and social skill groups will all continue to help support the mental health of the students. Consultation by the district behaviorist, LDT-C, or the school psychologist may be utilized to help develop plans to address behaviors.
 - Social Emotional Learning is supported at each of the district schools. The utilization of the SEL Team which consists of CST, Counselors, and Administration will help to implement grade/age-appropriate strategies. Relationship and community building activities will continue to be implemented.
 - The continued social and emotional well-being of staff will be a focus of our professional development and support.

3. Public Comment

A. Describe how the LEA sought public comment on its plan, and how it took those public comment into account in the development of its plan.

The Tabernacle Township School District sought public comment for the plan by first discussing it at a COVID Operations Advisory Committee Meeting with members of the Board of Education, parents, staff, and administration. The plan was also shared with staff via email and parents via our website. Comments were accepted until June 18, 2021. All comments were reviewed by our district's administrative team and the plan was modified prior to submitting an updated plan to the Board of Education for approval on June 21, 2021, and the plan will be voted on for re-adoption on January 18, 2022. Further modifications will be made and presented to the Board as required by updated guidance from the NJDOE and NJDOH.

B. Describe how the LEA ensured that the plan is in an understandable and uniform format; is to the extent practicable written in a language that parents can understand or, if not practicable to provide written translations to a parent with limited English proficiency, will be orally translated for such a parent; and upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA, will be provided in an alternative format accessible to that parent.

The Tabernacle Township School District incorporated language from the "Road Back" and the district's "Restart and Recovery Plan." The district's website, where the plan is posted, has translation features. The website is also compliant to the Americans with Disabilities Act.