

Palo Pinto ISD Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan 2023-2024

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Next Review Date: On or before December 1, 2023

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III Fund is to help safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impacts of COVID-19 on the nation's students by addressing students' academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs.

Palo Pinto ISD's goal has been to return to in-person teaching and learning as quickly and as safely as possible to better meet our students' academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs. In-person learning was provided during the 2020-2021, 2021-2022, and 2022-2023 school years, and we look forward to welcoming students back to school on Monday, August 7, 2023.

MAINTAINING HEALTH AND SAFETY

Palo Pinto ISD will continue to take action to ensure the health and safety of students and staff. This document describes the extent to which Palo Pinto ISD has implemented the CDC guidelines to maintain the health and safety of students and staff.

Universal and correct wearing of masks – Revision per Board Action 3/23/2021: Per Texas Governor's Executive Order No. GA-34 as of 3/2/2021, TEA's updated Public Health Planning Guidance as of 3/3/2021, and PPISD's Board action as of 3/23/2021, the day-to-day mandate of wearing masks is optional.

Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing – N/A

Hand washing and Respiratory etiquette – On the first day of school, staff will provide instruction to students on appropriate hygiene practices, including handwashing (soap and water for at least 20 seconds). Students and staff will be encouraged to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, and if not available, to cover with their elbows. The district will have hand sanitizer at each entrance. Further, Palo Pinto ISD also has hand sanitizer and hand washing stations with soap and water in every classroom.

Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including ventilation – Palo Pinto ISD will continue cleaning practices, including additional cleaning by janitorial staff, as well as provide the opportunity for children to clean their own spaces before and after they are used, in ways that are safe and developmentally appropriate.

Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine – As of May 11, 2023, the CDC's guidance for individuals testing positive for COVID-19, is to stay home for at least 5 days, and isolate themselves from others. Students and staff may return to school after they have been fever-free for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medication). PPISD will notify staff and parents of confirmed cases.

Diagnostic and screening testing – The nurse will conduct temperature checks for individuals who may be symptomatic; a temperature of 99.5 or higher will require additional screening.

Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities – in coordination with the local health departments, all school staff members had access to vaccinations with release time provided; communication regarding student vaccinations and locations within our school facilities has been established.

Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies – accommodations are provided on a case-by-case basis.

Coordination with state and local health officials – There has been extensive coordination with state and local health officials regarding school opening practices and procedures, school closings, and mitigation strategies. Palo Pinto ISD will remain (and continue to be) in close communication with the local health department officials.

CONTINUITY OF SERVICES

Palo Pinto ISD has taken and will continue to take actions to 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.

Academic Needs – In-person learning was provided during the 2020-2021, 2021-2022, and 2022-2023 school years, and we look forward to welcoming students back to school on Monday, August 7, 2023.

Palo Pinto ISD has created a fail-safe process to identify every student who needs interventions or extensions and then ensures that each student receives the appropriate help in a timely manner. Identified students are required, rather than invited, to utilize our campus support services. Daily small group instruction during Intervention/Enrichment/Reflection provides students with what they need. Individual student data will determine the level of support and placement in the groupings. Study plans and student conferences will be used to provide a personalized approach to each student.

For students with disabilities (SPED, 504, RTI), the Palo Pinto ISD special education teacher will work with general education teachers, students, and families to minimize barriers. Our goal is to create multiple means of engagement through IEPs, 504 plans, and Individual Accommodations Plans (IAPs) to generate student interest and motivation for learning, represent the information and content differently by providing leveled and personalized learning, and provide more affirmative and corrective feedback.

Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs: Palo Pinto ISD has partnered with Pecan Valley Centers to provide services such as counseling, school-based mental health programs, and mentoring services.

Student Health Needs – Palo Pinto ISD maintains a concern for student health and well-being, as evidenced by our partnership with Palo Pinto General Hospital for telehealth services. Telemedicine provides access to a medical provider during school and students remain on campus.

Food Service Needs – students were provided the opportunity to receive school meals for all remote learning days.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

During the development of the Palo Pinto Elementary Instruction Guide, Palo Pinto ISD sought input from faculty, staff, parents, and students and included all stakeholders. Opportunities for parent and community input were provided during the Public Comment section of regular meetings of the Palo Pinto ISD School Board. All input was considered in the development of the reopening plan.

PERIODIC REVIEW AND REVISION OF THE PLAN

During the period of the ARP ESSER award (until September 2023), Palo Pinto ISD will review and as needed, revise its plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services. The plan will be reviewed at least every six months, and the school system will seek and take into account public input during the review process. Plan revisions will address updated CDC guidance on safely reopening schools if any are issued.

MAKING THE PLAN AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC

Palo Pinto ISD has taken the following steps to make this plan available to the public:

- The plan is posted at www.palopintoisd.net
- The plan is available in Spanish, upon request
- 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 Natalie Rogers, nrogers@palopintosid.net, 940.659.2745.