

## Fall 2021 Return to School Plan

The Deuel School District will continue to work in collaboration with local, regional, state, and national resources throughout the school year to ensure the health and safety of our staff and students. Protocols and procedures may change quickly as conditions warrant. The District recognizes the importance of in-person learning, therefore will offer only on-campus classes for all students during the 2021- 2022 school year.

- The District encourages physical distancing throughout the school day and school activities where feasible.
- Frequent handwashing throughout the day, before and after eating, and after using shared equipment is recommended.
- Hand washing/sanitization stations
  - Each classroom will have hand sanitization stations and students are encouraged to sanitize their hands often.
  - Proper hand washing techniques will be reviewed with students, and we encourage students to wash their hands as often as possible.
  - Staff will encourage students to practice good hygiene, including: covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue and proper disposal, avoiding touching of a person's face, and social distancing when possible,
- Water bottles are highly recommended. Water bottle fill stations are available in the building.
- COVID-related extended absences will be addressed individually based on students' specific situations. Students will have access to classroom resources and/or learning management systems.

### **Daily Procedures and Protocols**

- Masks and other personal protective equipment (PPE) may be worn at the discretion of parents or students.
  - Any student or staff that becomes symptomatic during the school day will be required to put a mask on and will be sent home.
- Students will not be allowed into the school until 7:50 am.
- School facilities and classrooms will continue to receive extra cleaning and disinfecting.

### **Bussing Procedures**

- Due to space limitations on our busses, we will be unable to properly social distance students on the bus.
- Bus seats and high touch areas will be cleaned before and after each route.
- Hand sanitizer will be available on each bus.

### **Quarantine Protocols**

- Students testing positive for Covid-19:
  - Student must follow the CDC and DOH 5-day isolation requirement.
  - Only students with a verified positive Covid-19 Test will be allowed to remote learn.
- Students identified as a close contact to a confirmed positive test for Covid-19.
  - Contact tracing will be completed, and parents will be notified of possible exposure.
  - Students will not be required to quarantine unless they become symptomatic.
  - If a parent chooses to quarantine their student remote learning will be provided.
- Quarantine Protocols may be adjusted as necessary to meet any unforeseen issues with Covid-19 spread.

### **Activities**

All activities will return to pre-COVID-19 protocols. There are no attendance restrictions for activity attendance.

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

Additional counseling services have been provided this year to assist with individual student and group counseling needs. Any student or staff needs or concerns should be reported to school administration immediately. Counseling services are also available through the district health insurer.

### **Food Service**

Nutritious meals at school are part of a critical safety net to support the physical, mental, social, and emotional health and well-being for students. All students should have access to school meals and adequate time to consume them. The School District provides meal options that best meet the nutritional needs of students in an environment that promotes social distancing and personal hygiene practices as a means of supporting optimal academic success. In the event of a school closure due to COVID the district will consider alternative options to provide meals to students in the district via options that could potentially lead to delivery or pick up of meals.

### **Modifying Facilities**

The Deuel School District will not be modifying class schedules, locations, or limit class sizes. If COVID cases rise to a level of concern by the administration and school board steps will be taken to mitigate the spread.

### **Special Education**

The Deuel School District Special Education Department is committed to providing necessary and appropriate educational opportunities for students with disabilities to the greatest extent in accordance with the guidance from the US Department of Education, SD Department of Education, SD Department of Health, CDC guidelines and the state of South Dakota.

Collaboration with families will continue to be an integral part of the special education process. The district will address the individual needs of each student with disabilities, special education staff will continue to work with families to provide the necessary services in the normal learning setting or when remote learning must become an option. Individual Education Plans (IEP's) may be adjusted, as needed, for circumstances of the learning environment based on students' needs and services. Staff will work diligently to provide special education services.

### **Vaccinations**

- We strongly encourage families to vaccinate students based on current CDC guidance but will not be requiring Covid-19 vaccinations. Vaccinations are available through our local health provider.

### **Learning Loss**

The Deuel School District will track learning progression via state, local, classroom, and NWEA assessments. Learners who need additional support and services may be eligible for summer school learning opportunities, classroom interventions, and after school remediation. Provided services would take place during the school year and/or during supervised summer sessions.

### **Diagnostic and Screening Testing for COVID-19**

During the 2021-22 school year, the Deuel School District will not administer testing to students. Students will be encouraged to visit their healthcare provider if symptomatic.

### **Communication**

Any changes to this plan will be communicated to all stakeholders via: school website, campus messenger (email, text, or voice), newspaper, and social media.

- Persons who speak a language other than English or persons with disabilities that need assistance with options to access this plan should contact Superintendent Chad Schiernbeck at [chad.schiernbeck@k12.sd.us](mailto:chad.schiernbeck@k12.sd.us) or 605-874-2161 x205

Board Approved: 8-9-21

Board Amended: 1-10-22

