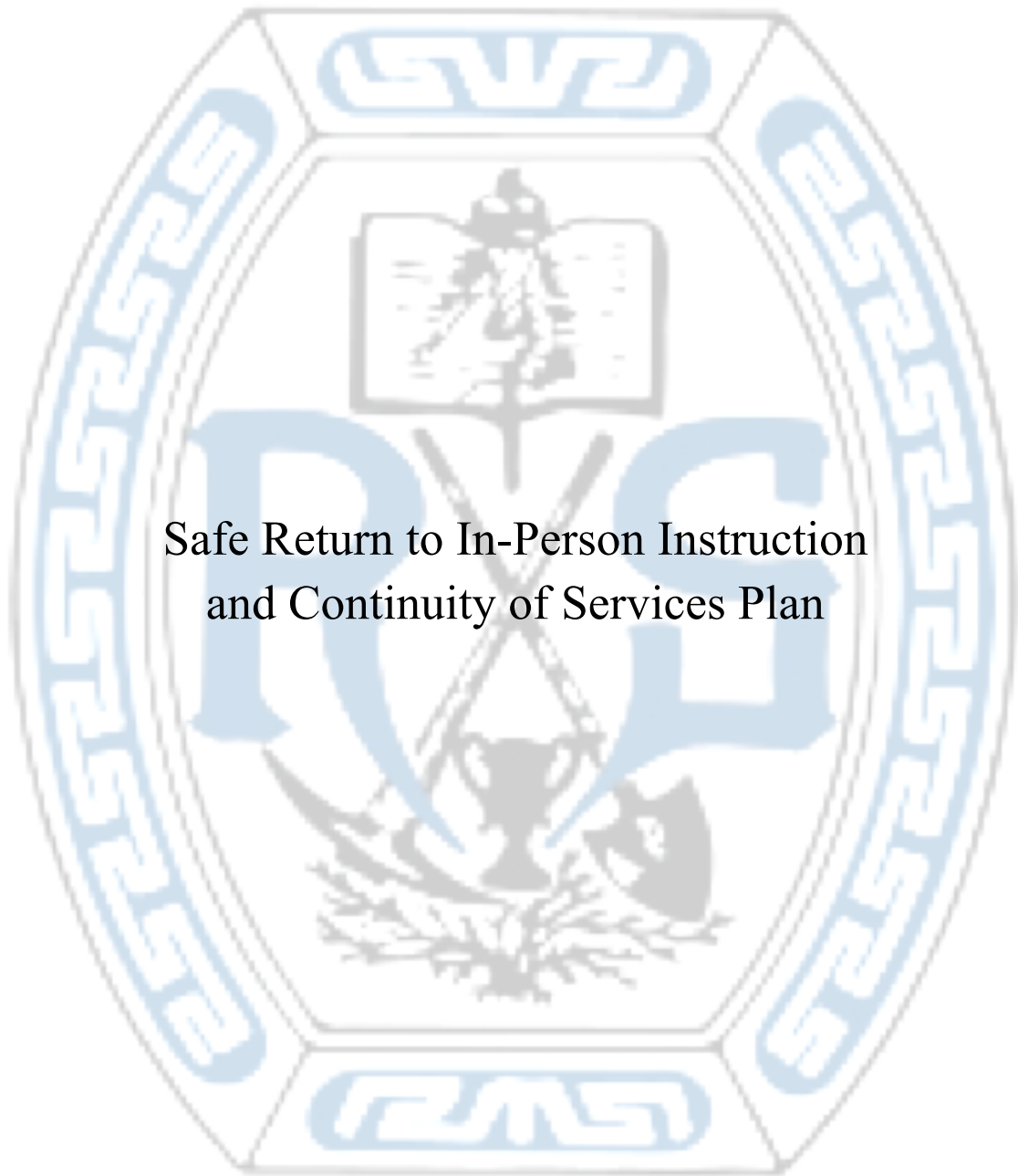


Sweetwater County School District Number One



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

Vision Statement: As an innovative District, united with our community, we empower and inspire all students to academic excellence in pursuit of their interests and passions.

Message from the Wyoming Department of Education to districts:

The Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief 3.0 (ESSER 3.0) Fund under the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2, enacted on March 11, 2021. ARP ESSER Funding provides a total of nearly \$122 billion to states and local educational agencies (LEAs) to help safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the nation's students. In addition to ARP ESSER Funding, ARP includes \$3 billion for special education, \$850 million for the Outlying Areas, \$2.75 billion to support non-public schools, and additional funding for homeless children and youth, Tribal educational agencies, Native Hawaiians, and Alaska Natives.

Local Education Agencies (LEAs) must develop and make publicly available a Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan that meets the following requirements within 30 days of receiving ARP ESSER allocation. If an LEA developed a plan before ARP was enacted that does not address the requirements, the LEA must revise its plan no later than six months after it last reviewed its plan. All plans must be developed with meaningful public consultation with stakeholder groups (i.e., families, students, teachers, principals, school and district administrators, school leaders, other educators, school staff, advocacy organizations representing student groups). The consultation process must include an opportunity for input and meaning consideration of that input. ARP ESSER plans need to be published in an understandable and uniform format; to the extent practicable, 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.

Note: LEAs need to update the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan at least every six months through the life of the grant. Additionally, LEAs must seek public input on any of these revisions and must take that input into account. All revisions must include a rationale of why the revisions were made.

Part One: Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Plan

1. Describe the extent to which the LEA has adopted policies and a description of any such policies on each of the following health and safety strategies.

Mitigation Strategies

Universal wearing of masks

In the July 21, 2021 Board of Education meeting, the Trustees took action allowing the option for masks or other face coverings to be left to the discretion of families and employees. The District is working to ensure that all stakeholders are safe while promoting safe procedures within the District.

Sweetwater County School District Number One follows health orders directed by the state of Wyoming and since there are none, we have none.

School nurses have provided links from the National Association of Nurses in both English and Spanish for parents to decide if they should send their kids to school ([Can I Send my Student to School? - COVID-19 Reference](#)).

The following questions can be used as a guide. Does your student have any of the following symptoms:

- A cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- A fever of 100.4 degrees F or higher or a sense of having a fever
- A sore throat
- Chills
- New loss of taste or smell
- Headache
- Muscle or body aches
- Nausea/vomiting/diarrhea
- Congestion/running nose - not related to seasonal allergies
- Unusual fatigue

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Another great way to protect yourself is to wash your hands often. Supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the District promotes hand washing practices included in the following information:

- [Wash your hands](#) often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- It's especially important to wash:
 - Before and after preparing or eating food
 - Before touching your face
 - After using the restroom
 - After touching garbage
 - After leaving a public place
 - After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing
 - After handling your mask
 - After changing a diaper or after a child who has used the toilet
 - After caring for someone sick with vomiting or diarrhea
 - After touching animals or pets
 - Before and after treating a cut or wound

- If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

Hand sanitizer is available at multiple locations within the District schools and offices.

Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

Enhanced sanitation occurs within the District facilities including extra custodial staff supported through grant funds. Cleaning crews are trained by a facilities supervisor in cleaning and sanitation protocols while using products to eliminate the COVID-19 virus. Age-appropriate signage is displayed throughout the District relating to COVID-19 symptoms, testing and contact tracing protocols, hand washing, and vaccine information and serve as reminders for all stakeholders.

Although there are no restrictions in place and masks are optional, Sweetwater Number One continues to promote and model good hand washing, utilize upgraded ventilation systems, UV-C lighting, ionizers, and negative air pressure systems that were installed during the 2020-2021 school year. The District has supplies, equipment, and materials needed to keep schools open for in-person instruction (i.e. Transportation, Nutrition Services, Technology, Facilities, Warehouse, Special Services, and Curriculum).

Diagnostic and screening testing

Parents are asked to screen their children daily for symptoms of COVID-19 before sending their children to school. Students and staff are encouraged to stay home if they are sick or awaiting results from a COVID-19 test.

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

The Board of Education approved a \$500 one-time COVID-19 Health and Safety Incentive to help protect against COVID-19 exposure and illness among our students, staff, and the community at their October 11, 2021 meeting. The Health and Safety Incentive was available to all full or part-time employees of Sweetwater County School District Number One, long-term substitutes serving in permanent full-time classroom teaching positions, part-time substitutes who have subbed in a classroom for a minimum of four full school days in the 2021- 2022 school year, and contracted staffing from Elwood Staffing, Soliant Health, eLuma, and Linguabilities (collectively the “Eligible Individuals”). The COVID-19 Health and Safety Incentive is available to those Eligible Individuals who have already been vaccinated, or to those Eligible Individuals who voluntarily complete their COVID-19 vaccination dosage during the eligibility period of the Health and Safety Incentive, as defined within the Incentive. For those Eligible Individuals who do not wish to be vaccinated, they were able to receive a Health and Safety Incentive by obtaining bi-monthly COVID-19 testing within the Incentive terms. Funding for the COVID-19 Health and Safety

Incentive came from Federal COVID-19 ESSER II grant relief funds and approved by the Wyoming Department of Education.

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

District Nurses serve all District staff and students including children with disabilities with health and safety policies. Health care plans support the families with medically fragile students and accommodations are available through the Individuals with Disabilities and Education Act (IDEA) and Individual Education Plan (IEP) process. Specially designed instruction and related services are followed as indicated on the student's IEP.

2. Describe how the LEA will ensure continuity of services including but not limited to services to address the students' academic needs, and students' and staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services.

Teachers provide high quality standards-based instruction for all students with the expectation that all essential standards are taught. All District students are provided with a laptop computer or i-Pad and charger. The Sweetwater Number One Temporary Virtual Education Policy, Policy File IDA, allows students to temporarily access classes through virtual learning, in accordance with Wyoming law, Wyoming Department of Education regulations, and stipulations provided within Policy.

Students needing internet assistance for temporary virtual learning days can contact the District for support options.

The District mental health team which includes school counselors, social workers, and school psychologists works with staff, students, and parents to address mental health needs that have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 Pandemic. Students are experiencing mental health concerns such as anxiety, depression, and grief which are keeping them physically out of the learning environment and/or reducing their ability to focus on the learning process. When approached during the 2020-21 school year to be part of the Project AWARE Grant with the Wyoming Department of Education and the Wyoming Department of Health, Sweetwater School District was grateful for the opportunities as we were seeing escalated mental health needs in our students. Through this Grant a dedicated counselor will provide therapeutic counseling in a tele-health format to students during the school day.

Sweetwater Number One implemented an employee assistance program in January of 2023 to support all district employees, their dependents, and household members. This program offers a wide variety of counseling, referral, and consultation services, which are all designed to assist you and your family in resolving work and life issues in order to live happier, healthier, more balanced

lives. From stress, addiction, and change management, to locating child care facilities, legal assistance, and financial challenges, our qualified professionals are here to help. These services are completely confidential and can be easily accessed 24/7, offering you around-the-clock assistance for all of life's challenges.

In addition to the Project AWARE Grant, suicide awareness training is provided to all District staff annually. Beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, counselors provide age appropriate lessons to all students K-12. Students are given the opportunity to take a Signs of Suicide screener starting in sixth grade. Counselors and social workers monitor responses and follow up with students and their families needing to speak to someone. Social, emotional, and mental assistance is more important than ever with individuals dealing with the ramifications of a world-wide pandemic. Some staff are experiencing increased/elevated mental health concerns that make them less able to respond to students and support them. We recognize the continuing need for mental health services within our community to better serve the needs of our students and staff. We continue to actively pursue additional support and build stronger partnerships with our community.

School nurses are available to assist staff, students, and families and are always available to answer questions from families.

Breakfast, second chance breakfast, and lunch are available for all District students attending in-person.

3. The State requires a description of the process by which the LEA will collaborate with local health officials to monitor student health metrics throughout the school year. Provide that description below.

Sweetwater #1 has collaborated with the Sweetwater County Department of Health since the Pandemic started in March 2020.

Part Two: Consultation with Stakeholders

1. Describe how the LEA will, in planning for the use of ARP ESSER funds, engaged in meaningful consultation with stakeholders, including, but not limited to: students, families, school and district administrators (including special education administrators), teachers, principals, school leaders, other educators, school staff, and their unions, tribes, civil rights organizations (including disability rights organizations), and stakeholders representing the interests of children with disabilities, English learners, children experiencing homelessness, children and youth in foster care, migratory students, children who are incarcerated, and other underserved students.

The District assembled a Re-entry (Smart Start) Task Force in the summer 2020 to support an effective school reopening process during the COVID-19 Pandemic. This Task Force was not a decision-making entity, but rather an advisory committee to provide recommendations to the District. This Task Force was brought back together and has been expanded to add other stakeholders to assist with the development of the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan. The full District process to obtain the American Rescue Plan (ARP) ESSER Grant Funds includes:

American Rescue Plan (ARP) Grant Process			
The Safe Return to In-person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan			
Date	Time	Participants	Purpose
10/24/2021	email	Board of Education	Draft timeline and process
10/25/2021	email	District Leadership Team (Administrators, Directors, Coordinators)	Draft timeline and process
11/3/2021	6:00 - 8:00 p.m. CAB Board Room	District Re-entry and Smart Start Task Force re-assembled and expanded, Zach	Provide input on The Safe Return Plan
11/4/2021	Board Agenda	Kelly McGovern	Supplemental info for November Board Meeting
11/4/2021	ParentSquare, District Website, School Websites, Facebook	Kelly McGovern	Community information on the Safe Return Plan and opportunity for oral or written public comment at the November 8, 2021 Board of Education Meeting
11/8/2021	Board Agenda - Action Item	Kelly McGovern	Safe Return Plan presented during the November School Board Meeting with approval of the Plan at the Board's discretion.
11/9/2021	District Website	Stephanie Tolman and Kelly McGovern	Safe Return Plan uploaded to the District website and link submitted to WDE

11/19/2021	link	WDE	Due date for The Safe Return to In-person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan
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The ARP ESSER Implementation (spending) Plan			
Date	Time	Participants	Purpose
10/31/2021	email	Board of Education	Draft timeline and process
11/1/2021	email	District Leadership Team (Administrators, Directors, Coordinators)	Draft timeline and process
11/4/2021	email	Kelly McGovern / Tonette West	Advertise for Public Forums to be held on 11/15/21
11/4/2021	email	Parent Involvement for Student Achievement (PISA) Task Force re-assembled and expanded and Zach Gunyan	Welcome email inviting them to the November 10, 2021 meeting
11/5/2021	9:00 - 11:00 a.m.	Linda Carter, Jodie Garner, Scot Duncan, Nicole Bolton, and Kelly McGovern	Review ESSER I, II, and Federal CARES Grant purchases and budgets
11/5/2021	1:30 - 2:30 p.m.	Stephanie Tolman, Jodie Garner, Nicole Bolton, Scot Duncan, Kayci Arnoldi, Linda Carter, and Kelly McGovern	Create online form for ARP input and submissions
11/8/2021	7:00 - 7:30 a.m. virtual meeting	Districts Leadership Team (Administrators, Directors, Coordinators)	Review online form for ARP input and submissions

11/9/2021	8:00 - 10:00 a.m.	Zach Gunyan, Nicole Bolton, Scot Duncan, Stephanie Tolman, and Kelly McGovern	Record District message on ARP ESSER Grant Process
11/9/2021	District-wide email	Nicole Bolton, Stephanie Tolman, Jodie Garner, Scot Duncan, Kayci Arnoldi, and Kelly McGovern	YouTube link for recording of ARP ESSER Grant Process, allowable use of funds, and link to submit ideas and requests
11/10/2021	6:00 - 8:00 p.m. CAB Board Room	Parent Involvement for Student Achievement (PISA) Task Force re-assembled and expanded and Zach Gunyan	Provide input on ARP ESSER Implementation (spending) Plan
11/9/2021 - 11/30/2021	Window closes 11/30/21 at 4:30 p.m.	All District Staff and Community Stakeholders	Window to submit ARP ESSER ideas
11/11/2021	ParentSquare, District Website, School Websites, and Facebook	Kelly McGovern	Communication on Forums held at the beginning of next week and opportunity for community input on the ARP ESSER Implementation (spending) Plan
11/15/2021	7:15 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.	Board of Trustees, Zach Gunyan, and Administrators	Public Forums to gather community input on the use of ARP ESSER Funds
12/6/2021	Board Agenda	Kelly McGovern	Info for December Board Meeting
12/8/2021	ParentSquare and Facebook	Kelly	Communication on Board Meeting and ARP ESSER Implementation (spending) Plan
12/13/2021	Board Agenda - Action Item	Linda Carter, Scot Duncan, Kelly McGovern, and others as needed	ARP ESSER Implementation (spending) Plan presented during the December School Board Meeting with approval of the Plan at the Board's discretion.

12/14/2021	District Website	Stephanie Tolman and Kelly McGovern	ARP ESSER Implementation (spending) Plan uploaded to the District website and link submitted to WDE
1/18/2022	link	WDE	Due date for The ARP ESSER Implementation (spending) Plan

2. Provide an overview of how the public stakeholder input was considered in the development of the LEA's Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan?

Stakeholder input is gathered through the District Communication Plan. This Plan is a two-way process that bridges initial planning, immediate steps to provide engagement with the school community, Board of Education approval, and implementation. Regular communication with the community builds trust and transparency. The communication plan is the vehicle to share and receive information with the community.

To facilitate transparency, the department (i.e. Wyoming Department of Education) will post the link to each school district's plan on its website. It will be the responsibility of the district to ensure its link remains valid.