

Cooke City School District

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

Date of Adoption: June 23, 2021

Revision Date: December 14, 2021

Revision Date: June 20, 2022

Revision Date: December 16, 2022

Revision Date: June 1, 2023

Revision Date: March 11, 2024

SAFETY MEASURES

The District is taking the following measures to safely provide in-person instruction, including consideration of guidance by the CDC and state and local health officials as follows:

Universal and correct wearing of masks

Due to the small number of enrolled students at Cooke City School, the students will be viewed as a cohort. Mandatory mask wearing will not be required. Mask wearing by students and staff wishing to do so will be supported; however, parental choice and employee choice will be permitted.

Physical Distancing

The small number students attending Cooke City School will be deemed a cohort. Physical distancing will not be required. Physical distancing is considered a personal choice for staff, students, and visitors to the school.

Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette

The practice of good hygiene and hand washing has been and will continue to be emphasized by the staff. The expectation for handwashing will be imbedded in the routine: after coughing/sneezing blowing nose (use cough hygiene); before and after snacks/meals; after using the restroom; as deemed necessary by the teacher.

Handwashing locations, an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol, and antibacterial wipes will be provided by the school for use by staff, students, and visitors. Assignments for bathroom use will be in place. Classroom equipment will be assigned when possible.

Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities (including improving ventilation)

High-touch surfaces and objects will be cleaned at least once a day. The communal eating table will be cleaned prior to and following lunch. Sharing of hard-to-clean surfaces (computers) will be limited.

The ventilation in the school building is adequate for the number of students and staff.

Contact Tracing

Cooke City School follows the contract tracing protocols established by the Park County Health Department and refers any questions to the County Health Nurse who conducts contact tracing.

Diagnostic and Screening Testing

Screening testing is not offered by the district. The local volunteer fire department is conducting rapid COVID-19 tests for the community. Cooke City School follows the suggested protocols for screening and testing established by the Park County Health Department. Any questions or referrals are forwarded to the County Health Nurse.

Vaccinations

The District will act in accordance with state and federal law with respect to vaccinations for its staff and eligible students. The Cooke City School district is too small to offer vaccination clinics. Employees and families will be directed to the Park County Health Department's website listing available clinics within the county. Employees should seek to obtain a vaccine on non-work days.

The District will not refuse, withhold from, or deny a person any services, goods, facilities, advantages, privileges, licensing, educational opportunities, health care access, or employment opportunities based on the person's vaccination status.

Accommodating Students with Disabilities

The District will provide accommodations to its policies for students with disabilities as determined appropriate based upon the individual student needs and in accordance with an individual accommodation plan or individualized education plan. Students requiring accommodations should contact the County Superintendent at 406-222-4148 to request information on plans for students with disabilities.

CONTINUITY OF SERVICES

The District will provide for continuity of services as follows:

Student Academic Needs

Cooke City School is a small one room school with one teacher. The students receive individualized, differentiated instruction addressing their academic needs.

Intervention programs have been purchased to lessen student achievement gaps. Both formative and summative assessments will be used to monitor students and determine best instructional methods. Funds will be used to increase engagement and learning opportunities for all students, through field trips to enhance subject area learning, educational supplies, including technology, hardware, and software.

Student Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs

In order to combat student stress associated with increased isolation of COVID-19, the district will provide opportunities for the students to fill their reservoir of physical and mental well-being. A survey will be sent to local stakeholders each April and based on those results, Cooke City will continue to plan swimming lessons, camping opportunities, museum visits and special outings that enhance the educational, physical and mental health of the students.

A Social Emotional Learning curriculum, *Character Strong*, has been purchased through the non-profit, Rural Resilience, and is being implemented. Any serious issues are referred to professional service providers. Cooke City School is part of and MTSS and as such works with this organization as well as Rural Resilience and the County Health department to provide resources such as *Mental Health First Aid* which are a good fit for this remote community.

Other Student Needs (which may include student health and food services)

There are no food services provided due to the small number of students in attendance. Student health issues are referred to the County Health Nurse who conducts all of the annual screenings, immunizations as needed, and is available for office consultation as needed.

Staff Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs

Employees will be made aware of events, professional development, and online self-help programs provided through the county, such as *Thrive* which are related to social, emotional, and mental health needs. The Park County Health Department will serve as a resource for staff needs.

Other Staff Needs

The County Superintendent of Schools is available to help staff and to make referrals as needed.

PUBLIC INPUT

Notice of public comment will be posted in the local newsletter one week prior to the date of the March school board meeting at which time the draft will be reviewed. A copy of the draft plan will be posted on the door of the school as well as inside the school building. Copies of the plan will be made available to those members of the public who request a copy.

The District will review this Plan at least once every six months and will provide an opportunity for public input in association with any review of the Plan.