

ESMERALDA COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT (EsCSD) RE-OPENING PLAN 2020-2021

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BACKGROUND:

On June 28, 2020, Governor Sisolak issued Declaration of Emergency Directive 022 requiring that school districts and charter schools develop plans for reopening school buildings, providing instruction, and related activities, based on *Nevada's Path Forward: A Framework for a Safe, Efficient, and Equitable Return to School Buildings* and any subsequent guidance issued by the Nevada Department of Education (NDE). In addition, Directive 022 directed the Superintendent of Public Instruction to prescribe minimum requirements and a timeline for each county school district and charter school to develop, share with their community, receive governing board approval for, and submit to NDE a plan for a Path Forward Program of Distance Education. Pandemic Factors and Mandatory guidance implementation. Subsequently Directive 028 offered clarification Social Distancing and use of Cloth Face Coverings.

EsCSD is a PK-8 District of less than 100 students located at three separate school sites (Dyer 50, Goldfield 35, Silver Peak 6) in Esmeralda County. High School students who do not attend the EsCSD Virtual High School (currently 2 students) will attend the Tonopah HS (currently 14 students) under their reopening guidelines.

PURPOSE OF THE PLAN: In accordance with this Reopening Order, EsCSD will implement the Declaration of Emergency Directive 022 requiring that it develop a plan for reopening school buildings, providing instruction, and related activities, based on *Nevada's Path Forward: A Framework for a Safe, Efficient, and Equitable Return to School Buildings* and any subsequent guidance issued by the Nevada Department of Education. ***This plan provides for the reopening of EsCSD under the guidelines of In-Person instruction.***

REOPENING PLAN:

Concept of Operations. The plan is based on the following guiding principles. These guidelines may change as guidance is clarified and/or updated.

NOTE: If a manmade or natural hazard, (Active Assailant, earthquake, etc.), presents itself, social distancing and masks are no longer the primary concern. We still have to

lockdown to protect against threats of violence or evacuate based on threats of fire etc. The District will get back to the COVID responses after it has obtained life safety.

Issues to address before Implementation

- A. Conduct a staff assessment to understand who is coming back: *The District has 11 licensed Classroom Teachers, 6 Licensed Paraprofessionals, 3 Bus Drivers and 16 other Support Staff and Subs. All have been personally contacted, assessed, and are returning to their normal Job Description on site.*
- B. Develop a plan to replace teachers and staff who are not returning: *NA*
- C. Assess need for new or additional positions with a specific focus on student and staff wellness, but also including technology support: *Tech support is adequate and provided by a contracted consultant (Oasis Online). If there is a need for bus monitors, they can be filled by subs and paras. The classroom staff may need more assistance, and this can be addressed by restructuring.*
- D. Recruit, interview and hire new staff. *NA*
- E. Repositioning underutilized staff to serve core needs (e.g., physical education serving as case managers post-secondary related processes): *Each site PLC has appropriately positioned their staff and will remain flexible.*
- F. Assess student and parent preference for Virtual, Hybrid or In-Person instruction: *In-Person instruction is the parent preference for all three sites. Staff are prepared to offer hybrid or blended Virtual learning for any future exceptions.*
- G. **The District is currently contracted with K12 Inc. and is poised for the delivery of a Hybrid or Distance Learning environment for students. The following outlines the District Policy for delivering instruction during a Pandemic.**
 - **Hard copy packets:** Photocopies of reference materials, curriculum, and assignments can be prepared in advance for distribution to affected students.
 - **Online materials or other aligned content:** Digital copies of reference materials, assignments, and audio-visual learning supports can be made available on the Internet using e-learning and other Learning Management Systems (LMS) such as school websites or school social media.
 - **Teacher check-ins and tutorials:** A variety of technologies (telephone, email, web conferencing) can be used to facilitate one-on-one interaction between students and teachers, counselors and other appointed adults (e.g. tutors) during prolonged absences or dismissals.

- **Staff working from home or a remote location:** If a school closure occurs, staff needs must be taken into consideration. Staff will need to continue getting paid, so options to work from home or from a safe remote location should be considered pre-incident.

Building Level Preparation

- A. Build and send back to school communications to all relevant stakeholders (e.g., parents, school staff) and include updates across all workflows: *Website, Letters, appropriately configured group email/texts (FERPA), translated Information and radio communications and traditional community posting sites have been utilized beginning June 25th.*
- B. Create master teaching schedules, student and faculty arrival/dismissal schedules, bus schedules, lunch schedules for staff and students, and bell schedules with social distancing guidelines and facility access control in mind: *These are completed and available on the District website. This information will be also available in the Student Handbook that is distributed and signed for by faculty and parents.*
- C. Master Schedule. *See preceding explanation.*
- D. Social distancing guidelines *are established for busses and classrooms.*
- E. Student and staff cloth masks provided by the District are distributed and utilized daily: *Every mask will be washed and sanitized in a mesh bag and redistributed daily by classroom teachers. Temps are taken before school and during school by appropriate staff. Temp should be no more than 100.4 degrees. Parents and staff are made aware of symptoms and they are monitored. Classroom safety protocol, CDC, and the American Pediatricians of America guidelines are integrated into the classroom learning environment.*
- F. Reopening Protocol and District wide Inservice is scheduled for all staff and parents prior to school reopening August 17th, 2020: *Classroom staff will be responsible for student instruction of the same on August 17th, 2020.*
 - *Support staff are required to adhere to guideline as well.*
 - *Orient new school staff to any operational changes.*
 - *A 2020-2021 school budget based on district guidance was completed May - June 29th and ongoing.*

- *Student and staff handbooks and planners were printed and are ready for distribution. Create a master list of any changes to distribute at the first staff meeting.*
- *Necessary food handling changes were planned in July.*

During School: The following protocols have been instituted.

- A. Signs: *Signs that make the public aware of COVID-19 procedures are posted in selected areas of each school site.*
- B. Schedules: *Schedules are completed.*
- C. Facemasks guidance while at school. Cloth face coverings are now mandatory for all K-12 students and all school staff, except with a documented medical vulnerability and approval of the building leader:
 - *When interacting in-person with members of the public.*
 - *When in any space visited by the public, even if no one else is present.*
 - *When in any space where food is prepared or packaged, for sale, or generally distributed to others.*
 - *When walking through common areas, such as hallways, stairways, elevators, and parking facilities (3').*
 - *In any room or enclosed area where other people (except for members of the person's own household or residence) are present when unable to physically distance.*
 - *While working out indoors at a gym and/or fitness center.*
 - *When interacting with other people.*
 - *When entering and exiting the facility and while in common areas in the facility (3').*
 - *When physical distancing is difficult and exercise type and intensity allows for the wearing of a face covering.*
 - *When doing low-intensity activities like walking on an indoor Track.*
 - *Vigorous-intensity exercise outside will be at least 3 feet from other people not in your household.*
- D. Playground and recess activities: *The preceding standards will be implemented for Playground equipment. Items will be sanitized after use.*
- E. Classroom: Cloth face coverings are now mandatory for all K-12 students and all school staff, except with a documented medical vulnerability and approval of the

building leader. *Sharing of classroom supplies between students will not be allowed.*

- F. Breakfast and Lunch: *All students will eat breakfast in the classroom and lunch is restructured iterations in the cafeteria that allow social distancing.*
- G. Building: *Drinking fountains will be closed. Parent provided plastic water bottles will be filled by staff as needed. Bathrooms will be used on an individual basis.*

After School

- A. *Classroom staff will sanitize their classrooms three times per day, recesses and lunch and as needed.*
- B. *Safety After Action Review will be conducted at Building and Grade level PLC's twice a month*
- C. *Safety After Action Review by District PLC will be conducted monthly.*
- D. *Staff will insure regular, positive and transparent communications with parents. Phased reopening status will be reported at the monthly board meeting.*
- E. *District Report to Board and Public will be offered monthly.*

RESOURCE SUPPORT

Transportation:

- A. The District has three bus routes, and each has the number of seats necessary to accommodate Social Distances between students.
- B. Activity routes for HS students after their evening practices (which have been offered but are not mandated) will be discontinued by the District and parents will be required to pick up their student.
- C. Face Mask protocol will be followed.
- D. Bus monitors may be used if necessary.
- E. Busses will be sanitized after each route.
- F. School transportation for staff will be utilized with the added precaution of vehicle and gas pump sanitizing by each driver operator.

Food Service:

All students will eat breakfast and lunch in restructured iterations that allow social distancing and appropriate staff will clean and sanitize after each use.

*Note, Sanitizing:

The District will provide supplies such as cloth masks, disposable masks, temperature monitors, disinfectants, gloves, towels, wash rags and so forth.

Sanitizing with diluted bleach or water and soap will be utilized when supplies are inadequate. Each site will be provided a washer and dryer. Sanitizing will be accomplished by classroom staff periodically and as needed throughout the school day.

OPERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. State of Nevada: *Will issue Directives, Guidelines, Phasing Instruction; and will offer resource support appropriately.*
- B. The District School Board: *Will provide policy, funding, resources, and monitor District adherence to the Reopening Guidelines. The board delegates the day to day management of the Reopening guidelines to the Superintendent and will receive regular updates. Management responsibilities are assigned to the following:*
- C. *The principles of the Incident Command System (ICS) will guide the District procedures (see District Emergency Operations Plan). The following are selected responsibilities during the reopening process.*
 - Superintendent: *Manages and monitors reopening guideline; and will keep Board, Staff and Public informed. Daily Surveillance.*
 - Principal: *Assume duties in the absence of Superintendent and site management of Goldfield campus. Daily Surveillance and checklist sign-off.*
 - Academic School Officer (ASO): *Manages the site reopening protocols at Silver Peak and the Dyer campuses. Daily Surveillance and checklist sign-off.*
 - SPED Director: *District Safety Officer for classroom monitoring with Superintendent/Principal et. al. Document operations for purposes of tracking school operations under Phases 2-3. It is important that Surveillance is done daily, and this is documented.*
 - Counselor: *Counsels with students on importance of adhering to conforming of safety procedures. Counseling/informing parents and students on anxiety associated with reopening guidelines.*
 - Transportation/Facilities/Custodial: *Supervisory and Management responsibilities for sanitizing and supplies. Daily Surveillance.*
 - Teachers and Paraprofessionals: *Compliance to Plan in as much as is functional for safety, daily learning and other activities. Daily Surveillance and checklist sign-off.*

NOTE: It is important to address direct and imminent threats not posed by the COVID-19 virus. The District will continue incident priorities during our response. Safety Drills will continue with minor adjustments. There will be no lockdowns where students/staff are crowded into tight areas. Table-top and explanations of lock down protocol will be used instead.

EsCSD Board 7/21/2020

Facemask Change 7/29/2020