



## RETURN TO LEARN ERPS 2020

### MISSION 2020

The mission of El Reno Public Schools for the return of school in August of 2020 is to ensure all students learn at the highest levels possible while taking all steps necessary to reduce any risks to student's health and safety and to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. ERPS believes students learn at the highest levels when directly engaged with a classroom teacher through a guaranteed and viable curriculum. We understand that this can be accomplished in different forms depending on the needs of the student and the overall wellness of the school and community. These factors have been considered in shaping and managing the plan outlined below, but, student and staff safety will remain our highest concern.

In drafting this plan, we have relied on the guidance of state and local health officials as well as the Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE). More specifically, we have carefully reviewed the OSDE's Return to Learn Oklahoma Plan and the CDC guidance referenced therein. We are committed to a fluid approach as the need arises and are prepared to move through the various plans and options identified in this framework, and will continue to stay abreast of the guidance identified above.

With these things in mind, ERPS is prepared to provide students with a safe return to an on-campus learning environment making necessary modifications to accommodate continued social distancing and safety guidelines. We reserve the right to adjust this plan as new information becomes available or as circumstances change.

### PLANNING FOR AUGUST

In preparing for a return of school in August and planning instructional delivery and student interaction, ERPS has developed various committees to gather feedback and

data from family and community stakeholders and faculty members. Surveys were distributed to each group with the purpose of collecting necessary information to allow for the tailoring of a distinct plan to meet the needs of ERPS Students, Families, and Staff members. This plan reflects the guidance received from those surveys, as well as careful analysis of local health recommendations and conditions. This will allow ERPS to be flexible in our approach to delivering instruction and providing for the changing needs of our community. Within our fact gathering process we have paid close attention to daily school operations, instructional delivery, academic progress, student and staff social and emotional needs, and safety measures.

## **FLEXIBLE LEARNING PLANS**

ERPS has planned for the ideal scenario of welcoming all students back on campus to begin the 2020-2021 school year. Each site has worked diligently to ensure student and staff safety while also allowing students the opportunity to experience a traditional school environment. The Traditional Campus Instructional Plan represents this option for our students, staff and community. If circumstances dictate us limiting the number of students on campus at a time, we will be ready with a Blended Learning Instructional Plan also referred to as an A/B Schedule. In the event community spread and health factors require us to instruct students remotely off campus, we will have a distance learning plan already in place to provide a seamless transition for students and staff. Each plan is described below.

### **TRADITIONAL CAMPUS INSTRUCTIONAL PLAN**

Students will attend their regularly assigned school site following the existing calendar for the 2020 -2021 school year. ERPS has made great strides in previous years in developing a digital curriculum allowing students more flexibility in their learning. Traditional classes will continue to be based in digital learning tools allowing teachers to be flexible in their delivery of instruction as individual student needs arise. While students are on the traditional plan, they will have the flexibility to work from home as needed based on health and safety concerns. When they return to class, they will be on track with the other students.

This does not mean that the “traditional” day will look the same as previous years. In order to mitigate the disease, each site has worked to put safety measures in place to help protect students and staff.

Guided by health and medical experts advice on the best ways to keep each other safe

and healthy, each site will use the following mitigation practices:

- **Daily Temperature Checks** - We ask families and students to check their temperature each morning before leaving for school. Anyone with a temperature over 100 Fahrenheit should remain at home and be monitored for symptoms. The child's arrival at the bus stop or the school site constitutes a parent's or legal guardian's certification that the child is without a temperature (without medication) at or above 100 degrees Fahrenheit. Students and staff will have their temperature checked during the day. Anyone whose temperature is over 100 degrees Fahrenheit will be required to return home.
- **Masks** - Health experts continue to stress the importance of masks in mitigating the spread of the disease and keeping both the person wearing the mask and those around them safe and healthy. In order to maintain a traditional school environment, each student and staff needs to understand their responsibility in the protection of those around them. With this in mind, all students and staff will be expected to wear facial masks throughout the school day. A mask is considered worn when covering the mouth and nose.
- **Hygiene and Sanitation** - Washing hands regularly and consistently still remains one of the greatest safety measures we can take. Students and staff will be reminded and encouraged to wash their hands throughout the day. Hand sanitizers are also in place in hallways and classrooms for students to use between hand washing and when washing may not be possible.
- **Building Sanitizing** - Our maintenance staff will be working continuously to make sure our buildings and classrooms are clean and disinfected on a routine and regular basis.
- **Social Distancing** - Each site has tailored its individual plan to meet the needs of their student age groups.
- **Guests and Visitors** - In order to maintain a healthy environment, no guests or visitors will be allowed in the school buildings throughout the school day with the exception of the secured vestibule at each site in order to check a student out.

#### ELEMENTARY CAMPUS MODIFICATIONS

- Student arrival will look different at the sites as gathering in large groups in the gym will be replaced by students reporting to their classroom with their teachers. Students arriving early will be able to wait in the gym at a social distance monitored by staff.
- Morning assemblies will be held virtually inside their classrooms, maintaining the importance of recognizing student success and celebrations.

- Rotating teachers into classrooms instead of moving groups of students (where this is practical)
- Additional lunch periods will be put in place to allow students greater distance between each other in the lunchroom. No guests or visitors will be allowed to eat lunch with students
- Understanding the need for students to play and interact, recess will be provided but in smaller groups to help protect students.
- Classroom manipulatives that must be shared will be cleaned and sanitized between each student's use. Individual student supplies will not be shared and will be kept in individual student containers.
- Water fountains will be shut off and students will be encouraged to bring their own individual non breakable water bottles to school with them. Students will not be allowed to share water bottles with other students.

## SECONDARY CAMPUS MODIFICATIONS

- **Student arrival** - students arriving early to school will be able to socially distance in large areas before teachers arrive. Students who drive will be encouraged to remain in their vehicle until time to report to class. Students will be able to report to their classroom earlier than in the past to reduce congestion.
- **Class transitions** - switching classes will be staggered where possible to allow for more space in hallways. Hallways will also be designated as one way for students to have more space. Entries and exits will also be designated separately for each building.
- **Restrooms** - restrooms can often be large gathering areas between classes. In order to help maintain student safety, restrooms will be closed during class transitions at the secondary level and students will be allowed to individually go to the restroom during class time. Elementary students will use the restroom in classroom groups on a staggered schedule.
- **Water Fountains** - water fountains will be turned off and students will be encouraged to bring their own individual non-breakable water bottles to school with them. Students should not share water bottles..
- **Lunch** - additional lunch periods will be provided to allow greater distance between students in the commons and cafeteria. Students will be encouraged to take greater responsibility during the lunch period to maintain hygiene and safety protocols.
- **Assemblies** - school assemblies to begin the year will be limited in number with appropriate social distancing between students or conducted virtually. Continuing assemblies throughout the year will be reduced or

eliminated unless absolutely necessary and would be conducted in a much smaller scope or virtually.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

- Keeping in mind that we do not have the capacity to socially distance students on buses to and from school, parents may wish to make other transportation arrangements if they prefer. ERPS will continue, however, to make transportation available to students who require it. Students riding the bus will be required to wear a mask at all times. When possible, school bus windows will remain open to increase the flow of fresh air, thereby reducing the risk of transmission. To protect students and drivers to the maximum extent possible, we will be increasing routes and staggering pickup and dropoffs. Families still choosing to ride the bus should be prepared for changes in their normal ride times.

## **POSITIVE CASES, SYMPTOMS, AND RETURN TO SCHOOL**

- Students who exhibit symptoms while at school will be isolated from other students and a parent will be contacted immediately to pick up their child and receive a medical evaluation.
- Any student who tests positive for COVID-19 but displays no symptoms of COVID-19 may return to school after ten days have passed since testing positive.
- Any student who thinks or knows he or she had COVID-19 AND had symptoms may return to school after three days of no fever AND ten days since symptoms first appeared.
- Students in either category may also return to school following two consecutive negative COVID-19 tests given twenty four hours apart. These test results should be provided to the school upon the student's return.
- Anyone who had close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 should self-quarantine by staying home for 14 days after exposure. (Close contact can be defined as within six feet for more than 15 minutes.)
- Please remember to communicate with your school's attendance office regarding all absences and illnesses.

## **BLENDED LEARNING INSTRUCTIONAL DAY (A/B SPLIT SCHEDULES)**

If community spread requires ERPS to reduce the number of students attending school at one time, the Blended Learning Instructional model would be implemented to allow continuing in person instruction supplemented by virtual learning. Students would be divided into groups and part of the students would attend for one week while the other half would be instructed virtually for that week. The following week students would switch their role between on site and virtual learning. All the safeguards in place for the traditional on site model would remain in place for blended learning providing greater safety for students and faculty. In dividing students into groups and considering family's household needs, ERPS would work to ensure families were on the same rotation to accommodate our community.

Our digital curriculum would be utilized in the classroom on site as well as virtually from home ensuring students learning and instruction is seamless as they rotate through the weeks. Instruction and lessons students received while on campus would be reinforced through activities during their week at home.

## **REMOTE/DISTANCE LEARNING (DISTRICT CHOICE)**

If a dramatic increase in community spread of COVID-19 creates a need for students to remain at home for remote learning, ERPS would be capable of implementing a virtual/distance plan of instruction. We will review recommendations and advice from local health agencies, state offices, and expert opinion in making this decision, and would only implement it if it was deemed necessary. This decision would be made with our student and staff's best interest in mind and mitigating the spread is too great to accomplish on campus.

With guidance from faculty and families regarding the use of distance learning throughout the Spring of 2020, each site has worked to improve the manner in which distance instruction is delivered, monitored, and assessed. With this model in place, students would continue receiving instruction and learning using the same learning management system they are using daily in class. This will allow continuity of learning for students and instruction for teachers. Attendance requirements would be in place to ensure students are engaged and participating. Assignments would count toward grades and credits.

With the likelihood that individual students might need to stay home at various times

due to their own illness or exposure to others, this plan would be a part of their education during the time they are temporarily out of the classroom. Upon returning to class they would be on track with their classmates and be able to maintain their assignments and progress.

### **VIRTUAL ER (Parent/Student Choice)**

Virtual ER is an option for families of students with underlying medical issues, compromised family members at home, and those wanting to take greater safeguards in ensuring their student's health. This plan is available to any student who wishes to begin the year at a distance. This is a program that allows for students to access their learning opportunities from anywhere they have wifi access. Students choosing this plan would need to have wifi capabilities enabling them to log on without interruption. Students choosing this option would work off of a curriculum that might differ from the traditional, blended, or remote instruction provided by ERPS. Certified ERPS teachers would work with students in the program and guide them through the units measuring their progress. Students would have a pace they must maintain in order to receive grades and credits and ensure their graduation to the next grade level. Due to a different pacing of scope and sequence, students choosing this option would be making a full semester commitment. They would not be able to switch out until the end of the semester.

### **State of Commitment**

El Reno Public Schools remains fully committed to the health and safety of our students and staff as well as ensuring their academic growth. We believe the flexibility of our plans will enable all students to actively participate in instructional and learning activities regardless of the climate created by COVID-19. We will continue to monitor the reports from local health agencies and state level medical experts in making decisions on which plans to utilize and when to switch to other options. We understand the sacrifices we are all being called to implement during this time and don't take lightly any of the decisions being made. Difficult times sometimes require difficult decisions. We appreciate the patience of our stakeholders as we the review the most updated and relevant facts to guide us in making a decision that is in the best overall interest of our students and staff.