

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

BOE Approved 10.14.21

PART I.

Describe how the district will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff and the extent to which it has adopted policies, and a description of any such policies, on each of the following safety recommendations established by the CDC:

A. Universal and correct wearing of masks

USD 113 has removed the mask mandate based on vaccination rates and infection rates for the three campuses and surrounding communities. Individuals who desire to wear a mask may do so on school property. USD 113 schools will comply with public health orders as required by law. At the local level, the USD 113 Board of Education is responsible for determining the need for the wearing of masks.

B. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)

While planning for learning activities, USD 113 personnel will consider physical distancing of students and adults inside and outside of district facilities. Cohort groups will be noted. Available space will be maximized to encourage student learning.

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette will continue to be taught to students with emphasis on practicing protocols (rehearsed more frequently in the primary grade levels). Signage will continue to be posted throughout our buildings as reminders of handwashing and respiratory etiquette. In addition, hand sanitizing stations will continue to be made available.

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

USD 113 is striving to maintain healthy facilities through cleaning (and disinfecting when necessary).

Staff will have available equipment and supplies to clean and disinfect facilities.

USD 113 is working to improve the ventilation in our facilities. We are undertaking two projects that impact all three campuses. Both projects involve the expertise of a mechanical engineer to improve air quality.

The first of the 2 projects is to remodel and improve facilities at the Axtell, Sabetha Elementary, and Wetmore buildings. This project includes the services of an architect, Construction Manager, At-Risk, and the previously mentioned mechanical engineer.

Relevant parts of this project include upgrading the controls in the Wetmore office area, which will lead to improved air circulation and filtration. The Axtell portion of the project includes a chemical hood in the Science room – this will improve the air quality. Work at Sabetha Elementary School that will impact improving ventilation includes the transition of the majority of classrooms from window air conditioners to a system that will provide filtration. Also included is the potential new construction of a Music Room, Library, and/or gymnasium area. These spaces will be provided with filtered heat and air conditioning. New construction will also increase the square footage available for these learning areas. This will enhance the ability to provide physical distancing.

The second project is a direct relationship with the Mechanical Engineer to improve air quality in district buildings that is not part of the remodel, new construction project. This project, which is still subject to final approval by the USD 113 Board of Education includes:

Sabetha High School – replace the rooftop heating and cooling unit for the office and common space. Design new HVAC controls for the four upper floor multizone rooftop units. Design and install a system to increase ventilation in the weight room.

Wetmore – replace five furnace and condensing units that serve the east classroom addition. And replace the heating unit in the gymnasium.

Axtell – replace the 6 heating and cooling rooftop units that serve the south gymnasium area.

All units will result in higher efficiency units than existing equipment. They will provide better filtration of air and will have improved HVAC controls to better regulate the amount of outside air introduced to student learning spaces.

E. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments

USD 113 personnel will continue to provide information and support to the County Health Departments, through the oversight of the Kansas Department of Health and Safety, as they direct contract tracing, issue quarantine orders, etc.

F. Diagnostic and screening testing

USD 113 will work with the County Health Departments to support diagnostic and screening efforts.

G. Efforts to provide information about vaccinations to school communities

USD 113 will work with the County Health Departments to provide information about vaccination information to families. The District will not refuse, withhold from, or deny a person any educational or employment opportunities based on the person's COVID-19 vaccination status.

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

USD 113 will provide reasonable, necessary, and appropriate accommodations to its policies and practices for students with disabilities as determined by individual student needs and in accordance with an individual's documented accommodations and/or individualized education plan (IEP).

I. Coordination with State and local health officials

USD 113 schools will collaborate with State and local health officials. In order to provide uniformity throughout the district, the district is implementing the following policy - In the case of a positive exposure staff or parent will notify the school of the positive case. Exposures may attend school and activities while self-monitoring for signs and symptoms for 10 days. Masks are recommended. Students will contact the county health official if:

*they are an at-risk individual (immune-compromised or weakened immune system).

*in a household with an at-risk individual or individual that works with a high risk population.

*there is a household member with any other concerning medical condition.

Part II.

Describe how the district will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to:

services to address students' academic needs

USD 113 will continue to analyze assessment data to determine the academic needs of our students. We have a strong Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) program in place to provide interventions to students that are not performing at grade level. All students receive Tier 1 instruction that is aligned to the Kansas Standards. We have provided various learning opportunities to students during the summer of 2021 which included credit recovery at the three high schools, a STEAM Camp for our middle school students, and a summer learning academy at Sabetha Elementary School that was designed to assist students with academic recovery. Our district plans to continue full time, in-person instruction beginning the fall of 2021. We will continue to monitor instructional needs of students and adjust our resources to ensure that we are meeting the needs of all students through the high quality instruction that we provide.

B. students' and staff social, emotional, mental health

Student and staff social, emotional and mental health is a priority in USD 113. As a result we have implemented a Tier 1 social emotional learning (SEL) curriculum utilizing the Second Step Program for grades PreK - 8. The College and Career Competency Wheel is the reference for SEL instruction for grades 9-12. We monitor student needs through our SAEBERS and MySAEBERS data as well as looking at course grades, attendance and behavior. Interventions are provided to students when appropriate in these areas. We continue to provide our staff with professional learning related to monitoring and addressing the social and emotional needs of students as well as their own needs. Staff social, emotional and mental health has also been a priority as we have navigated the demands of the pandemic.

USD 113 has recently formed a partnership with KANZA Mental Health and Guidance through the School Mental Health Initiative (SHMI) structured through TASN (Technical Assistance Systems Network of Kansas). Utilizing the resources provided through this program it is our goal to build a trauma responsive school community. We will utilize the resources provided by TASN for professional development and to review our processes and protocols to ensure they are trauma responsive. We will continue to partner with social workers and local mental health services with the goal of helping students and families overcome obstacles.

C. other needs, which may include student health and food services

Free meals will be made available for all eligible youth this summer and during the 2021-2022 school year. Families may also be in contact with their child's school for any other health or food service needs.

Additional Note:

USD 113 is welcoming Community Input on this document. Please email evanst@usd113.org with comments, concerns, or suggestions.

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