

## Harding County School District Back to School Plan

### Mission Statement

Harding County School District 31-1 is focused on providing our staff, students, and families a safe and appropriate learning environment as we navigate through these challenging times. We believe that our environment at school gives students the best chance to succeed academically, emotionally, and socially. This plan is structured to be implemented amid changing school and community health conditions. The district has and will continue to work closely with the Department of Health (DOH), South Dakota Department of Education (DOE) and the Governor's Office in determining the safest practices.

### Back to School Restart committee members:

Mr. Page-Superintendent, Mr. Messmer-K-12th Principal/AD, Mr. Ginsbach- Technology Coordinator, Ms. Brewer-Special education director, Mrs. Hett- Elementary Teacher and PTO President, Mr. Watson head maintenance, Mrs. Giannonatti-Food Service Director, Mrs. Carmen Gilbert- school board member, Mrs. Page -Regional PA, Robyn Floyd- parent, Ryan Glines- parent, Spring Padden- parent, Dillon Lermeny- parent, Andrea Clanton- parent

### Parent Expectation

- Parents are important to helping the school environment safe for students.
- The Harding County School District recommends that parent(s)/guardian(s) check students' temperature daily and that their student feels well prior to going to school to prevent prolonged remote at home learning.
  - If a student has a fever over 100.4, the South Dakota Department of Health recommends students stay home for three days without fever-reducing medication ([https://doh.sd.gov/documents/COVID19/Schools\\_ReopeningChecklist.pdf](https://doh.sd.gov/documents/COVID19/Schools_ReopeningChecklist.pdf)).
- Make sure that your child(ren) practice good hygiene skills such as washing their hands after using the restroom and touching surfaces that have been touched by other individuals.
- **DO NOT** use medicine to mask a fever and send them to school.
- Please have your students bring a sanitized water container daily.
- Parent(s)/guardian(s) are allowed in the building during school hours. This could change if cases develop throughout the year.
- Parent(s)/guardian(s) and community members should use hand sanitizer when coming into the building for extra-curricular activities and other school functions such as parent/teacher conferences. Sanitizer stations will be provided at school entrances for these events.

### Students expectation

- Students need to practice good hygiene practice such as sanitizing hands before entering classroom, while entering and exiting restrooms, before and after recess(es), before and after eating, and before and after sporting practice/competitions.
- Students have the option to wear a mask to school, but it is **not** mandated.

- Social distance yourself as much as you can on school buses, classrooms, cafeteria, and other rooms throughout the school.
- Students who go off campus for lunch or other reasons will be expected to sanitize hands upon entrance.
- Students will only be able to use refill stations for water. They will not be able drink directly from the fountains.

### **School District Personnel Expectations**

- Harding County School District personnel will conduct daily well checks and will model good hygiene.
- Harding County School District personnel will create an environment in school that will reduce the spread of germs.
- Harding County School District personnel will educate students on proper health etiquette throughout the year.
- Harding County School District will socially distance students as much as possible throughout the school day.

### **Safety Protocol and procedures by school personnel**

- Parent(s)/guardian(s) will be allowed in the school building during the day.
- School doors will open at 7:30 am.
- Student Supervision: They will be supervised in the following areas:
  - K-5: recess area on the south side of the elementary building
  - 6-8<sup>th</sup>: 1<sup>st</sup> period classrooms (tentative)
  - 9-12<sup>th</sup>: 1<sup>st</sup> period classrooms (tentative)
- Students will be socially distanced as much as possible in the classroom.
- Temperature Checks: We will start the school year with at home well checks but will adjust and change if deemed necessary. Positive cases will influence this decision and at that point, school temperature checks will be implemented. District reserves the right to start temperature checks at any point during the school year.
- Surfaces that are touched by students will be sanitized daily by school personnel.
- School transportation will be sanitized by school personnel every time it is used.
- Students will be released in intervals to eat as a class during lunch. Students will be seated in tables for lunch with their classmates.
  - K-2
  - 3-5 (TIMES NOT FINALIZED)
  - 6-8:
  - 9-12

(Times will be finalized at later date when schedule is completed.)

## **Fever Protocol in School**

- If a student has a fever of over 100.4 in the school, student will be expected to wear a mask provided by the district. Teacher will call office to notify of student arrival.
  - K-12 report to main school office
- Parent(s)/guardian(s) will be notified by office staff that the student has a temperature and will need to get the student as soon as possible.
- Parent(s)/guardian(s) will call into the office to notify the school personnel they are here to pick up their child. The parent(s)/guardian will wait outside while the student exits the school at the entrance where their parent(s)/guardian(s) are present.
- Siblings will be temperature checked if a brother/sister present a fever. Staff member whose child has fever will be temperature checked as well.
- Return to school- Temperature checked prior to entering building, but we are asking for a 72 hour window of being fever free before returning to class.
- Encourage discussion with health care provider and monitor symptoms. Contact from parents/guardians with the school is highly encouraged and deemed necessary.

## **Phases for Instruction**

Administration and the Harding County Board of Education will use data from local hospitals, county health personnel, South Dakota Department of Health, and South Dakota Department of Education to decide the education phase for the Harding County School District. Please note that this process is an ongoing process throughout the school year.

**Phase one**- Traditional learning with safety procedures in place while preparing parents and students for possible remote learning.

**Phase two**- Remote/ blended learning model for a student(s) that has tested positive for Covid-19 or a member of the student's family tested positive for Covid-19 for # (TBD) of recommended days. Facility that has had a positive case Covid-19 will be blocked off for 24 hours and thoroughly cleaned afterwards per DOH recommendations. Certain classes or entire building may have to enter remote learning depending on exposure. All determined by district and DOH.

- After # of recommended days, students can come back to traditional learning as long as they are symptom free (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/php/CDC-Activities-Initiatives-for-COVID-19-Response.pdf>).
- Ideally, the school will remain in session if deemed safe from DOH and DOE. If the amount of exposure exceeds recommendations, the district will enter remote learning for # of recommended days (DOH direction).
- If there is an active case within community and not the school directly, we will remain in session if DOH deems safe. We will consult with our local health care providers during this time to make the best decision possible.

**Phase three**- Remote learning for all students due to multiple positive Covid-19 cases. All facilities will be blocked off for 24 hours and thoroughly cleaned afterwards due to DOH recommendations.

1. After 10-14 days (DOH guidance), students can come back to traditional learning if they are symptom free. (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/php/CDC-Activities-Initiatives-for-COVID-19-Response.pdf>).
2. Remote learning will take place in phase two or three if multiple (determined by DOH, Administration, local health official (PA), school board) school employees or students have tested positive for Covid-19. This phase of remote learning has discretion from the school board and administration with guidance from the South Dakota Department of Health. The number of days will be determined by DOH guidance.

### **Remote Learning Expectation**

- Students attendance times are suggested from 8:00am-3:30pm.
- If the student is sick the parent will contact the school.
- Teachers will have instruction and assessment daily.
- Students will communicate with the teacher.
- Teachers will be available via online platforms and K12 email.

### **Positive Covid-19 test**

- Parent(s)/guardian(s) will be notified if their student has been in contact with an individual with a positive Covid-19 test.
  - These students will receive remote education instruction for 10-14 days as well if deemed necessary. It will be determined by the amount of exposure.

This is a living document that is subject to change based on the Covid-19 pandemic to the region and the state. The Harding County Board of Education along with administration, South Dakota Department of Health, and the South Dakota Department of Education will work together to adapt this document throughout the school year.