## **SEDALIA SCHOOL DISTRICT #200**

# SAFE RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION AND CONTINUITY OF SERVICES PLAN (SRCSP)



**Note**: This living document will continue to be periodically reviewed and revised no less than every six months.

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# Continuity of Services

#### Commitment

The Sedalia School District is committed to providing a quality education to all students, while also ensuring their safety and well-being. The administration has researched COVID-19 and has developed plans following all applicable local, state, and federal guidelines, to the greatest extent feasible, and will incorporate many best practices advocated by school associations and groups. The following are considerations as of December 6, 2021, and are subject to change as new information surfaces from local, state, and federal agencies.

## **Student Considerations**

Students may have experienced educational loss due to prolonged school closures during this pandemic. While some school districts have implemented distance learning, this is not generally believed to replicate the in-person learning experience. Such districts may also experience a widened divide in academic progress, with certain children able to access distance learning and continue to grow academically, while others might experience difficulty accessing or engaging with virtual instruction.

### Education

The impacts of lost instructional time and social emotional development on children should be anticipated and we will need to be prepared to adjust curricula and instructional practices accordingly without the expectation that all lost academic progress can be caught up. Plans to make up for lost academic progress due to school closures and distress associated with the pandemic should be balanced by a recognition of the likely continued distress of educators and students that will persist when schools re-open. If the academic expectations are unrealistic, school will likely become a source of further distress for students (and educators) at a time when they need additional support. It is also critical to maintain a balanced curriculum with continued physical education and other learning experiences such as the arts and workplace skills rather than an exclusive emphasis on core subject areas.

## Students with Disabilities

The impact of loss of instructional time and related services, including mental health services, as well as occupational, physical and speech language therapy during the period of school closures is significant among this population. Students with disabilities may also have more difficulty with the social and emotional aspects of transitioning out of and back into the school setting. As schools prepare for reopening, school personnel should develop a plan to ensure a review of each child with an Individual Educational Program (IEP) to determine the need to adjust for lost instructional time as well as other related services. Further, schools can expect a backlog in evaluations; therefore, plans to prioritize those for new referrals as opposed to reevaluations will be important. Many school districts require adequate instructional effort before determining eligibility for Special Education services. However, virtual instruction or lack of instruction should not be reasons to avoid starting services such as response-to-intervention (RTI) services, even if a final eligibility determination is postponed

## Health and Nutritional Services

Parents should continue to reach out to coordinate well-child care and immunizations with their health care provider. School districts may consider limited extensions for families to submit annual paperwork required for start of school, to accommodate delays in accessing well-child care during the public health emergency. To limit the risk for other vaccine-preventable diseases during this critical period, immunization compliance should continue to be prioritized. The school district partners with the Pettis County Health Department to assist with contact tracing. BinaxNOW rapid tests are available at every building for staff and students. District health officials will continue to provide educational information to students, staff and families. All of these materials are available in their home language. Open COVID vaccination clinics at school have been provided in the past and will continue to be offered in the future.

Free breakfast and lunch are provided to all in-person students. In addition, virtual students and community members 18 years of age and younger have access to grab-and-go meals. The district also participates in the summer food program, providing breakfast and lunch to all summer school participants.

## Social, Emotional, and Mental Health

School mental health professionals are critical in shaping messages to students, staff, and families about school re-entry including addressing anxiety, social acclimation, etc. Students or staff requiring more mental health support, including those who are exhibiting suicidal ideation, should be referred for additional services. Support should be provided to grieving students or staff as well as those experiencing other losses (e.g., missed experiences). Schools contact students who do not return to school, as they may be experiencing school avoidance due to anxiety related to the pandemic. Schools should be attuned to the broader social and family stressors that may affect a student's ability to attend school or be ready to learn. Schools need to incorporate academic accommodations and supports for students who may still be having difficulty concentrating or learning new information due to stress associated with the pandemic into planning considerations.

Sedalia 200 will continue to provide social workers, counselors, and outside agencies to students and staff that will ensure social, emotional and mental health needs are met. Each building has a social worker and counselor or counselors. Secondary students and staff have access to in-person/virtual mental health providers in the schools. Elementary students have access to community-based individuals who meet consistently with students and families at school to address mental health issues for students. The district insurance provides six free in-person consultations/therapy for staff who have mental health issues.

#### Stakeholders

This document has been created with input from all Sedalia 200 stakeholder groups: parents/families, students, teachers and administrators at all levels through surveys, committees and various meetings. We greatly appreciate the contributions these groups have made toward our safe return to in-person learning.

# Periodic Revision

This living document will continue to be periodically reviewed and revised no less than every six months. The following are documented approval dates pertaining to this document and additional SRCSP efforts.

- June 2020 Surveys
  - Initial stakeholder surveys
- July 27, 2020, Board of Education Meeting
  - Public comment and initial board discussion for re-entry plan
- August 10, 2020, Board of Education Meeting
  - Initial board approval for re-entry plan
- August 11, 2020, DESE Approval
  - Alternative Methods of Instruction Extension
- August 24, 2020, Board of Education Meeting
  - Mask face covering resolution board approval
- February 11, 2021, Comprehensive School Improvement Plan
  - Committee comprised of community stakeholders to evaluate and review the Comprehensive School Improvement Plan
- May 2021 Surveys
  - Stakeholder surveys
- May 10, 2021, Board of Education Meeting
  - Updated face covering guidelines board approval
- May 11, 2021, Federal Programs Stakeholder Meeting
  - Committee comprised of community stakeholders to evaluate and review federal programs
- August 2021 Surveys
  - Stakeholder surveys
- August 16, 2021, Board of Education Meeting
  - Updated face covering guidelines board approval
- August 18, 2021 Surveys
  - Stakeholder surveys
- August 23, 2021, Board of Education Meeting
  - Updated face covering guidelines board approval
- September 13, 2021, Board of Education Meeting
  - Updated face covering guidelines board approval
- October 11, 2021, Board of Education Meeting
  - Updated face covering guidelines board approval
- November 15, 2021, Board of Education Meeting
  - Updated face covering guidelines board approval
- December 6, 2021, Board of Education Meeting
  - Updated face covering guidelines board approval

# Understandable Language

Sedalia 200 has full-time Spanish and Ukrainian/Russian interpreters/translators as well as deaf interpreters who translate or interpret all documents for those families needing information in a different language or sign language. All other languages are translated through ClassDojo or Google Translate. The district employs a district-wide language coordinator who ensures documents and any form of communication are in the family's native language.

## Mitigation and Prevention Strategies

- Masks are strongly encouraged but not required
  - CDC Agency Order currently requires persons to wear masks over the mouth and nose when traveling on any public school transportation.
- Physical distancing
  - Social distancing will be observed to the extent possible by all faculty, staff and students.
  - Student activities and athletics will be conducted following MSHSAA guidelines to the extent they are permissible under local, state, and federal guidelines.
  - Barriers, routing, and minimum distancing when feasible
  - Students in Cohorts
- Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
  - Consistent with CDC
  - Teaching and reinforcing handwashing, sanitizing, coughing and sneezing etiquette
  - Hand sanitizer will be provided at multiple locations throughout the school
  - Drinking fountains should not be used, except for the bottle filling capabilities
  - Students should bring personal water bottles from home. They should be labeled with the student name, and in clean, sanitary condition
- Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities and improved ventilation
  - Modified layouts
  - Increased cleaning for high-touch services
  - Frequent changing of air filtration
  - Adjusting outside airflow
- Students and Staff with Communicable Disease
  - School Board Policy 2860
  - A student shall not attend classes or other school-sponsored activities, if the student (1) has, or has been exposed to, an acute (short duration) or chronic (long duration) contagious or infectious disease
  - School Board Policy 4820
  - An employee may be excluded from work if the employee (1) has, or has been exposed to, an acute (short duration) or chronic (long duration) contagious or infectious disease
  - Following Cole County Circuit Court judgement Robinson vs. Missouri Department of Health and Human Services, November 22, 2021
- Diagnostic and screening testing
  - Testing provided onsite
  - Testing available at the local public health authority or clinic
- Vaccinations to school community
  - Sedalia 200 offers optional vaccination events on campus
- Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities
  - Accommodations as necessary or as mandated by Individual Education Plan

SEDALIA SCHOOL DISTRICT #200

# SAFE RETURN

STUDENT LEARNING OPTIONS



# Seated and In-Person

All students PreK-12 will be physically in school. Students K-12 and staff will follow mitigation and prevention strategies consistent with the CDC. Students needing a virtual option can follow MoCAP procedures on page 7.

# 2 All Virtual

All students will participate in online virtual learning.
K-5 students will use Google Classroom for activities and assignments.
6-12 students will use Canvas for activities and assignments.

#### MoCAP VIRTUAL EDUCATION INFORMATION

The District's preferred virtual provider is LAUNCH, which has been providing virtual education to students since 2012 with the past three years being in partnership with over half of Missouri schools.

Our experience with this provider has been excellent with the district being provided the ability to assist in the monitoring of your student's' progress in their courses. Other virtual providers do not provide the district with this capability. Past experience with other providers has not met the district's expectations, therefore we are hesitant to recommend these programs for our students.

#### To begin the process for virtual education:

- Complete Online Registration thru the Parent Portal
  - This enrolls your student in the district with current address, phone, etc.
- Complete the district's form "Virtual Education Request to Enroll"
  - This form is found on the district's website under the MOCAP heading
- Make an appointment with your student's principal or counselor
  - Either call the school or send an email email addresses are on the website
  - Principal or counselor will assist in selection of courses for your student
  - Students with an IEP will meet with the IEP team
- If you are unable to complete the On-Line Registration and Virtual Education Request to Enroll, you may do so with assistance from the principal or counselor

#### Informational Items

- Virtual education enrollment is for the entire semester
  - Withdrawing before the semester is complete and returning to on-site education is **not** an option
- Enrollment deadlines for each semester are as follows:
  - Semester 1: apply by August 24th
  - Semester 2: apply by December 1st
- District report cards will only reflect semester grades
  - District and parents/guardians have the ability to monitor their student's progress up to and including the final semester grade thru the Launch program
  - District retains the final semester grade in the Tyler SIS program as a permanent record

#### **LAUNCH OFFERINGS**

