

Gore Public School Safe Return Plan

Gore Public School has updated this Safe Return Plan revised 10/27/2022.

The purpose of this plan is to ensure the students, staff, patrons, and guests are safeguarded against the contraction or spreading of the Corona Virus. The components of this plan include the following categories:

- School Operations – Integrating public health strategies for the prevention of COVID-19 into schools
- Academics and Growth – Ensuring continuity of learning; preparing for distance-learning options.
- Whole Child and Family Supports – supporting the whole child, including social and emotional wellness.
- School Personnel – Supports for school personnel as they navigate new and emerging challenges.

These categories will detail Gore Public School protocols in each area. These are intended protocols and may be revised as conditions change. Please check back for current conditions' updates and revisions.

School Operations

School operations is a broad category that encompasses every program, policy, and protocol that shapes a school and its culture. As a result, the of the myriad operational adjustments necessitated by COVID-19, and in keeping with the most up-to-to-date information on the spread of the virus, this section includes considerations for districts in the following categories: management and communication, public health protocols, environmental factors and mitigation strategies, calendars and schedules, the school day and school meals.

Management and Communication

Having a structure in place to support decision-making and communicating those decisions is essential to districts successfully managing the changing COVID-19 situation.

Establish a district leadership team

Convene a team of representatives from across the district so support planning and key decision making. The group's role shall be crucial to:

1. Understand the needs of the district as informed by experience of the 19-20, 20-21, 21-22 school years.
2. Utilize data and evidence to make decisions
3. Ensure all in the district are using common language and metrics for success
4. Ensure unified communication, support and messaging throughout the district.

The current Superintendent Advisory Team will be included on this team. Members of the community, medical experts, and others will be added as needed. This team may be consulted to

- Develop communication protocols with staff and families
- Adopt health and safety protocols, including coordination in the event of closures or disruption to learning.

Communication Plan

Develop and implement a family and community communication plan Regular and frequent communication with families and community is essential during distance learning and when outbreaks occur. With this in mind, providing families the opportunity to engage in meaningful two-way communication moving forward is essential.

The primary forms of communication with stakeholders will be the district website at www.muldrowps.org, our Facebook page, Gore Public Schools and our district calling lists for all students, parents, and staff. Please make sure that your contact phone number and email address is current with the site office of your child. Screening Parents and guardians will be responsible for screening students before they come to school. Masks are not required but are optional for entry to a building. The Oklahoma School Safety Protocols shall be referenced for GPS Safe Return Plan. Any person that has symptoms of COVID-19 should refrain from entering any school facility and avoid others until they can be tested for the virus. It is the duty of the parent or guardian, and the school to exclude such person until the period of isolation or quarantine ordered for the case expires, or until permission has been given by local health officers. See 63 O.S. 1-507.

Individuals exhibiting any of the symptoms of Coronavirus that are not explained by known prior conditions (i.e. allergies, migraines) should be prohibited from coming to school or sent home if exhibiting symptoms at school.

Social Distancing and Gatherings

Currently, GPS has no restrictions on gatherings from school events. We currently have protocols in place for social distancing per current CDC guidelines. These may change if conditions change. Efforts will be made to separate all visitors on campus from students and staff.

Student Daily Schedules for Social Distancing

Mealtime, passing periods, transportation, and commons areas will be staggered to minimize student contact with peers. Classrooms will continue to space desks and work areas.

Interactive activities such as athletics and PE classes will continue with equipment sanitization, hand washing before and after participation, and separate drink usage.

Covid Identification Protocol

In the event a positive case has been identified and has been in contact with students or staff, the current CDC guidelines shall be followed. GPS shall work with the Sequoyah County Health Department for contact tracing as required. The point of contact for this will be the site principal.

Transportation

Students will be spaced as vehicles permit. Additional vehicles may be required for transportation of large groups. School Closure If conditions warrant, GPS may close the physical facilities and move all courses to Virtual Learning. This decision will be the responsibility of the Superintendent and the leadership team. Students and parents should be prepared to move to Virtual Learning at any time.

In the event campuses close, office hours will be posted to all communication formats for student pick up of needed supplies for Virtual Learning. Online Access: All students will be provided with an online access device such as a Chromebook or an iPad. Hotspots may be available. Full Covid Protocols per CDC will be in place for anyone entering the school site.

Teachers will post lessons on Google Classroom or a pre-determined online platform as determined by the site principal and teacher. Building will be deep cleaned and sanitized during a closure. The length of the closure will be coordinated with local and state health officials for a safe reopening but may be extended as necessary. No building use will be granted to outside groups during this time.

Scheduled events may continue or may be rescheduled. This will be determined on the existing conditions and recommendations by the local health department or regulating agency such as OSSAA.

Meals may be served on a grab and go basis if conditions exist to safely do so or at designated pick up points.

Scheduling

Parents and students may apply for Virtual Education during this time. A contract must be signed by the school administrator, parents, and students. Strict adherence to the contract will be expected for those students who plan to attend virtually.

Mandatory Drills During times of Covid

Drills may be adjusted to maintain social distancing guidelines.

Academic Growth

Post pandemic learning will be focused on grade/subject level proficiency, remediation, emotional support and content knowledge. With the loss of learning opportunities, comes assessment, evaluation of delivery, methodology, student obstacles to access and learning, and planning to meet the needs identified by these processes. Nothing can replace one-on-one instruction with a teacher in a classroom setting.

The identifiable deficiencies and obtainable objectives must be determined to not only play catch-up, but to further the learning experience. To do this, the following practices will be implemented by each site.

- Ensure planning for instruction has a deep understanding of the on-grade level content and disciplinary practices associated with the Oklahoma Academic Standards.
- Identify the content knowledge and disciplinary skills from previous grade levels that serve as prerequisite skills and knowledge for on-grade-level learning.
- Identify the content knowledge and skills students might struggle with in their current grade that may have abbreviated or unaddressed in the 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 school years. In particular, focus on serving English learners, students with disabilities, and other special populations. Leverage OSDE resources to support Diverse Learners.
- Use the resources provided by Oklahoma Curriculum Frameworks to fully understand the intent of grade-level standards and how content knowledge connects and progresses across grade levels.
- Prepare scaffolding instructional supports for students who may need support.
- Develop or adapt year-long scope and sequence that includes connections between content knowledge and discipline practices from previous school years.
- Allow flexibility in scope and sequence.
- Curriculum and instruction used will support students with social-emotional well-being and build in structures that promote a safe and equitable learning environment for all students. Whole Child and Family Support Emotional well-being is critical to a student's ability to learn.

The pandemic has caused the loss of peer contact, student-teacher interaction, and consistent daily routines for students. These changes have placed undue burdens on students' well-being. To address these issues, GPS has established ongoing reporting protocols for staff, peers, and parents to report a student who may be suffering.

On campus counseling, outside counseling services, and other help agencies are available.

Training for staff will be provided annually on how to identify and report students who may be struggling with mental health issues. This training will include how to self-assess one's own state and how to cope with stress related to the pandemic. School Personnel
With the pandemic, changes to learning will fluctuate and change.

When a staff member has been affected, students may see changes to the curriculum due to a substitute teacher for a short time. This, unfortunately, is unavoidable. Illness cannot be predicted, and no one can replace a teacher with the same effectiveness. Therefore, schedules and content may temporarily be adjusted until the teacher may return. No student will be penalized for a disruption caused by a staff issue due to Covid. CDC, local, and state guidelines will be followed when a staff member is in contact with a positive case.

Leave Provisions

Leave provisions will follow current school policy and be amended by state or federal agency provisions. There are currently no specific provisions for Covid related issues or exposure for staff. Additional federal resources have been allotted to schools to address Covid Related issues. The goal is to return to a normal educational setting, safely. Gore Public Schools will consult with all stakeholders on issues via public meetings, surveys, email, and social media platforms for guidance and input. Please check our website and Facebook postings for the most current information Community input on this plan may be left via email at lmccrary@gorepublicschools.org or 918-489-5587

Sincerely,
Lucky McCrary, Superintendent,
Gore Schools