****

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

*Revised September 1, 2022*

*The Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity Plan, in connection to the ESSER III grant application, drew input from focus groups, surveys, and the district’s previous experience with student success having learned in both remote and on-campus environments.*

*A students focus group was held on May 12, 2022.*

*Additionally, as in previous years, a survey was sent to all parent. Surveys responses were received from 1797 stakeholders, including 1,127 from families (63%), 322 from students (18%), and 223 from teachers (12%). Of the 1797 responders, 70% did not identify as belonging to any federal group. However, all federal groups listed in the options available were represented in the survey responses. Those included: Tribes, Civil Rights organizations, Children with disabilities, English language learners, Children experiencing homeless, Children in foster care, Migratory students, Children who are incarcerated, and, Other underserved students.*

Responsive Education continues to provide both proactive and responsive services for social, emotional and mental health needs.

These include:

- Training for staff and administration on current Covid-related information and the impacts to one's emotional and mental health needs. This training is on-going and adjusts to current campus and local needs

- Mental health coping strategies for teachers to utilize in their classrooms to maintain a well-regulated environment

-Provision of social-emotional standards of practice for each campus to utilize in identifying and supporting students with a variety of needs

-Continuous access to a Counseling Response Team

-Access to outside counseling referrals to use as a resource for serving the students and families as a long-term solution

-Continuous monitoring of mental health concerns for each campus to adjust training and support as needed to best address that population

Responsively we have:

- Utilized the Counseling Response Team in relation to any emergency situation

- Created a protocol for campuses to access support services in the area of trauma-informed and mental health services in their local community

-Continued to develop partnerships with outside agencies for local campuses to utilize services that are relevant to their needs

- Provided follow-up support and services to a student, faculty or campus that experienced a mental health crisis

An overview of ResponsiveEd’s Safe Schools and Covid-19 Responsive Initiatives is detailed below.

At ResponsiveEd, we are ready to meet the needs of students through on-campus instruction during the 2021-2022 school year. We employ full-time and part-time staff to ensure health and safety protocols are in place for our students, staff, and visitors. As we enter the 2021-2022 school year, a number of enhanced health and safety protocols have been implemented to help prevent the spread of COVID-19

ResponsiveEd continues to monitor the spread of COVID-19 and we receive regular updates, guidance, and/or directives from Texas Governor Greg Abbott; Texas Education Agency Commissioner Mike Morath; and other local, state, and federal agencies regarding response, prevention, and mitigation efforts. This guidance has evolved and will continue to evolve based on COVID-19 conditions across the state and within the communities we serve.

As COVID-19 data changes, federal, state, and local guidance and/or directives may change in response to the data. ResponsiveEd will stay informed of these changes and will adjust policies and procedures to reflect the current guidance and/or directives. ResponsiveEd has developed these operational guidelines in consultation with the following organizations:

* Texas Education Agency (TEA): Public Health Orders, Updated 3/25/21
* Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): Considerations for Schools,
* American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP): COVID-19 Planning Considerations: Guidance for School Re-entry,
* Local Education Service Centers and School Districts1, and
* Local County and City Health Departments.

ResponsiveEd has worked collaboratively to establish guidelines that provide a safe learning environment for students and staff as we enter the 2021-22 school year. The ResponsiveEd COVID-19 Response Team was formed to develop a comprehensive response plan for daily campus operations that utilize strategies to mitigate respiratory illnesses such as COVID-19 and promote a healthy and safe environment for all ResponsiveEd students, staff, and visitors.

Student, Staff, and Visitor Safety Protocols

All students, staff, and visitors will be screened for COVID-19 symptoms regularly. Individuals who exhibit symptoms will be isolated from others and sent home.

* Students: All students will be required to be screened by their parents/guardians by performing a home temperature check and screening for COVID-19 symptoms using screening questions each day before sending their students to the campus. Teachers will monitor students and refer to the nurse/campus leadership if symptoms are present. Periodic temperature checks will be performed.
* Staff: All staff will be required to perform a home temperature check and self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms using screening questions each day prior to reporting to work.
* Visitors: All visitors will be required to be screened by campus staff by performing a temperature check and screening for COVID-19 symptoms using screening questions prior to entering the campus

Isolation Protocols for Students and Staff Displaying COVID-19 Symptoms

Students and staff displaying symptoms of COVID-19 will be isolated from other students and staff. Symptomatic students or staff will be sent home (parents/guardians are expected to pick up their students within 30-60 minutes of receiving notification).

Students and staff attending the same classroom as the symptomatic students or staff will be removed from the classroom and taken to an alternate location on campus (e.g. go on a walk outside, move to a different classroom, etc.) so that the classroom can be disinfected.

The school will inform any families of students or staff that a positive case was identified in the classroom and/or cohort.

Consistent with our notification requirements for other communicable diseases, and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements, we will notify all staff and parents if a lab-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among any individuals participating in any on-campus activities.

Staff or students diagnosed with COVID-19 cannot return to campus until ALL three (3) of the following criteria have been met:

* Fever-free for at least 24 hours (without fever-reducing medicine)
* Improvement in respiratory symptoms (cough, shortness of breath)
* At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared

Disinfectants and Campus Cleaning

Frequent cleaning and disinfecting will promote healthy learning and working environments for students and staff.

* Classroom Mitigation Practices
* Classrooms: Each classroom will be outfitted with the following:
* Visual reminders of distancing requirements,
* Refillable hand sanitizer stations, and
* Disinfectant wipes to sanitize working surfaces.

Daily Campus Cleaning

* Each classroom and restroom will be disinfected daily.
* All high-touch areas will be cleaned frequently.
* Custodians will wear gloves while on campus.
* The cafeteria will be disinfected between lunch periods.
* Additional Cleaning Measures for Confirmed Cases of Covid-19 on Campus
* If a classroom or facility is closed due to COVID-19, quaternary disinfectant, which is recommended for use on the virus that causes COVID-19, will be used to disinfect.
* Custodial staff will disinfect classrooms, restrooms, gym, and all additional areas in the entire campus.

Classroom Configurations and Procedures

* Each day the classroom teacher will create a seating chart to be used for contact tracing.
* Students and staff will be socially distanced as much as possible.
* Partitions will be used if needed.
* When necessary, teachers, instead of students, will rotate between classrooms when feasible.
* Class periods will be staggered if students must move between classrooms to limit the number of students in the hallway when changing classrooms.
* The use of outdoor space for learning will be considered when possible.
* Staff will limit the use of shared supplies and have access to disinfectant wipes to sanitize high-touch surfaces and shared objects.

Following the requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief Fund grant, this plan is subject to change as guidance and/or directives are provided by government officials and/or as COVID-19 conditions change. Input and questions can be directed to [covid-19responseteam@responsiveed.com](mailto:covid-19responseteam@responsiveed.com).