

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



**Bismarck R-5 School District**

**2022-2023**

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## **Introductory Information**

- A. Bismarck School District is committed to providing a high-quality education for all students while prioritizing the health of our school community.
- B. Please note, all students will be enrolled for face-to-face instruction.
- C. No visitors will be allowed in our buildings without prior approval to begin the year. Social distancing will be regularly encouraged throughout our school buildings; however, we cannot guarantee social distancing will take place in classrooms and common spaces.
- D. Delivery of food or beverages from outside stores or restaurants is prohibited in order to limit the risk of exposure. Bringing or sharing refreshments during meetings is prohibited to limit the risk of exposure.

**This Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan (SRCSP) is fluid. Elements in the plan could change frequently, and will be reviewed (and revised if necessary) every 6 months in consultation with stakeholders, including: 1) students, 2) parents/families, 3) teachers and their organizations, 4) administration, and 5) those who represent the interests of children with disabilities, homeless, etc. All changes will be communicated to families through email, text, social media, phone or shared on the District's website.**

**\*To the extent present in or served by the LEA.**

## **Levels of Operation**

Decisions will continue to be made in coordination with local and state guidelines. In order for Bismarck R-5 School employees, students and community to best understand access rules, the school district will use a level indicator:

### **Level Indicator Definitions**

- **Level 1:** All classes will take place in school buildings. No PPE required for students.
- **Level 2:** Seated School with Health Precautions: All classes will take place in school buildings. Extra cleaning and safety protocols for staff and students will be followed. There are restrictions on parents, visitors, and volunteers in the building. PPE may be required for students and/or staff members.
- **Level 3:** Alternative Instruction: Courses will be taught with a possible combination of seated and remote instruction. Staff will be in buildings, with students prescribed days of in-person attendance and remote instruction (AMI). Protocols for staff and students will be followed according to building COVID-19 Re-entry Guidelines. There are restrictions on parents, visitor, and volunteers in the building. PPE may be required for students and/or staff members.
- **Level 4:** Remote Instruction: All staff will be on campus (unless directed otherwise). All students will be off campus and receive instruction online using Acellus and/or Google Classroom. Teachers will use tools such as email, Zoom, and Remind to communicate with students and families. All buildings will be closed to students.

**Note: During in-person instruction and in the event of any interruption of in person instruction, Bismarck R-5 will continue to provide for the social, emotional, and mental health needs of students and staff. Administrators, teachers, counselors and staff will remain readily available to address concerns and provide access to resources to help meet social, emotional, and mental health needs.**

## **Early Childhood Program (Pre-K)**

### **Mitigation Strategy Policies:**

- A. Education will be provided on the universal and correct wearing of masks.
  - B. Every best effort will be made to maintain stable groups, including the use of cohorts and podding.
  - C. Education will be provided to and student monitored concerning proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette.
  - D. Necessary cleaning protocols will be implemented between the AM and PM sessions in order to clean and maintain healthy facilities. This will include efforts for increased ventilation through the use of windows, fans, HVAC units, etc.
  - E. Contact tracing, isolation, and quarantine protocols will be implemented in alignment with state, local, territorial, or tribal organizations.
  - F. Diagnostic screening and testing protocols will be in place throughout. See *Screening & Safety Procedures*
  - G. Efforts will be made to provide vaccinations to educators, staff and students, including: on-site and off-site clinics and consistent communication concerning vaccines.
  - H. Appropriate accommodations will be made for students with disabilities.
  - I. Masks will be readily available for all students in the Pre-K and in the elementary office (12/13/21)
  - J. Visual drinking fountain procedures will be posted throughout the district (12/13/21)
  - K. Target class sizes will be 10 students per session.
  - L. Necessary cleaning protocols will be implemented between the AM and PM sessions.
  - M. Student attendance will be closely monitored.
  - N. In Pre-K classrooms, every best effort will be made to maintain stable groups.
- Classroom protocols will include assigned seating and other measures to minimize contact.
  - Individual school closures may occur as directed by the Superintendent for health and safety reasons. Please refer to the Bismarck School Closures section of this document for more information.
  - Students are assigned to an AM or PM session.

## **Elementary**

### **Mitigation Strategy Policies:**

- A. Education will be provided on the universal and correct wearing of masks.
- B. Every best effort will be made to maintain stable groups, including the use of cohorts and podding.

- C. Education will be provided to and student monitored concerning proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette.
  - D. Necessary cleaning protocols will be implemented throughout the day between various sessions in order to clean and maintain healthy facilities. This will include efforts for increased ventilation through the use of windows, fans, HVAC units, etc.
  - E. Contact tracing, isolation, and quarantine protocols will be implemented in alignment with state, local, territorial, or tribal organizations.
  - F. Diagnostic screening and testing protocols will be in place throughout. See *Screening & Safety Procedures*
  - G. Efforts will be made to provide vaccinations to educators, staff and students, including: on-site and off-site clinics and consistent communication concerning vaccines.
  - H. Appropriate accommodations will be made for students with disabilities.
  - I. Masks will be readily available for all students in the elementary office (12/13/21)
  - J. Visual drinking fountain procedures will be posted throughout the district (12/13/21)
  - K. All students in K-5 will be expected to attend face-to-face.
  - L. If a temporary school closure occurs, in-person classes will transition to virtual learning until reopening. Temporary school closures may occur by building as directed by the Superintendent for health and safety reasons.
  - M. K-5 grading practices will remain the same as the previous school year. Students will continue receiving grades even if a school closure occurs.
- In grades K-5, every best effort will be made to maintain consistent groupings. Classroom protocols will include assigned seating and other measures.

### **Elementary Special Education Services**

- A. All special education students will be provided instruction relative to their IEP goals.
- B. A student's case manager will work with families to ensure that the IEP is being met.
- C. The student's services will be provided in a pull-out and/or push-in model to ensure the student's IEP goals are being addressed. If Bismarck closes a school or the District due to health and safety concerns, students will continue to receive their services from their special education teacher per Form G of the IEP.
- D. Elementary Section 504 Section 504 plans will continue to be implemented. If needed, the 504 team may reconvene to adjust accommodations and modifications.

#### E. Elementary EL (English Learner) Services

- EL students will receive direct support from their EL teacher.
- If Bismarck R-5 closes a school or the District due to health and safety concerns, students will continue to receive their services from their EL teacher. The student's services will be provided in a pull-out and/or push-in model to ensure the student's goals are being addressed.

#### **Physical Education**

- A. Social distancing will be managed as much as possible and activities may be used which limit close contact with others based on current status of situation.
- B. Students will be provided with their own equipment for class when possible and equipment will be regularly disinfected.
- C. Handwashing before and after physical activity will be encouraged.

#### **Library Media Services**

- A. Library Media Services will be available for individual and small groups of students. Social distancing rules will be followed as will cleaning and sanitation measures.

#### **Secondary Education (Middle and High School) Mitigation Strategy Policies:**

- A. Staff will be properly prepared to educate on the wearing, use and handling of masks.
- B. Every best effort will be made to maintain stable groups, including the use of cohorts and podding.
- C. Education will be provided to and student monitored concerning proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette.
- D. Contact tracing, isolation, and quarantine protocols will be implemented in alignment with state, local, territorial, or tribal organizations.
- E. Diagnostic screening and testing protocols will be in place throughout. See *Screening & Safety Procedures*
- F. Efforts will be made to provide vaccinations to educators, staff and students, including: on-site and off-site clinics and consistent communication concerning vaccines.
- G. Appropriate accommodations will be made for students with disabilities.
- H. Masks will be readily available for all students in the Pre-K and in the JH/HS office (12/13/21)

- I. Visual drinking fountain procedures will be posted throughout the district (12/13/21)
- J. All students in grades 6-12 will be expected to attend face-to-face.
- K. If a temporary school closure occurs, in-person classes would immediately transition to virtual learning and remain in place until reopening. Temporary school closures may occur by building as directed by the Superintendent for health and safety reasons.
- L. 6-12 grading practices will remain the same as the previous school year. Students will continue receiving grades even if a school closure occurs.

### **Secondary Special Education Services**

- A. All special education students will be provided instruction relative to their IEP goals.
- B. A student's case manager will work with families to ensure that the IEP is being met.
- C. The student's services will be provided in a pull-out and/or push-in model to ensure the student's IEP goals are being addressed. If Bismarck closes a school or the District due to health and safety concerns, students will continue to receive their services from their special education teacher per Form G of the IEP.

### **Secondary Section 504 Services**

- A. Section 504 plans will continue to be implemented. If needed, the 504 team may reconvene to adjust accommodations and modifications.

### **Secondary EL (English Learner) Services**

- A. EL students will receive direct support from their EL teacher.
- B. If Bismarck closes a school or the District due to health and safety concerns, students will continue to receive their services from their EL teacher. The student's services will be provided in a pull-out and/or push-in model to ensure the student's goals are being addressed.

### **Performing Arts**

- Classes may be reorganized based on current status of the situation. This will potentially include alterations to traditional class expectations. Appropriate cleaning and sanitizing will take place. Teachers will demonstrate proper hand washing and cleaning of tools, equipment and media so that students can properly clean shared items when appropriate.

## **Visual Arts**

- Classes may be organized to emphasize social distancing. Appropriate cleaning and sanitizing will take place. Teachers will demonstrate proper hand washing and cleaning of tools, equipment and media so that students can properly clean shared items when appropriate.

## **Physical Education**

- A. Social distancing will be managed as much as possible and activities may be used which limit close contact with others. Students will be provided their own equipment for class when possible and equipment will be regularly disinfected.
- B. Handwashing before and after physical activity will be required

## **Library Media Services**

- A. Library Media Services will be available for individual and small groups of students. Social distancing rules will be followed as will cleaning and sanitation measures.

## **Screening/Safety Procedures**

- Students and staff are asked to stay home and report the absence to the school office or supervisor if any of the following:
  - They have tested positive for COVID-19
  - Have been diagnosed presumptive positive for COVID-19
  - Are awaiting COVID-19 test results and/or exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 based on CDC guidance.
- If a student is excluded from school due to COVID-19 symptoms or has had a positive COVID-19 test, his/her siblings or other students living in the same household will be questioned and if they exhibit symptoms, they will also be excluded from school. If they do not exhibit symptoms, they may still be excluded from school and asked to self-quarantine.
- If a student or employee has recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19 symptoms, been diagnosed with COVID-19, or has recently traveled from somewhere considered to be a “hot spot” by the CDC, the District may exclude the student or employee from the school building and recommend that they self-quarantine. Those allowed into the school buildings may be screened. If a student visits the nurse, temperature checks and additional screening may be implemented as needed.



- Those who are identified as having COVID-19 symptoms will be instructed to wear an appropriate mask, use hand sanitizer, and go to a designated area to be picked up by families and sent home. Individuals suspected of being exposed to COVID-19 may be excluded from entry into the building and the student will be escorted out. Staff assisting with COVID-19 symptoms/screening will be supplied with appropriate PPE.

### **School Nurse Procedures**

- Bismarck Nursing staff providing health care will be provided with appropriate PPE.
- Due to student privacy, these records are not public. However, information may be shared with health organizations as appropriate.
- The CDC, other medical associations, and best practices will provide guidance on students and staff who have had contact with people who are suspected of COVID-19 positive.

### **General Cleaning Procedures**

- Buildings and buses will be thoroughly cleaned as needed, including the use of foggers.
- Staff and students may clean other frequently-touched common surfaces will be cleaned throughout the day.
- Teachers will have a spray bottle of disinfectant to wipe down desks and tables throughout the day.

### **Student Transportation**

- Bus transportation will be provided. Due to the difficulty of social distancing on buses, any parent who can provide transportation may well want to do so. Students will have assigned seats on the bus.
- Bus drivers will watch for continued coughing or other symptoms and may request a student sit in a designated area on the bus. The bus driver will immediately alert the school administrators upon arrival.
- Seats will be sanitized between use and buses will be cleaned daily.
- The front row seats will be used at the discretion of the driver and administration.
- Bus drivers will not work if they are sick.
- If a student has transportation written into their IEP plan, the IEP team will make the most appropriate decision for those students.

## **Staff Procedures**

- Staff are asked to stay home and report the absence to the school office or supervisor for any of the following:
  - They have tested positive for COVID-19
  - Have been diagnosed presumptive positive for COVID-19
  - Are awaiting COVID-19 test results; Exhibit one or more symptoms of COVID-19 based on CDC guidance.
- If a student or employee has recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19 symptoms, or diagnosed with COVID-19, or has recently traveled from somewhere considered to be a “hot spot” by the CDC, the District may exclude the student or employee from the school building and recommend that they self-quarantine.
- Do not congregate in public spaces like restrooms, break rooms/kitchens, or hallways.

## **General Guidelines/Information**

- Only employees and approved volunteers required for student instruction or services will be allowed in the building during school hours. This includes all essential staff, parents/guardians (when necessary), and District personnel.
- Visitors will be asked to follow the social distancing and recommendations from the CDC at the time of their visit.
- All visits from non-essential staff (vendors, local businesses, etc.) will be scheduled with the respective building administrator. When this is not possible, these individuals will have access by appointment only and will follow social distancing and CDC recommendations.
- Parents/guardians should contact the school prior to visiting if they do not have a scheduled appointment.
- To support the work of our custodial staff and their efforts to disinfect and maintain a safe building for the students and staff, we will allow facility usage on a case-by-case basis. School administration must approve all after school events and groups will have to adhere to the gathering recommendations at the time of the event.
- In order for a student to participate in extracurricular activities, he/she must attend traditional face-to-face school.

## **Bismarck R-V School Closures**

- The decision to close Bismarck R-V School District may be made as a means to prevent further spread of an epidemic, or in response to high student and/or staff absenteeism. The Superintendent will make individual school or District closure decisions in consultation with the Board of Education, District Administrative Team, and health organizations as appropriate.

## **Possible School Closure Trigger Points:**

- Student absenteeism - when it is not economically prudent to keep the school(s) open;
- Staff absenteeism - when the number of staff available to supervise and instruct students drop below what is necessary to maintain a safe learning environment;
- Confirmed case(s) of COVID-19
- To protect the public health and safety as advised by local, state, or federal officials.

**Note: If you need or know of someone who needs this plan translated or read to them, please contact Dr. Michael Silvy, Superintendent of Schools at 573-734-6111 or by email at [msilvy@bismarckr5.org](mailto:msilvy@bismarckr5.org).**

## **Timeline of SRCSP**

- **Original Release Date: June 18, 2021**
- **Reviewed on: December 13, 2021 (6-month review)**
- **Revised version approved by BOE: December 14, 2021**
- **Reviewed on: July 20, 2022 (6/12 month review)**
- **Revised version approved by BOE: August 25, 2022**