

**Basin Elementary School District
Safe Return to School and Continuity of Services Plan**

Date of Original Adoption: June, 2020
Date Plan was Last Revised: December 2021
Next Regularly Scheduled Month for Consideration: June 2022

Part 1: Pandemic Recap (March 2020-June 2021)

Basin Public School was ordered to close to in-person instruction on March 15, 2020, under an executive order issued by then-Governor Bullock. Districts were provided a two-week period of time during which they could remain fully closed to instruction of any kind while developing a plan for remote instruction required by the Governor.

Although our district was authorized to remain closed for a two-week period, Basin School quickly mobilized and began remote instruction within the week, on Thursday, March 19, 2020.

On April 22, 2020, then-Governor Bullock lifted his Stay-at-Home Order, and announced a plan to initiate a phased reopening. As part of that plan, effective May 7, 2020, all schools were provided the option to return to in-classroom teaching at the discretion of local school boards. Basin School utilized remote instruction through the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year concluding school on Friday, May 29, 2020.

During the summer of 2020, our district developed a plan for reopening to in person instruction, with contingencies, and we implemented that plan for the 2020-21 school year.

Throughout the 2020-2021 school year, our school and educators sought to provide quality learning opportunities to our students while maintaining safe, and healthy environments in alignment with national guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Basin School utilized a hybrid learning environment, operating 4 days in person and Fridays as remote learning days. As a school district, we worked to update our community through regular posting of COVID related information and tools. We held publicly noticed meetings including opportunities for public comment.

Part II: 2021-2022 Plan Development (March 2021 through December 2021)

We noticed, held, and invited public comment on our evolving plans for the 2021-2022 school year as part of our June and July Board of Trustees Meetings. Decisions for how we would move forward, and policies that would be adopted were decided at the September Board of Trustees Meeting (Sept. 1, 2021).

Part III: Contents of The School District's Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services:

The below areas describe how Basin School will continue to maintain the health and safety of students, employees, and families.

Aligned Governance: Following the lifting of the Governor's Stay-at-Home Order and subsequent reopening of the state on April 22, 2020, Basin School utilized the Montana Public Education Center Roadmap for Safely Reopening Montana's Public Schools Using Emergency School District Policies and as well as the MTSBA Model Emergency Policies listed below to

determine next steps. The use of these resources supported our district's continued service to students with transparency and accountability while ensuring the operations of the school district reflected the circumstances in our community.

Pandemic-Specific Policies: Dates of Original Adoption

- Policy 1900: Adopted 04/29/20 – Revised 04/28/20, 05/12/20
- Policy 1901: Adopted 04/29/20 – Revised 04/28/20
- Policy 1902: Adopted 04/29/20
- Policy 1904: Adopted 04/29/20 – Revised 04/28/20 – Terminated 06/08/21
- Policy 1905: Adopted 04/29/20 – Revised 04/13/21, 06/08/21
- Policy 1906: Adopted 04/29/20 – Revised 05/12/20
- Policy 1907: Adopted 04/29/20

The policies ensured that our Board of Trustees and school leaders honored the following priorities:

Continued teaching and learning for our students

A healthy, safe setting for students, employees, families, and the Basin community

Social-emotional supports for students, families and employees

Responsible operational and fiscal procedures.

The policies provided an actionable plan for completing the 2020-2021 school year in a manner that met these priorities and secured district funding while providing an operational platform for considering long-term innovations in the delivery of education services.

Safety Measures: Basin School continues to actively consider the above-noted emergency policies, including any needed amendments, administrative procedures, and the suspension/removal of policies when they are no longer relevant or needed.

To support students' academic, mental, social, and emotional success, the district is actively implementing enhanced counseling, expanded meal distribution, summer programming, and specific support services for students with increased needs.

Furthermore, in an effort to ensure a safe and healthy environment for our students, employees, and families, the Basin School District has utilized specific plans and procedures, including;

enhanced cleaning and disinfection

revised guidelines for community use of facilities

county board of health orders

Covid diagnosis, testing, and confidentiality

standard health protocols, including hand washing and related hygiene protocols

provision of masks and personal protective equipment

physical distancing

symptom monitoring and isolation

school closure orders

stay at home orders

travel quarantines

restrictions for visitors, volunteers, and vulnerable individuals.

Universal and Correct Wearing of Masks:

Basin School adopted and utilized a Board policy specifically related to the use of masks within/across our schools. Per our plan for the 2020/2021 school year, masks were required for all students, employees, and visitors.

Board Policy 1905 was adopted on 03/09/21 in alignment with this ongoing expectation. The policy was revised on 04/13/2021 to allow masking outdoors to become optional.

As of now, the revised policy recommends the correct use of face masks while indoors, but does not mandate mask use. Please note that Montana laws preclude policies/practices that include differentiated rules based on a person's vaccine status. Therefore, we must either require the use of masks for all students, employees, and visitors or choose to make masking optional. As of now, the use of masks remains optional, but recommended, when indoors and/or in situations in which proper distancing cannot be maintained.

Physical Distancing:

At this time, Basin School is doing its best to encourage physical distancing between students. Including, spaced seating charts in the classroom and the lunchroom, as well as keeping spacing while in line.

Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette:

Throughout the 2020/2021 school year, our students became accustomed to new expectations with regards to handwashing and respiratory etiquette. Most notably, families were asked to symptom screen and keep children at home when they did not feel well and/or exhibited symptoms. Schools and classrooms worked to increase the access and frequency of handwashing and/or sanitization. These are practices that we have continued in the 2021/2022 year. These practices include covering one's face when sneezing or coughing and cleaning high-touch surfaces.

Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities (including improving ventilation)

Basin School will continue to ensure that our campus and facilities are cleaned, maintained, and functioning with the health and safety of our students and employees as an ongoing priority. Air-handling systems within our schools have been enhanced/upgraded to ensure needed air circulation and filtration. This includes two air purifiers running throughout the day in each classroom, as well as one, in the less used lunch room. Furthermore, we will continue our enhanced cleaning efforts – practices that include proper sanitization of high-touch surfaces with a focus on handrails, doorknobs, light switches, etc.

Contact Tracing

In alignment with local health protocols, we will continue to assess each confirmed COVID-19 case for close contacts. As required, close contacts may be expected to quarantine for a defined period of time. At this time, a person's vaccination status will not factor into whether they are required to quarantine.

Diagnostic and Screening Testing

Basin School will continue to partner with local health professionals to provide families and employees with needed access to COVID-19 testing. Most likely, testing will need to be obtained through an outside organization and/or an individual's healthcare provider.

Vaccinations

Basin School will continue to act in accordance with state and federal law with respect to vaccinations for its staff and eligible students. As a district, we will continue to share information regarding vaccination clinics and will partner with local health care professionals to host opportunities as needed. Please note that Basin School will not refuse, withhold from, or deny a person any services, goods, facilities, advantages, privileges, licensing, educational opportunities, health care access, or employment opportunities based on the person's vaccination status.

Accommodating Students with Disabilities

Basin School will continue to provide accommodations, aligned with related policies, for students with disabilities as determined appropriate based upon individual student needs and in accordance with individual accommodation plans or individualized education plans (IEPs). Students requiring

accommodations should contact their IEP lead, their school's administrator, or Prickly Pear CoOperation to request information on plans for students with disabilities.

Continuity of Services

As part of our planned teaching and learning environment, Basin School has prioritized the following services. Each is directly aligned to the needs of our students, employees, and/or families.

Student Academic Needs

Central to our priorities for the 2021-2022 school year is the assurance of a high-quality learning environment for all of our students. With the return to a full-time, in-person learning environment, this school year has been designed to resemble our pre-pandemic environment. That noted, our teaching and learning environment evolved across the past year to include numerous practices associated with blended learning that were not previously common to our schools and classrooms. We intend to continue to develop these beyond-the-classroom opportunities in an effort to enhance and interconnect both in-school and beyond-school learning.

As a result of the pandemic, students have experienced challenges and interruptions to their learning. This unfinished learning must be continually addressed through our tiered intervention systems and practices. While academic interventions have always been a core part of our ongoing environment, a more robust set of academic interventions will be necessary to address the needs of students who are not performing according to grade level standards.

Gaps associated with unfinished learning must be continually addressed, monitored, and remedied across the 2021-2022 school year and beyond. Basin School prides itself on its ability to reach and teach each student at their individual level due to small class sizes. We will continue to use these practices to fill gaps created due to lost learning during the 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 school years. Basin School also uses curriculum and curricular enrichment tools that allow us to teach students at their grade level, and use personalized learning to teach at individual levels to fill gaps. We will continue to use this practice, and search for the highest quality curriculum and learning tools to guide growth.

Student Social/Emotional and Mental Health Needs

The ongoing pandemic has produced well-documented social/emotional and mental health needs across our community, state, nation, and world. These needs, as they pertain specifically to school-age students, have been an ongoing area of analysis and collaborative effort. This focus on social-emotional needs must remain ever-present as an ongoing priority for the 2021-2022 school year. As we move into a different, more normal phase of this pandemic, continued needs associated with the challenges and traumatic events of the past sixteen months are expected. In the past, Basin School, in partnership with Montana Small School Alliance, has provided mental health support via teachers. In the 2021/2022 school year, we have purchased an online counseling and guidance program to better address students social/emotional needs.

Other Student-Related Needs

For the 2021/2022 school year, Basin has been able to continue to provide access to lunch and snack, and put a breakfast program in place, thanks to a partnership with Boulder Elementary School. We will also continue to provide access to meals across the summer months. Our operational environment is best described as nearing normal. Within this environment, we have almost returned to our standard operational format, including start/end times, normal classroom setups/environments, and other day-to-day aspects associated with our schools. However, we must remain ready to address any unforeseen challenges associated with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Employee Social/Emotional and Mental Health Needs

Basin School will continue to support the social/emotional and mental health needs of our employees by using Jefferson County Public Health as a resource for any needs.

Other Staff-Related Needs

Our partnership with local health professionals will remain ongoing as we seek to provide needed access to vaccinations and/or booster doses as these need-based opportunities arise.

Public Input: Basin School posted/presented our draft plan for the forthcoming 2021-2022 school year at our August 2021 School Board Meeting. This ESSER required Plan for a Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services has been linked on our COVID 19 information page on our school website. The district is actively seeking public feedback on our developing plans. As noted above, the district will review this plan at least once every six months and will provide an opportunity for public input as part of this ongoing process.

Appendix:

Aligned Governance/District Policies: Following the *Roadmap for Safely Reopening Montana's Public Schools Using Emergency School District Policies* ensured the Basin School to remain in compliance with guidance and best practices provided by federal, state, or local health officials. Our schools and district have continued to adapt and adjust our policies as new and updated guidance and best practices have become available. Furthermore, our format for considering these emergency-based policies provide us with opportunities to effectively consider input from our Board of Trustees, administrative team, employees, parents, students, health officials, and community. These policies have enabled us to adjust our procedures and practices during different phases in compliance with guidance and best practices provided by federal, state, and local agencies. Basin School will continue to follow the policies noted below while engaging in a quarterly reevaluation process to continue to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of our students, teachers, staff, and community. These policies are expected to remain in effect for as long as needed as a result of this ongoing pandemic and the associated period of recovery.

Topic	School District Policy Reference	Description of Policy	Policy Adopted and Revised Date(s)
Masking	1905	<p>1905: The School District has adopted the protocols outlined in this policy during the term of the declared public health emergency to ensure the safe and healthy delivery of education services provided to students on school property in accordance with Policy 1906, and a safe workplace when staff are present on school property in accordance with Policy 1909, and the safety, health and well-being of parents and community members. The supervising teacher, principal, superintendent or designated personnel are authorized to implement the protocols in coordination with state and local health officials. The policy establishes regulations regarding symptoms of illness, cleaning and disinfecting, temperature screening, vulnerable individuals, food preparation and meal service, and transportation services.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. August 5, 2020 2. September 1, 2021 3. October 6, 2021

Physical Distancing	1905	<p>1905: The School District has adopted the protocols outlined in this policy during the term of the declared public health emergency to ensure the safe and healthy delivery of education services provided to students on school property in accordance with Policy 1906, and a safe workplace when staff are present on school property in accordance with Policy 1909, and the safety, health and well-being of parents and community members. The supervising teacher, principal, superintendent or designated personnel are authorized to implement the protocols in coordination with state and local health officials. The policy establishes regulations regarding symptoms of illness, cleaning and disinfecting, temperature screening, vulnerable individuals, food preparation and meal service, and transportation services.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. August 5, 2020 2. September 1, 2021 3. October 6, 2021
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<p>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation.</p>	<p>1905P</p>	<p>1905: The School District has adopted the protocols outlined in this policy during the term of the declared public health emergency to ensure the safe and healthy delivery of education services provided to students on school property in accordance with Policy 1906, and a safe workplace when staff are present on school property in accordance with Policy 1909, and the safety, health and well-being of parents and community members. The supervising teacher, principal, superintendent or designated personnel are authorized to implement the protocols in coordination with state and local health officials. The policy establishes regulations regarding symptoms of illness, cleaning and disinfecting, temperature screening, vulnerable individuals, food preparation and meal service, and transportation services.</p> <p>1905P: The administrative team of the School District has adopted these procedures regarding personnel cleaning and disinfecting, symptoms of illness, and water systems in accordance with Policy 1310 in order to implement Policy 1905 during the term of the declared public health emergency to ensure a safe and healthy work and instructional setting. These procedures were developed in accordance with the latest available guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and in coordination with applicable state, tribal, and local health officials. These procedures supplement Policy 1905.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. August 5, 2020 2. September 1, 2021 3. October 6, 2021
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<p>Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments.</p>	<p>1905; 3417</p>	<p>1905: The School District has adopted the protocols outlined in this policy during the term of the declared public health emergency to ensure the safe and healthy delivery of education services provided to students on school property in accordance with Policy 1906, and a safe workplace when staff are present on school property in accordance with Policy 1909, and the safety, health and well-being of parents and community members. The supervising teacher, principal, superintendent or designated personnel are authorized to implement the protocols in coordination with state and local health officials. The policy establishes regulations regarding symptoms of illness, temperature screening, public awareness, and confidentiality.</p> <p>3417: In all proceedings related to this policy, the District will respect a student’s right to privacy. Although the District is required to provide educational services to all school-age children who reside within its boundaries, it may deny attendance at school to any child diagnosed as having a communicable disease that could make a child’s attendance harmful to the welfare of other students. The District will rely on advice of the public health and medical communities in assessing the risk of transmission of various communicable diseases to determine how best to protect the health of both students and staff. The District will manage common communicable diseases in accordance with Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services guidelines and communicable diseases control rules. The District may temporarily exclude from school attendance a student who exhibits symptoms of a communicable disease that is readily transmitted in a school setting. The District may notify parents of other children attending a school that their children have been exposed to a communicable disease without identifying the particular student who has the disease.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. August 5, 2020 2. September 1, 2021 3. October 6, 2021
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<p>Diagnostic and screening testing.</p>	<p>1905</p>	<p>1905: The School District has adopted the protocols outlined in this policy during the term of the declared public health emergency to ensure the safe and healthy delivery of education services provided to students on school property in accordance with Policy 1906, and a safe workplace when staff are present on school property in accordance with Policy 1909, and the safety, health and well-being of parents and community members. The supervising teacher, principal, superintendent or designated personnel are authorized to implement the protocols in coordination with state and local health officials. The policy establishes regulations regarding symptoms of illness, cleaning and disinfecting, temperature screening, vulnerable individuals, food preparation and meal service, and transportation services.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. August 5, 2020 2. September 1, 2021 3. October 6, 2021
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<p>Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities</p>	<p>3413</p>	<p>Please note that House Bill 702 passed the 2021 Legislature and was signed into law effective May 14, 2021. New Section 1 of that law provides that it is an unlawful discriminatory practice for a governmental entity to refuse, withhold from, or deny to a person any local or state services, goods, facilities, advantages, privileges, licensing, educational opportunities, health care access, or employment opportunities based on the person's vaccination status. The law also provides it is unlawful for an employer to refuse employment to a person, to bar a person from employment, or to discriminate against a person in compensation or in a term, condition, or privilege of employment based on the person's vaccination status. Finally, House Bill 702 provides it is unlawful for a public accommodation to exclude, limit, segregate, refuse to serve, or otherwise discriminate against a person based on the person's vaccination status.</p> <p>3413: Upon initial enrollment, an immunization status form shall be completed by the student's parent or guardian. The certificate shall be made a part of the student's permanent record.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. August 5, 2020 2. September 1, 2021 3. October 6, 2021
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<p>Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies.</p>	<p>1908; 2162; 2162P</p>	<p>1908: The Board of Trustees authorizes the supervising teacher or district administrator to provide Policy 1908F to families requesting to opt-out of onsite instruction at the school facility for the duration of the declared public health emergency. Students of families opting out of onsite instruction at the school facility shall receive offsite, online, and proficiency-based instruction, or any combination of the foregoing at the discretion of the School District in accordance with District Policy 1906. Students of families opting out of onsite delivery shall be treated the same as students instructed at the school facility for purposes of grading, discipline, and other educational rights.</p> <p>2162: It is the intent of the District to ensure that students who are disabled within the definition of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are identified, evaluated, and provided with appropriate educational services. For those students who need or are believed to need special instruction and/or related services under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the District shall establish and implement a system of procedural safeguards.</p> <p>2162P: If the parent or legal guardian of a student who qualifies under Section 504 for special instruction or related services disagrees with a decision of the District with respect to: (1) the identification of the child as qualifying for Section 504; (2) the District's evaluation of the child; and/or (3) the educational placement of the child, the parents of the student are entitled to certain procedural safeguards. The student shall remain in his/her current placement until the matter has been resolved through the process set in the policy.</p>	<p>1. August 5, 2020</p> <p>2. September 1, 2021</p> <p>3. October 6, 2021</p>
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<p>Coordination with State and local health officials.</p>	<p>1900; 1905; 1907; 3417</p>	<p>1900: In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board of Trustees has found it necessary to adopt temporary policies related to emergency school closures, the ongoing provision of educational services to students, meetings of the Board, gatherings on school property, health and safety of students, staff and community members, human resource matters and budgetary matters. To ensure clarity and transparency, the board has organized all emergency school policies into a temporary chapter. School District Policies Numbered 1900-1999 are intended to govern during any emergency related to COVID-19 declared by the President, Congress, Montana Legislature, Governor, Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, County Health Department or the Board of Trustees.</p> <p>1905: The School District has adopted the protocols outlined in this policy during the term of the declared public health emergency to ensure the safe and healthy delivery of education services provided to students on school property in accordance with Policy 1906, and a safe workplace when staff are present on school property in accordance with Policy 1909, and the safety, health and well-being of parents and community members. The supervising teacher, principal, superintendent or designated personnel are authorized to implement the protocols in coordination with state and local health officials. The policy establishes regulations regarding symptoms of illness, cleaning and disinfecting, temperature screening, vulnerable individuals, food preparation and meal service, and transportation services.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. August 5, 2020 2. September 1, 2021 3. October 6, 2021
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<p>Continuity of Services</p>	<p>1906P:</p>	<p>Students shall receive services in accordance with the applicable Individualized Education Plan or Section 504 Plan based on methods and locations agreed upon and documented by the applicable team to meet the student's needs and goals. Students shall have access to regular school counseling services whether their instruction is provided in an onsite, offsite or online setting. Staff shall promptly report any suspected student distress or concern to their supervisor for review and referral. Students receiving instruction in an offsite setting are governed by the staff obligation to report suspected child abuse or neglect. This policy in no way limits or adjusts the School District's obligations to homeless students or students in foster care. Applicable District policies serving these students, or this population of students remain in full effect.</p> <p>1906P: Proficiency or satisfying aggregate hours of instruction can be achieved through an on-site, off-site, or blended learning model as outlined in Policy 1906. Best practices will assist districts in facilitating quality learning for each student regardless of background or circumstance. Best practices include but are not limited to, planning and communication, clear expectations, differentiated instruction and learning models, and flexible demonstrations of learning.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. August 5, 2020 2. September 1, 2021 3. October 6, 2021
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