

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

LEA Name: MIDLAND PARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Date: December 9, 2022

1. Universal and correct wearing of masks.

Effective Monday, March 7, 2022, Midland Park Public Schools made the wearing of facemasks optional for students and staff. This determination follows Governor Murphy's recent announcement lifting the indoor facemask mandate in schools and childcare settings as of that date. It is our understanding the Governor's determination is reflective of the latest data regarding COVID-19 cases and statewide hospitalizations. The New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) is expected to release additional guidance regarding this issue to school districts shortly. Please know that should the data change and NJDOH recommendations indicate a return to the wearing of facemasks is necessary, we will revisit this decision and inform you of any revisions. As of this date, the lifting of the facemask mandate does not include changes to current contact tracing or quarantining procedures.

2. Social/Physical Distancing.

The district will continue to comply with guidance in this area as outlined by the governor, NJDOH, and the local health department as it pertains to the health and safety of students. A health and safety assessment prior to the opening of schools will be conducted to ensure compliance to state and local health guidance.

3. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette.

The district will continue to comply with guidance in this area as outlined by the governor, NJDOH, and the local health department as it pertains to the health and safety of students. District will continue to keep families informed of handwashing and respiratory etiquette requirements, i.e., handwashing or the use of hand sanitizers upon entering classrooms in the morning, before and after snack, after using restrooms, whenever soiled, or at any time. Facemasks (if required or worn by individual preference) will be changed as necessary due to sneezing, coughing, or runny nose.

4. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation.

The district will continue to comply with guidance in this area as outlined by the governor, NJDOH, and the local health department as it pertains to the health and safety of students. Every evening all learning spaces are cleaned and sanitized; deep cleaning of all classrooms is completed prior to the new school year; district will ensure adequate PPE, cleaning, and disinfecting supplies are on hand; two custodians are assigned in each building

during lunch periods; buses are cleaned and sanitized after each route or field trip has been completed; HVAC replacement filters for all units are on hand; filters are changed at scheduled intervals not to exceed three months. State-of-the-art building management system (BMS) allows us to monitor all of our classrooms and additional learning areas. Buildings are monitored for outdoor temperature, fresh air intake and learning space temperature. Adjustments can be easily made if needed. District conducts preventive maintenance measures on all HVAC equipment to prevent poor equipment performance; this includes cleaning coils, checking belts, motors, fans and blowers.

5. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine.

The district will continue to comply with guidance in this area as outlined by the governor, NJDOH, and the local health department as it pertains to the health and safety of students. Students, teachers, and staff with positive test results will isolate and close contacts will quarantine. Predetermined isolation rooms will be properly identified. Students, teachers, and staff who have symptoms should stay home and be referred to a healthcare provider for testing and care. District will continue to work with the local health department to investigate and contact trace infected students, teachers, and staff, per CDC and LDOH guidance.

6. Diagnostic and screening testing.

The district will continue to comply with guidance in this area as outlined by the governor, NJDOH, and the local health department as it pertains to the health and safety of students. Diagnostic and screening practices will be adjusted as needed to accommodate COVID infection rates as recommended by the local DOH.

7. Efforts to provide vaccines to educators, other staff, and eligible students.

The district will continue to comply with guidance in this area as outlined by the governor, NJDOH, and the local health department as it pertains to the health and safety of students.

8. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies.

The district will continue to comply with guidance in this area as outlined by the governor, NJDOH, and the local health department as it pertains to the health and safety of students. Students with Individualized Education Plans (IEP) or having related issues will have their IEP or 504 Plan modified if necessary to include health related modifications and accommodations. If a child has a disability or underlying medical issue and cannot receive a COVID-19 vaccine, the NJ State Department of Health or local DOH may require an accommodation for the student. District policies and guidelines will be established as further guidance is provided. The district has developed the Extended School Year (ESY) program to reach a greater number of students, especially those impacted by the pandemic. District remains sensitive to the mental health needs of students. In addition to their regularly scheduled appointments with students who require counseling per their IEP, counselors and Child Study Team members will continue to make themselves available as necessary to address adjustment or social/emotional concerns.

1. Describe how the LEA will ensure continuity of services including but not limited to services to address students' academic needs and students' and staff social emotional mental health and other needs which may include student health and food services.

The LEA will ensure continuity of services to address student academic needs through the provision of virtual instruction for students under quarantine due to the impact of COVID-19. The district further provides home instruction as necessary on an individual, case-by-case basis. The district has increased its provision of elementary guidance services this year to aid in ensuring students' emotional needs are addressed through the hiring of an additional part-time counselor. Lessons, small group and individual counseling will take place based on student needs. The 7 Mindsets program focusing on the CASEL standards, as well as Dan St. Romain's program, will be implemented at every grade level. School climate and culture will be an ongoing discussion with virtual student groups, teachers, and parents. Assemblies that celebrate the school and student achievements will occur as scheduled. School Spirit days will be established to enhance the school atmosphere. Walks and downtime will be implemented to provide opportunities to get outside and relax.

2. Describe how the LEA sought public comment on its plan and how it took those public comment into account in the development of its plan.

The district provided input surveys to families to access public comment on its reopening plans. All comments continue to be reviewed and considered as modifications to the plan are made. Each revision is posted on the district website under "Headlines" along with instructions for the public to provide comments on the plan, as seeking public comment is a critical variable in this effort. Administration continues to update families and community stakeholders through eblasts and other communication venues, encouraging all to contact them with concerns or comments to ensure the district plan remains relevant. As the district receives additional guidance from the state, NJDOH, and county that necessitates adjustment to this process, the district remains committed to compliance with all mandates.

3. Describe how the LEA ensured that the plan is in an understandable and uniform format; is to the extent practicable written in a language that parents can understand or if not practicable to provide written translations to a parent with limited English proficiency will be orally translated for such a parent; and upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA will be provided in an alternative format accessible to that parent.

The district utilized the template provided to develop a plan that was easily understandable to a variety of stakeholders. Each stage of the plan continues to be vetted by administration and members of the faculty for clarity, and the district keeps the needs of the varying stakeholders who will access the plan in mind. In addition, parents/families may request the plan to be provided in another language. Further, anyone with a disability will be provided with a plan in a customized format that corresponds to a special need.

4. Briefly describe any guidance professional learning and technical assistance opportunities the LEA will make available to its schools.

The district continues to provide professional development, in-district, out-of-district, and virtual, to its instructional staff. The district utilizes Google Classroom and employs a variety of software resources to meet instructional goals and objectives. Professional development is assigned by administration based on identified needs and district goals. Faculty members are also encouraged to seek out their own PD based on established PLC's and PDP's. The district's technology staff works closely with teachers to ensure technical resources are integrated in the instructional environment to the maximum extent possible, thereby increasing student engagement. The district identified evolving technology and web-based platforms as a continued point of focus for staff. In response, the district created three new positions, school-based Website Liaisons, to provide teachers with additional support in maintaining teacher webpages. Liaisons also support continued efforts to adapt to the many existing and new resources available to schools, parents, and students.