

# Greeley-Evans School District 6

## Reopening Schools Plan



**2020-2021 School Year**

**Revised: June 30, 2020**

## Overview

**Mission:** *District 6 engages every student in a personalized, well-rounded and excellent education, preparing students to be college and career ready.*

**Vision:** *District 6 engages, empowers and inspires today's students in partnership with families and communities to succeed in tomorrow's world.*

District 6 is committed to ensuring all students are prepared for their future. As we plan for reopening schools in August, the District 6 Mission and Vision are at the core of every decision we make. We know that school closures due to COVID-19 have had a large impact on our students, families and community. Based on survey feedback, we know the majority of our families are ready to get back to in-person learning this fall. While we know we cannot mitigate every risk, through thoughtful and careful planning, we believe we can safely bring students and staff back to in-person learning in August. The information and procedures outlined in this document will continue to be updated as we receive additional guidance from the Colorado Department of Education (CDE), the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). We also know this is a temporary situation, and these protocols will only be in place while COVID-19 is still a factor in our learning environment.

We ask for your understanding that this is a rapidly evolving situation, and health and safety protocols are updated frequently. The information contained in this document includes the best information available as of June 30. Any changes or updates in protocols or procedures will be communicated directly to parents, students and guardians.

**To provide additional staff training and to ensure all buildings are able to safely receive students, the first day of school for students in grades 1-12 has been moved to *August 17, 2020*.** School was previously slated to begin August 13, 2020. The first day for kindergarten students will be August 19, with readiness testing for kindergarten being conducted on August 17 and 18.

Knowing that in-person learning might not be the best option for every family, District 6 will be offering an online learning option to those who are interested. No matter which option is best for your family, we promise to engage, nurture and support students through this phase of their education. These values steer our work:

- *Our students come first.* In all our planning, we make decisions based on what is best for our students.
- *We ensure safe, secure and healthy schools.* We have listened to the experts and take the health guidance to heart. We have a highly qualified team who have and who continue to build protocols in response to COVID-19 to ensure students will be safe when they return to in-person learning.
- *We promote access, opportunity and choice.* While the majority of families want in-person learning, we know that this is not the right choice for all families which is why there will be an online learning option.
- *We commit to excellence, innovation and continuous improvement.* We have had to think outside of the box and innovate to educate students through the pandemic. We will continue to keep up to date with expert guidance and make adjustments when necessary.

## Considerations for Reopening School in August 2020

District 6 believes that teaching students in-person is important for the wellness of our students and families. As we reopen schools this fall, the health and safety of our students and staff is our number one priority. Using the following guiding principles, we will be able to minimize the risk to students, staff and the public.

### Guiding Principles

- Prioritize the safety and wellbeing of students, staff, and community
- Minimize the risk of infection
- Ensure that we can identify and contact anyone who has been in close contact with individuals who have been infected
- Open schools as close to “typical” as possible to provide familiarity and stability for our students and families; understand that the school year will not be “business as usual” and maintain flexibility to respond as needed
- Provide parent choice to enroll their children for either in-person or full-time online (remote) learning
- Maintain appropriate physical distancing and reduced group size/capacity loads in each classroom and/or building, to the extent possible
- Support and accommodate those students with unique learning needs (including English language learners, students with disabilities, and gifted students) who might face barriers in accessing their in-person, remote, or online learning environment.

## Parent Choice

Parent voice and choice are key to the successful re-opening of schools in August 2020. Protecting the health of vulnerable populations, including students, families and educators, is important. Each family may have a different level of comfort during this time, which is why there are options for both in-person or online learning. The decision to engage in online or in-person learning should be made in collaboration with the student's parent/guardian and their medical provider.

District 6 conducted a parent survey in June. Of the 3,722 responses received, 2,432 parents surveyed preferred a return to in-person learning. Following that, a combination of in-person learning and remote learning was the second choice for most parents. The least preferred learning environment was for students to engage in full remote learning at home.

While the survey provided valuable information, it is clear that learning environment choice is important to our families. District 6 is prepared to offer two options for students in grades K-12 for the 2020-2021 school year:

- **In-person learning**
  - Return to school with safety protocols in place including physical distancing at times during the day and other safe practices for students and staff.
  - Students will engage in the typical school day with typical classes and remain in cohorts to the extent practicable.
- **Online learning**
  - Families may choose to have students engage in learning through a fully remote, online platform.
  - Classes include all core classes of English language arts, math, science, social studies, as well as a more limited offering of elective courses.
  - Students will be required to engage in online learning daily for an average of 6 or 7 hours, like a typical school day, with a combination of video conferencing with teacher, video instruction by teacher, and engaging in individual learning activities and assignments.
  - Parent/guardian will need to engage and provide supervision and mentoring support.
  - Click here to review the [Online Learning Parent-Student Handbook](#).

## Social and Emotional Learning Support

At District 6, we are committed to the social and emotional health of our students, families and staff, especially in these uncertain times. District 6 schools are staffed with a Building Mental Health Team including school counselors, school social workers, school psychologists, and school-based North Range Behavioral Health Therapists. Mental health staff work closely with teachers and school administrators to provide all students with the appropriate social-emotional supports. In order to ensure access to essential resources and services, school and district administrators will work closely with educators throughout the building to proactively identify, provide and monitor additional supports for students who are struggling socially, emotionally, behaviorally or academically. In every school, the Multi Tiered Systems of Support process involves referral for additional supports. In addition, parents are welcome to share concerns with their child's educators and/or access support through the district website for mental health services.

One foundation of the District 6 Social Emotional Learning Framework is to engage with families, students and community partners to build supportive environments for children. Professionals across the district are engaging in professional development this summer in the area of mental health support and social emotional learning to ensure we are ready to meet the unique needs of students, families and staff using trauma-informed, culturally responsive and resilience-building strategies. Students will engage in opportunities during the day to practice and reflect on their Social Awareness, Self Awareness, Self-Monitoring, Relationship Building, and Responsible Decision Making skills with social emotional lessons and activities.

## Key Actions for Reopening Safely

### **Adapt school policy where appropriate**

- Review and revise attendance policies to encourage students and staff to stay home when sick or caring for sick family members.
- De-emphasize recognition for perfect attendance and/or other incentives to come to school.
- Assure flexible calendar policies to allow for quick and smooth transitions between in-person and remote learning in case of temporary school or district closures.
- Provide information to parents in the school handbook regarding COVID-19 and the potential risks associated with students attending in-person learning.

### **Sick students and staff should not come to school**

- Per current guidelines, students and staff with a fever of 100.0°F or higher must not come to school.
- Students exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19 or other communicable disease while at school will be isolated on-site until parents/guardians are able to pick their student up from school.
- An ongoing informational campaign will be developed to assure that parents are aware of the symptoms of COVID-19 and other communicable diseases that require students to remain at home (District 6 Exclusion Guidelines).
- Attendance and reasons for absence will be actively monitored to understand trends that may signal the beginning of an outbreak.

### **Targeted health precautions**

- Simple wellness screening, such as in-person temperature checks and symptom history, will be conducted daily as students and staff enter the building.
- All staff will be required to bring and wear masks or other facial coverings at all times and in some instances face shields will be utilized.
- Students will be required to bring and wear masks or other facial coverings when adequate physical distancing is not possible. Examples of these situations include:
  - At the bus stop and while riding the bus
  - When entering or leaving the school
  - When moving through hallways
  - When using the restroom
  - When in a communal setting, such as a gymnasium
- Frequent hand washing opportunities will be provided along with instruction on proper hand washing techniques. Hand sanitizer will be provided, when available, for use until hands can be washed with soap and water.
- Students should bring a water bottle from home to minimize the use of common drinking fountains.
- The number of visitors and volunteers allowed into the school will be limited. Family members will be allowed access to the main office only.
- Plexiglass dividers will be provided in front offices and during instruction in some cases.
- Restroom facilities will be disinfected frequently, and new cleaning protocols will be implemented in all facilities.
- All rooms throughout the school will be disinfected nightly with additional cleaning protocols.

## **Safe Learning Spaces**

- To the extent possible, the number of personal interactions will be minimized throughout the school day.
- Students will remain with the same group or “cohort” of classmates to the extent practical. Typically cohorts will not mix with each other. Staff will move from class to class, rather than students moving whenever possible.
- Cohorts will be in a separate rooms/programming area.
- If cohorts rotate from one space to another, the room, equipment and materials will be disinfected prior to the next group's arrival.
- Physical distancing will be implemented where practical. Since each building and classroom is unique in space and infrastructure, physical distancing may look different but will be implemented to the fullest extent possible.
- Every effort will be made to reduce the use of shared items.
- Students will have their own school supplies and backpacks. Lockers will be designated only to students who need them for specific reasons.
- Classes will be held outside when possible and appropriate.

## **Potentially High Risk Activities**

Greeley-Evans School District 6 strongly supports the integration of athletic programs and performing arts, as well as recognizes the value of play time. We believe these activities not only promote community and sportsmanship, they are fundamental to the human experience. We realize these activities may inhibit the ability to wear face coverings and may conflict with the importance of physical distancing; however, through thoughtful planning and well-implemented and proactive measures, we believe we can safely provide all students an experience where the risks are low and rewards are high.

### **Athletics**

District 6 will follow all guidelines provided by the Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA) and the recommendations from the National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) regarding team sports and activities.

- District 6 has consulted national, state and local health department protocols and guidance in the creation of our “phased” return to in-person activities plan.
- District 6 will require all parents/students participating in athletics to sign an Assumption of Risk Waiver indicating their understanding of the health and safety risk and protocols in place to reduce the exposure to the COVID-19 virus.

- In compliance with the District's health orders, there is a possibility that students may be asked to withdraw from participating in athletics.
- District 6 coaches and athletes will be required to have their temperature checked and participate in a brief health review each time they come on campus to monitor the general health of participants prior to activities.
- Participants will be grouped in student cohorts to minimize the potential for spreading the virus. If someone becomes sick, we will be able to quickly identify other students who have been in contact with that student because of these cohort groups.
- Based on national and state guidelines, district athletic directors and coaches have participated in several training presentations to ensure a clear understanding of the required safety measures and protocols that have been established to minimize the exposure or spread of the COVID-19 virus.

### **Choir, Band, Orchestra**

- Choir, band, and orchestra will practice in-person when physical distancing can be achieved.
- The amount of time playing band instruments and singing during class time will be limited until restrictions have been eased.
- Students will be encouraged to video themselves playing instruments/singing and use class time for review and/or individual instruction.
- Music will be projected on screens whenever possible or students will be provided a personal copy of the music. There will be no sharing of music.
- Use of a handheld microphone will be highly discouraged with students and a lapel microphone should be used in its place when possible (unless disinfecting can be done between uses).

### **Lab Classes**

- Adequate supplies will be provided to minimize sharing of high-touch materials to the extent possible (lab supplies, equipment, etc.) or limit use of supplies and equipment by one group of students at a time and disinfect between use.
- Virtual learning options will be utilized to the extent possible.

### **Playgrounds**

- Students will need to remain with the same group of students to the extent possible.
- Student cohorts shall not mix with each other.



- Student cohorts will be assigned designated areas on the playground and/or fields.
- Students will wash hands or use hand sanitizer before entering and after exiting the playground.
- Students will be encouraged to engage in hands-free activities such as soccer, shadow tag, jump rope, hopscotch, running and other similar activities.
- The number of students and time allotted on playground equipment will be limited and thorough disinfecting will be done between student usage.

As more information is made available about the effects of sunlight on COVID-19 and/or the survivability of the virus on surfaces, access to equipment may be relaxed.

### **Transportation**

- Parents are encouraged to transport their child(ren) to school when possible.
- Parents who transport their children must remain in their vehicles when picking up or dropping off students in the normal pick-up/drop-off lanes.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided as students enter school buses.
- Students will have their temperature taken prior to entering the bus.
- Physical distancing will be enforced where possible on buses.
- Students and bus drivers will be required to wear a mask or face covering at the bus stop and on the bus.
- Students using District 6 transportation will be required to use the check-in/check-out process using their Student Identification card. This will help District 6 track students in the event of exposure to COVID-19.
- The Transportation Department will clean and disinfect school buses after each route.

### **Meals**

- Breakfast and lunch may be served in the classroom or other open areas to allow for physical distancing.
- Students who choose to bring their own meals will not have access to microwave ovens.
- District 6 will not have the ability to provide lunch for students who choose to be in fully online learning.

### **Assemblies/Field Trips**

- All school events such as school assemblies, pep rallies, plays, dances, concerts, back-to-school nights, etc. will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to determine whether or not they can safely be held.
- All field trips and/or other activities outside of school will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

## **Summary**

The District 6 Reopening Plan is presented in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This plan:

- Aligns the District 6's values and beliefs to provide a safe learning environment for our students.
- Maximizes our attention on learning and the acquisition of the essential standards to ensure students are career and college ready.
- Creates student groups (cohorts) to allow for early identification and isolation of students exposed to or exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19.
- Institutes contact tracing protocols to identify exposure early and reduce the risk of a school-wide exposure. Contact tracing will also allow us to identify siblings in other schools, helping to reduce the risk of a district-wide outbreak.
- Continues physical distancing, to the extent practical.
- Requires the use of masks or face coverings and personal hygiene regimens for staff and for students when possible.
- Reduces the number of non-essential individuals in our schools.
- Establishes a disinfecting regime that is frequent and targeted to reduce the ongoing transmission of the virus.
- Fosters creativity and flexibility in scheduling to stagger recess, lunchtime and passing periods to reduce "crowd" size and keep students physically distanced.
- Ensures communication between the district and local/state health officials.

## Relevant Orders and Guidance provided from

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Safer at Home and in the Vast, Great Outdoors
- Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Orders
- Colorado Department of Education
- Weld County Recommendations
- City of Greeley Recommendations

## Bibliography

### Learning Heroes Parent Survey

National survey including Colorado Parent data. Helpful for framing:

[https://r50gh2ss1ic2mww8s3uvjq1-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/LH\\_2020-Parent-Survey-Partner-1.pdf](https://r50gh2ss1ic2mww8s3uvjq1-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/LH_2020-Parent-Survey-Partner-1.pdf)

### Family Partnership in the Time of Covid- Community of Practice:

June 16<sup>th</sup> Registration Link:

[https://www.eventbrite.com/e/family-partnerships-in-the-time-of-covid-tickets-107151795906?aff=odeimcmailchimp&mc\\_cid=ddeb9d1251&mc\\_eid=1aeac9e360](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/family-partnerships-in-the-time-of-covid-tickets-107151795906?aff=odeimcmailchimp&mc_cid=ddeb9d1251&mc_eid=1aeac9e360)

June 25<sup>th</sup> Registration Link:

[https://www.eventbrite.com/e/family-partnerships-in-the-time-of-covid-tickets-107154381640?aff=odeimcmailchimp&mc\\_cid=ddeb9d1251&mc\\_eid=1aeac9e360](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/family-partnerships-in-the-time-of-covid-tickets-107154381640?aff=odeimcmailchimp&mc_cid=ddeb9d1251&mc_eid=1aeac9e360)

### Guidance on Culturally Responsive Re-Entry:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5bc5da7c3560c36b7dab1922/t/5e7a26b60fdceb59f9749c3c/1585063606912/NYU+Metro+Center+Guidance+on+Culturally+Responsive+Sustaining+Remote+Teaching+and+Learning+%282020%29+%281%29+%281%29.pdf>

<https://covid19.colorado.gov/safer-at-home/safer-at-home-office-based-business>

<https://covid19.colorado.gov/cleaning-guidance>

<https://covid19.colorado.gov/safer-at-home/safer-at-home-education-p-12>

<https://www.cde.state.co.us/communications/covid-19modelingupdate06-05-2020>

### CDE Protocols for Protecting the Health of Students and Educators

<https://www.cde.state.co.us/safeschools>

<https://www.cde.state.co.us/planning20-21/healthprotectionprotocols#safetyprotocols>

**CDC Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) Considerations for Schools**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools.html><https://>

**CDPHE Guidelines for Infectious Disease for Schools and Childcare - COVID-19**

[www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/infectious-disease-guidelines-schools-and-childcare-settings](http://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/infectious-disease-guidelines-schools-and-childcare-settings)

**CO Executive Orders and Public Health Orders**

<https://covid19.colorado.gov/covid-19-in-colorado/public-health-executive-orders-resource>

**National Association of School Nurses Coronavirus 2019 Resources**

<https://www.nasn.org/nasn/nasn-resources/practice-topics/covid19>