



Giant City CCSD#130

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

● Overview

- Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Giant City Community Consolidated School District has focused on creating environments that protect the safety and well-being of students and staff. During the 2020-2021 school year, this included offering students the option to choose in-person or virtual learning.

The focus for the 2021-2022 school year will be for all GCS students to participate in in-person learning five days a week. Throughout the school year, GCS will monitor COVID-19 exposure levels in the community and, in consultation with the Jackson/Williamson County Health Departments, make modifications to the learning plan if necessary.

Continuity of Services

- GCS has been providing in-person instruction five days a week since March 15, 2021, with a return to 2:55 p.m. dismissal for FY 22. However, if, in consultation with the Jackson/Williamson County Health Departments, modifications are determined to be necessary, modes of instruction would be adapted, as needed, based on current health conditions.
- GCS is positioned to provide quality instruction through its online learning program and to equip students with district-provided devices and internet service in the event modifications are needed.

Periodic Revision

- GCS will review this plan at least every six months and make modifications deemed necessary to ensure that it best meets the needs of our students, parents, employees and the community.
 - Development of the ongoing re-entry plan for 2020-2021 included participation and feedback from a variety of stakeholders through Google Surveys and online district-wide zoom meetings. Many teachers, paraprofessionals, parents and community representatives contributed to the plan to safely re-open schools.

- o GCS works in close consultation with the Jackson County Health Department to ensure that its plan is up-to-date with current guidance by the Centers for Disease Control, state and local agencies.
- o GCS follows guidance provided by the Centers for Disease Control, as communicated through the Illinois Department of Health, as well as the Illinois State Board of Education.
- o Regular updates on the plan will be provided to the Board of Education and opportunities for public comment are offered at every board meeting.
- o Ongoing surveys and other engagement tools offer parents, staff and other members of the public the opportunity to provide input as modifications to the plan are necessary.
- o Updates may also be provided through existing communication tools such as Blackboard Connect or teacher emails.
- o Giant City School takes into consideration all feedback and experiences obtained through processes deployed during the 2020–2021 school year. GCS will move forward in 2021–2022, building upon these successful strategies and lessons learned.

Ongoing Services

- - o GCS provides a wide variety of programs and resources to support the social, emotional and mental health of students. By collaborating with Centerstone, GCS can refer students for on-site counseling and other mental health services. Counselors/Social Workers visit school to provide other supports and are accessible to families via the online learning platform or through direct contact.
 - o Additional resources are available for students who may need more specific interventions like English language learners, under-represented and under-resourced students or special education students.
 - o The Superintendent connects staff with available supports and communicates frequently about modifications to absence and leave procedures.
 - o The head cook ensures students have access to meals. Grab and go meals will be available for families to pick up and take home to ensure students have nutritious food when learning from home.
 - o Front Office staff coordinate with parents to monitor student wellness and connect families with needed resources.

GCS will return to after school Kids Klub to ensure that before- and after-school care is offered to support families.

Mitigation and Prevention Strategies

- The following is a summary of mitigation and prevention strategies SPS uses to ensure the safety and well-being of students and staff while at school.

Mitigation Strategy	GCS Response
Universal and correct wearing of masks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Face coverings at school are optional but required while riding the school bus. o Masks are provided by school if needed.
Physical distancing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Strategies are consistent with CDC guidance. o Appropriate PPE is provided for staff as needed. o Signage in buildings encourages compliance.
Handwashing and respiratory etiquette	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Handwashing and infection prevention instruction is taught to students. o Signage in buildings encourages compliance. o Staff frequently remind students to wash hands and use hand sanitizer.
Daily monitoring/checking for signs and symptoms of illness or contact with COVID-positive individuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Parents are asked to monitor children for symptoms. o Students exhibiting symptoms must stay home until symptoms resolve. o School nurses and staff regularly monitor students for symptoms during the school day.
Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities including improving ventilation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Schools and supplies are cleaned regularly, with special attention paid to high-touch surfaces. o The 2021-2022 budget allocates \$75,000 for structural improvements to improve the learning environment. Air purifiers were placed in each classroom.
Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the state, local, territorial or Tribal health departments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Contact tracing is done by GCS staff in consultation with the local health department. o Quarantine procedures and communications have been developed for use in the event of exposure following IDPH guidelines.

Diagnostic and screening testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Free testing provided to symptomatic students and staff through Jackson County Health Department.
Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff and students if eligible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Vaccination events will be hosted at school for eligible students at registration and possible other dates throughout the school year. o Information shared with staff about vaccination clinic opportunities and leave from work.
Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Accommodations provided as needed or dictated by Individual Education Plan.

Communication of Plan

- - o The Giant City School will be accessible to the public via the district’s website. It will be posted at www.gcs.org . (A downloadable version will be available in the Resource Page on the website.
 - o By viewing the plan on the website, stakeholders may copy the plan and translate the content via Google Translator. Individuals who need further assistance with translation may contact their child’s school.

Approved by the Board of Education on _____.