

# Susanville School District

Re-Opening Plan  
Introduced August 2020



Adopted by the Susanville School District  
Board of Trustees  
Reviewed March 15, 2023

## Overview

The Susanville School District is excited to welcome students back to school for the fall of 2020. This document shares details of how we plan to reopen our schools and provide enhanced safety measures for our staff and students. Please know that we have been meeting with state and local health officials throughout the past five months since the closure of school in March and we have been communicating with one another as each new guidance is released from the health community. Our goal is to reopen our buildings and provide a quality educational experience that prepares our students for success.

The Susanville School District plans to follow the guidelines and directives set forth by the California Department of Public Health, the Education Code enacted from SB98, the guidance from the California Department of Education (CDE) and the communications generated through regular contact with our local health officials and the Lassen County Office of Education. We hope that this information will help you make educated choices that meet the individual needs of your students.



### **Opening Day:**

The first day of school will be August 24, 2020. This date has been changed from the original calendar that was adopted before the COVID-19 pandemic closed schools for most of the United States. By starting school three days later than originally planned, we are providing our staff with necessary time to prepare for changes that are needed at the school sites and additional time for training necessary to support students both at school and online. Please contact your child's Principal for information concerning schedules, procedure changes and updates specific to your child's school.



## **Learning Options:**

Susanville School District will offer a variety of options for schooling this fall. Families may choose to have their children engage with “in-person” instruction, participate in “after-school” supports, or choose to engage with a “distance learning” option where students will interact with their teacher and classmates through a digital platform.

- “In-Person” Instruction- Students will come to school daily and will receive instruction from classroom teachers and other support personnel.
  - Measures will be taken to support smaller groupings or cohorts in order to provide practicable social distancing.
  - Instruction at school will support the minimum number of instructional minutes required to fulfill state requirements.
  - Students will be provided opportunity to interact with their peers both academically as well as socially, inside and outside of the classroom while engaging in safe practices.
  - Per executive order and state guidance, students will be required to follow guidance regarding face coverings. Currently, face coverings for TK to 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders are encouraged but not required. All 3<sup>rd</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> Graders are required to wear face coverings unless medically exempt (as verified by a medical professional). These same guidelines currently require all staff to wear face coverings while at school.
- Early Release Option (A)- Upon completion of the minimum number of required instructional minutes of “in-person” instruction , parents may elect for their students to leave school and go home. This option will have students leaving campus as we break for lunch.
- Full Day Option (B) - Parents may also elect to have their children attend the After School Program at McKinley or Meadow View to receive additional support. Sign-ups for the After-School Program will be provided separately. This option will allow students to remain on campus for our full, traditional day with an option to stay longer for parents that work and may require additional support (as occurred in the past for parents with children in the after school program at McKinley).
- Distance Learning- The Distance Learning Option will allow students to engage with a classroom teacher and their peers through a digital platform as

well as through the use of paper instruction as required by the individual teacher.

- New Mandates require a much more robust and involved process for engaging in distance learning; it will not resemble the distance learning that took place last spring during the emergency closure.
- Family must have Internet at home in order to participate.
- Daily “live interaction” is required- teachers will have to connect with students each school day through online instruction and/or phone calls.
- Student attendance is required- attendance and participation will be required daily.
- Students must receive a minimum amount of daily instruction that can be met through a combination of teacher instruction and “time value” of work assigned (180 minutes per day for Kindergarten, 230 minutes per day for grades 1-3, and 240 minutes per day for grades 4-12).
- Distance learning is available for those students that are medically fragile, “at-risk” to exposure, who may be required to quarantine or whose presence increases risk for an “at-risk” family member.
- Students that fail to participate or engage for 60% of the school week will be redirected through the District’s procedures in the Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan. Consequences could result in removal from distance learning and a return to “in-person” instruction.

\*Plans for school reopening at the beginning of the 2021-2022 School Year follow the update guidelines as approved by the CA Department of Education for allowable practices enacted with the Budget Act for the School Year. SSD will utilize the allowances for instruction as identified by the state and AB 130 trailer language. Prior year allowances will be maintained in this document for historical purposes only.



## I. General Measures for School(s)

All school districts in Lassen County have developed general plans for reopening schools. The overall plan documents how schools will communicate with the local health authorities, review guidance from state agencies and collaborate with other school districts to implement changes as needed.

The schools in Lassen County have identified four tiers of COVID-19 concerns and describes measures for each of those tiers. The tiers provide best practices for schools to follow should there be a progression of cases that affect the community at large, the school community, and ultimately how a school may issue long-term dismissal in the case of a community outbreak that brings mandated closure by health officials.



## II. Promoting Healthy Hygiene Practices

Our schools will:

- Teach and reinforce washing hands; avoid contact with one's eyes, nose, and mouth; and covering coughs and sneezes among student and staff.
- Provide fragrance-free hand sanitizer for use when handwashing is not practicable. Sanitizer must be rubbed into hands until completely dry.
- Provide cloth face coverings, masks, and face shields for use as practicable and/or appropriate in accordance with local health orders.
- Review existing student health plans to identify any accommodations or preparations to classroom and non-classroom environments as needed.

For groups that might be at increased risk or have unrecognized illness, our schools will:

- Review and monitor the individual students in the following groups to identify any accommodations or preparations to classroom and non-classroom environments as needed.
- Monitor individuals who have limited mobility or require prolonged and close contact with others, such as direct support providers and therapists.

- Monitor individuals who have trouble understanding information or practicing preventative measures, such as hand washing and physical distancing.
- Monitor individuals who may not be able communicate symptoms of illness.



### III. Face Coverings

Face Coverings must be used in accordance with CDPH guidelines unless a person is exempt as explained in the guidelines, particularly in indoor environments, on school buses, and areas where physical distancing alone is not sufficient to prevent disease transmission.

Face coverings should be removed for meals, snacks, during outdoor recreation, or when it needs to be replaced.

In order to comply with this guidance, schools must exclude students from campus if they are not exempt from wearing a face covering under CDPH guidelines and refuse to wear one provided by the school. Distance learning will be provided for students as an alternative educational opportunity for students who are excluded from campus.

All staff must use face coverings in accordance with CDPH guidelines unless Cal/OSHA standards require respiratory protection. In limited situations where a face covering cannot be used for pedagogical or developmental reasons, (i.e. communicating or assisting young children or those with special needs) a face shield can be used instead of a cloth face covering as long as the wearer maintains safe distancing from others, to the extent practicable.



#### IV. Ensuring Teacher and Staff Safety

Staff will maintain physical distancing from each other to reduce transmission between adults. Staff will use face coverings in accordance with CDPH guidelines and Cal/OSHA standards. Staff meetings, professional development trainings, and other activities involving staff will be conducted with physical distancing measures in place or will be done virtually, where physical distancing is a challenge. The use of and congregation of adults in staff rooms, break rooms and other settings will be minimized at all sites.



#### V. Intensify Cleaning, Disinfection, and Ventilation

School staff will:

- Consider suspending or modifying use of site resources that necessitate sharing or touching items. For example, consider suspending use of drinking fountains and instead, encourage the use of reusable water bottles.
- Clean and disinfect frequently-touched surfaces at school and on school buses at least daily and, as practicable, these surfaces should be cleaned and disinfected frequently throughout the day by trained custodial staff.
- Clean frequently touched surfaces in the school which include, but are not limited to:
  - Door handles, light switches, sink handles, bathroom surfaces, tables, student desks, and chairs.
- Limit use and sharing of objects and equipment, such as toys, games, art supplies and playground equipment to the extent practicable. When shared use is allowed, clean and disinfect between uses.
- Establish a cleaning and disinfecting schedule in order to avoid both under- and over-use of cleaning products.
- Ensure safe and correct application of disinfectant and keep products away from students.
- Ensure proper ventilation during cleaning and disinfecting. Introduce fresh outdoor air as much as possible, for example, by opening windows where practicable. When cleaning air out the space before children arrive; plan to do thorough cleaning when children are not present. If using air

conditioning, use the setting that brings in outside air. Replace and check air filters and filtration systems to ensure optimal air quality.



## VI. Implementing Distance Inside and Outside the Classroom

Arrival and Departure- Our schools will:

- Maximize space between students and between students and the driver on school buses and open windows to the greatest extent possible.
- Minimize contact at school between students, staff, families and the community at the beginning and end of the school day. Prioritize minimizing contact between adults at all times.
- Stagger arrival and drop-off times and locations as consistently as practicable as to minimize scheduling challenges for families.
- Designate routes for entry and exit, using as many entrances as feasible. Put in place other protocols to limit direct contact with others as much as practicable.
- Conduct visual wellness checks of all students as they arrive at school.

Classroom Spaces- Our schools will:

- Reduce possibilities for infection; students must remain in the same space and in cohorts as small and consistent as practicable, including for recess and lunch; keep the same students and teacher or staff with each group, to the greatest extent possible.
- Prioritize the use and maximization of outdoor space for activities where practicable.
- Minimize movement of students and teachers or staff as much as practicable. For example, consider ways to keep teachers with one group of students for the whole day.
- Maximize space between seating and desks. Distance teacher and other staff desks at least six feet away from student desks. Consider ways to establish separation of students through other means if practicable, such as, six feet between desks, where practicable. Utilize partitions between desks,



markings on classroom floors to promote distancing or arranging desks in a way that minimizes face-to-face contact.

- Consider redesigning activities for smaller groups and rearranging furniture and play spaces to maintain separation.
- Develop instructions for maximizing spacing and ways to minimize movement in both indoor and outdoor spaces that are easy for students to understand and are developmentally appropriate.

Non-Classroom Spaces- Our schools will:

- Nonessential visitors, volunteers and activities involving other groups will not be allowed on the campus. As liability insurance carriers establish increased coverage or the District is indemnified from liability due to COVID-19 related suits, the schools will be closed to outside visitors.
- Limit communal activities where practicable. Alternatively, stagger use, properly space occupants and disinfect between uses.
- Consider use of non-classroom space for instruction, including regular use of outdoor space, weather permitting. For example, part-day instruction outside.
- Minimize congregate movement through hallways as much as practicable. Create staggered passing times.
- Serve meals outdoors or in classrooms instead of cafeterias or group dining rooms where practicable. Serve individually plated or bagged meals. Avoid sharing of foods and utensils and buffet or family-style meals.
- Hold recess activities in separated areas designated by class.



## VII. Relevant Resources

- CDPH COVID-19 Industry Guidance: Schools and School-Based Programs, Updated August 3, 2020.
- CDPH COVID-19 and Reopening In-Person Learning Framework for K-12 Schools in California, 2020-2021 School Year, July 17, 2020.
- Section 34, Part 24.5, School Finance, Instruction, and Accountability in the 2020-21 School Year, SB98 Trailer Bill Language.

- CDE Distance Learning Frequently Asked Questions, pursuant to Education Code 43500-43511.
- Lassen County Schools' Reopening Plan, LCOE, Summer 2020.