

**ELKO COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
PROPOSED REOPENING PLAN  
FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2020-2021**



Presented to the Elko County School Board of Trustees  
July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020

## Reopening of Schools Committee Members (Includes Sub Committee Members)

NAME	TITLE
Kieth Fish	ECSD School Board Trustee
Chris McAnany	ECSD Director of Secondary Education
Keith Walz	ECSD Director of Special Services
Ray Smith	Principal, Sage Elementary School
Cody Krenka	Principal, Adobe Middle School
Tim Wickersham	Principal, Elko High School
Seth Canning	ECSD Director of Transportation
Casey Kelly	ECSD Director of Facilities and Maintenance
Steve Armstrong	Chartwells Director of Dining Services
Colene Paradise	Para-Professional, Owyhee Combined School, ECSSO Union President
Annette Kerr	Acting Elko County Community Emergency Manager
Matt Griego	Chief, Elko Fire Department
Mack Robinson	ECSD Director of Information Technology
Stacey Zeiszler	Teacher, Mountain View Elementary, President ECCTA President
Emma Taylor	Parent
Iolanda Gillins	Parent
Colette Wickersham	ECSD School Psychologist
Skyler Basanez	ECSD School Nurse
Bobbi Shanks	ECSD School Nurse Coordinator
Larry Robb	ECSD Head Social Worker
Dr. Putnam	Elko County
Emily Carter	Parent
Chrissie Blanchard	Teacher, Mountain View Elementary
Don Noorda	Teacher, Wells Combined School
Ashley Perkins	Principal, Elko Institute for Academic Achievement
Alissa Wood	Nevada Gold Mines

# Topics of Consideration by the Committee

The ECSD Reopening Committee was divided into four sub-committees (Academics, Logistics, Health, Mental Health) to tackle the numerous challenges faced in the task of reopening schools in the safest and most efficient manner possible while maintain the high academic standards and rigor that our communities expect from our schools.

Areas of special concern were as follows:

- Transportation
- Sanitation and Cleaning
- Hygiene Education
- Special Populations
- Crisis Response Teams
- Communication plan
- Focus on core subjects
- Intervention/Remediation
- Extra-curricular activities
- Start times
- Distance vs. Hybrid choice
- Connection between in person and online learning
- Rolling closures
- Contact tracing
- Nutrition Services
- PPE/Hand Sanitizer
- Social Emotional Learning
- Information Technology (IT)
- Funding
- Transitioning time between plans
- Restroom cleaning
- Family day care arrangements
- Cohorts by households
- Staffing/At risk members
- Family education/support
- Masks/Requirements
- Daily symptom screenings
- Master scheduling

# Reopening Schools

## ECSD Guiding Principles

- Ensure the safety and well-being of all students and employees
- Promote equity and accessibility of learning for all students
- Maintain high academic expectations for all students
- Provide instructional delivery systems to meet the needs of all students
- Foster positive relationships and interactions
- Financial Feasibility
- Community Impact

## ECSD Academic Goals

- Basic and social emotional needs of students and staff must be met in order to optimize student learning.
- All students must have equitable access to effective instruction and standards-based grade level learning.
- Learning loss must be evaluated and addressed.
- Standards-based grade level instruction must occur with in-school instruction and distance learning models.
- Professional Learning Communities and other learning opportunities are critical to build capacity within and among educators and to continuously improve.

## State Guidance for School Reopening

- Phase 2 Guidance – Directive 022
  - ◆ Less than 50% occupancy and Six Feet Physical distancing
  - ◆ 20-day notice to families
- Face Coverings - Directive 024
  - ◆ Governor requires use of face coverings in all community settings
  - ◆ Governor indicates an exception for children ages 2-9

- Districts must submit multiple learning plans to Board of Trustees and to Nevada Department of Education
  - ◆ Full Time Distance Learning
  - ◆ In-Person Learning
  - ◆ Hybrid Learning

## Key Considerations

### American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Guidance

- AAP advocates for having all students physically present in school
- Physical distancing practices of three (3) to six (6) feet for student-to-student with face coverings for all
- Adults and adult staff should attempt to maintain at least six (6) feet of physical distance with face coverings
- Non -school personnel are advised against entering school buildings
- Cleaning and disinfecting per established protocols for COVID COVID-19
- Cohort classes and special consideration given for passing, recess, transportation, and nutrition breaks.
- Families conduct symptom screening at home and children presenting any symptoms should be kept at home with notifications to schools

## Reopening Schools—Challenges

- No single decision will satisfy all students, families, and staff
- Models have been developed and recommendations have been formed, without the benefit of clear information regarding our 2020-2021 budget
- The District will be operating in an environment of significantly reduced State revenues
- There will be a cost in dollars, time, supplies and human resources to reduce the risk of transmission
  - Certain programs/functions of the District may be adversely impacted
- Costs to provide services will be atypical and may potentially be higher than prior years

- There will be active cases of COVID-19 in Elko County at the time of school opening and throughout the 2020-21 school year
- There will be families and staff who will want an alternative to in- person instruction for part, or the entirety, of the pandemic
- There will be families and staff who want a return to “normal”
- There may be an outbreak of COVID-19 in Elko County that could require a temporary school closure for one or more schools
- There may be multiple “waves” of virus outbreak and changing guidance from county health officials which will necessitate flexibility
- Schools will need to quickly pivot between delivery models as conditions change
- As decisions are made and models are considered, administration will continue to update and work with employee associations

## Description of Multiple Learning Plans:

### Full Time Distance Learning Model

Elko County School District must have an option for families to receive high quality standards-based instruction without coming into schools. In the event that the Elko County School District is required/directed to provide full distance education, ECSD teachers will utilize various teaching platforms (Google Classroom, CANVAS, Go Guardian) on District provided Chrome books which will be made available for students. Instructional personnel will receive high-quality professional development on best practices related to Distance Learning. Families that have verified internet connection viability issues can be provided with internet “hot spots”, also provided by the District, in a case by case manner. In addition to State mandated Distance Education, there are other situations where distance education may be provided to families.

#### **This option is available to all families under several scenarios:**

- Families choose to enroll or request full-time distance learning. In this case, parents can select to enroll in the Northeastern Nevada Virtual Academy (NNVA), a Virtual ECSD public school.
- A student, or group of students, are unable to attend school due to suspected or confirmed COVID-19 exposure. This will continue to be provided by ECSD Teachers and students will not enroll into NNVA.
- In the event a school is temporarily shut down due to an outbreak. This will continue to be provided by ECSD Teachers and students will not enroll into NNVA.
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## Hybrid Learning Model

A Hybrid Learning Model is one that combines elements of both in-person and distance learning. In Elko County, we are referring to a learning model in which students are receiving in-person instruction for part of the school week and are receiving distance learning instruction for part of the school week. The Hybrid Learning Model provides for students to attend school following an AB rotating daily schedule with 50% room capacity or 50 students per room, whichever is less.

While in school, all provisions of in-person learning (e.g. physical distancing, use of PPE, etc.) remain the same.

- **In accordance with Nevada Phase 2 requirements**
  - **Masks will be required for all staff,**
  - **Masks will be required for all students, age 10 and up,**
  - **Masks will be recommended for all other students.**

While on distance, all provisions of distance learning (e.g. certified teachers, access to food, etc.) will remain the same.

Even when hybrid learning is employed, families with known medical, social, and academic vulnerabilities may receive full-time in person learning. This may include but not necessarily limited to:

- Students served in self-contained special education programs.
- Students new to the country with English Language Learner requirements.

## In-Person Learning Model

An in-person learning model is one in which enrolled students attend school receiving instruction within the building. In the In-Person Model, schools would welcome 100% of students back to school sites IF physical distancing in place at the time can be met.

State Phase 2 Requirements Include:

- Physical distancing protocols in place
- Use of personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Restrictions to close contact activities
- Enhanced cleaning and hygiene protocols
- Screening protocols in place

## Students With Special Needs

- Equitable and Flexible (We are obligated by federal law to provide specially designed instruction)
- Special considerations to be determined on an individualized basis and according to state restrictions
- Pre-K to standard diploma or age out at the end of 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday
- Consideration of significant medical needs
  - Students
  - Staff

## ECSD HEALTH and SAFETY

No single precaution in isolation will effectively mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Therefore, a multi-layered approach, including the following, will be used:

- Self-screening and remaining at home if any illness symptoms are present
  - Use of personal protective equipment (PPE)
  - Physical Distancing
  - Restrictions to close contact activities
- 
- In partnership with the Health Department and local pediatricians, a self-screen model will be most effective.
    - Fever is a symptom of many illnesses including COVID COVID-19. Once fever is present, exposure has already occurred.
    - It is not practical to reliably check for fever of every student and staff member as they enter a school.
    - Once at school, if a student or staff member presents with symptoms, ECSD will follow typical protocols for intervention.
    - We encourage parents to screen their child(ren) at home with temperature checks every morning. We encourage staff to do the same.
    - We encourage parents to keep their child(ren) home if they show symptoms of illness. We ask staff to do the same.
    - We encourage parents to reinforce the importance of wearing face-coverings at school with their child(ren) in an effort to minimize risk to their peers, teachers, and other staff.
    - We encourage parents to provide reusable face-coverings for their child(ren) if possible. ECSD will maintain a supply of reusable masks

## ECSD TRANSPORTATION PROTOCOLS

- Load back to front and unload front to back to limit contact
- Appropriate signage and seat markings will be placed on each bus to ensure physical distancing
- Air flow throughout the bus will be increased by opening selected windows and roof hatches (when practical)
- All occupants on the bus are required to wear face covering

### Cleaning/Disinfecting Buses Daily:

- Clean and disinfect at beginning and end of the route.
- Quick disinfecting between runs on the route.
- Bus drivers will disinfect handrails, seat tops, and entrance doors between runs.
- Bus drivers will clean and disinfect each bus at the end of the route.
- All occupants on the bus, would be required to wear face coverings.
- ECSD encourages students to practice physical distancing at bus stops.

## ECSD CLEANING & CUSTODIAL PROTOCOLS

- The frequent cleaning of high touch surfaces and learning spaces will help mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus and other diseases.
- Elko County Health District approved disinfectant will be used within classrooms throughout the day. These cleaning measures are in addition to existing protocols for nightly cleaning
- Intensive cleaning protocols should there be an incident of COVID in school building(s). These protocols may require the temporary closure of an impacted building
- The enhanced cleaning measures support the health and safety of students and staff
- Staff may be asked to engage in duties not typically associated with their professional positions
- All custodians are trained to disinfect all touch points in the classrooms every night. Door glass, door handle and door touch points, light switches, phones, all desktops, sink areas including soap and towel dispensers, trash, pencil sharpeners and white boards. This is done in every classroom, every day.
- Possible reallocation and/or work shift changes for custodial staff
  - Utilize custodial staff across buildings to provide added assistance when required
  - Reduced landscape and grounds maintenance if necessary
- Plexiglass barriers will be added in the main office of every school
- Disinfectant wipes and/or spray will be available for nurse's office and designated classrooms
- Disposable masks have been ordered
- Hand sanitizer stations are available in all key locations throughout school sites
- Gloves will be available as needed for staff

### **In the event of a suspected/positive case of COVID-19:**

Cleaning of the school will follow the outlined deep cleaning protocols.

In addition:

- The school nurse would notify the appropriate individuals according to standard operating procedures. ECSD will trace every area the student or staff member was in. Once those areas are identified, ECSD will follow the disinfection protocol(s) and treat areas in the school and on the bus (if applicable) with electrostatic sprayers or sanitizing misters.
- There will be an increased cost to purchase essential supplies to reduce the risk of transmission: soap, sanitizer, disinfectant, wipes, face coverings/shields and gloves.
- If there are waves of virus outbreak we can provide top to bottom cleaning of the school in 2-3 days.

## **ECSD NUTRITION SERVICES**

Meal Service plans are being developed to ensure healthy and nutritious meals are distributed while maintaining safe and efficient practices. The School Nutrition Program will align with the sites and accommodate the needs depending on which model best fits them.

The following options are available:

- Meals in the Classroom Service
- Modified Cafeteria Service
- Mobile Cart -Grab n' Go Service
- Meals To-Go Service
- Food Distribution Service

The School Nutrition Program will continue to provide Breakfast and Lunch daily, regardless of instruction model.

- ECSD students will return to Free, Reduced and Full Paid Eligibility Status (Pre -COVID Federal Regulations).
- Requirements will be followed according to State Phase guidelines.

If school closures occur, food distribution will resume at sites similar to previous service and food security needs