



Oelrichs School District 23-3

Back to School Plan, 2021-22

Mitchell Stone

August 9, 2021 (reviewed September
13, 2021 and October 12, 2021)

The Oelrichs School District’s back to school plan for 2021-22 has been developed using a variety of resources that includes guidelines and guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), South Dakota Department of Health, South Dakota Department of Education and Oglala Sioux Tribe Health and Education agencies. This plan is intended to serve as a resource and guide to all stakeholders. It is important to note that the steps set forth in this document can only mitigate, not eliminate, the spread of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases.



The District’s updated COVID-19 re-opening plan for 2021-22 was presented to and approved by the Board on August 9, 2021. As part of this process, mitigation steps and protocols have been presented to the Board as part of gathering input on both the ESSER II and ESSER III plans. The last reviews occurred on September 13, 2021 and October 12, 2021 at regularly scheduled Board meetings. The District reserves the right to make changes to this plan to adapt to any changed circumstances and any important modifications will be communicated to all stakeholders in a timely manner.

The District’s overall goal is to resume in-person instruction for 2021-22. As ample research shows, most students gain both academically and socially from daily interaction with peers and teachers. However, with that said, the District is committed to opening in as safe and prudent manner as possible which means the need for a plan that incorporates creativity and flexibility in instructional practices and school operations.

The District’s updated plan outlines what we will do to keep our students and staff safe while providing rigorous academic instruction to include the ability to engage in a variety of after-school activities.

Guidelines:

The following will serve as general guidelines for in-person instruction:

A. Pre-Screening for Staff and Students	
Pre-Screening for Students and Staff (see Appendix A)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents/guardians will be provided with a CDC approved checklist to screen their children at home for fever or chills, breathing difficulties, cough, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, nausea, or diarrhea. • Parents/guardians should keep their children at home if they exhibit any of the above conditions. • Parents/guardians are encouraged to seek medical advice if symptomatic. • Staff will be provided with the same checklist and will be encouraged to stay home and seek medical advice if symptomatic.

B. Staff and Student Health	
Personal Protection Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All students and staff will wear masks when in hallways or common areas and in situations when physical distancing is not possible. • While parents/guardians are encouraged to provide face coverings, the District will have masks available upon request. • Classrooms will be configured to maximize physical distancing. • Hand Sanitizer will be available near all entrances, classrooms and other common areas. • To the fullest extent possible, items such as bathroom faucets and soap dispensers will be touchless. • All water fountains for individual use will be closed. Students and staff will be encouraged to use refillable water bottles. • Besides physical distancing, students, when appropriate, will be asked to “cohort” with their classmates to reduce contact with students. • Students will walk on the right side of the hallways and there will be no loitering around lockers or other common gathering areas. • Plexiglass shields will be used in high traffic areas such as in the main office. • Students will use individual school supplies and the use of group manipulatives will be eliminated as much as possible. • The District will teach handwashing etiquette and the proper wearing of masks (i.e. respiratory etiquette). • The District will purchase additional cleaning equipment such as floor scrubbers to ensure high traffic areas are sanitized on a regular basis. • Stay healthy guidelines from the CDC and SD Department of Health will be posted in common areas and hard copies will be provided to all students, parents/guardians and District staff.
Social/Emotional Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District has a full-time behavior specialist who is available to students for face-to-face sessions or, if necessary, whatever communication medium is most effective. • The District will contract with external health providers such as Behavior Management Services (BMS) to increase

	<p>in-person counseling services to students and staff on a weekly basis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District will implement several of its pre-Covid-19 SEL programs such as peer-to-peer mentoring, Character Counts, and other culturally relevant activities.
--	--

C. Instruction

<p>On-Campus Learning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District will return to a 5-day school week for all students and established attendance and truancy policies and procedures will be followed. • The Board-approved school calendar for 2021-22 is currently posted on the District website and hard copies are included in registration packets for both new and returning students.
<p>On-Line Learning/Technology</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While we will return to face-to-face instruction, the District will continue to build on the technology efforts of 2020-21 to include acquiring and updating electronic devices for all students to enhance a blended learning experience. As part of this, the District will continue to provide professional development to teachers and staff in Learning Management Systems. • The District will employ at least a half-time Information Technology (I.T.) coordinator to ensure both hardware and software are working properly for both students and staff. • The District will offer on-line learning to students but only on a case-by-case basis with prior approval and only in very extenuating circumstances such as a COVID-19 diagnosis. • Grading, assessment, attendance and rigor levels will be the same for all learning options.
<p>Learning Loss</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District will offer summer enrichment and credit recovery options in addition to after-school tutoring and remediation. • The District will upgrade access to its library and other types of information resources. • New technologies such as interactive smart boards will be used across all grade levels as part of the learning management system. • The District will contract with reading and math specialists to provide additional classroom support.

D. Parent and Guardians	
Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent/family Partnerships will be an important aspect in helping students to regain learning loss. Parents and stakeholders will be provided with materials (on-line and hard copies) on how they can best support their children’s learning, particularly in a remote learning environment. The District will also continue Parent/Teacher conferences with the option to attend virtually.

E. SPED Services	
Services	Oelrichs School District is committed to providing free and appropriate educational opportunities for students with disabilities, as required by law. All students, whether on-line or in-person, will continue to receive appropriate services as outlined in their IEP or 504 Plan.

F. Food Service	
Social Distancing and Cleanliness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tables will be spread apart with seating limited to half capacity whenever possible. Lunch periods will be staggered to minimize the number of students and staff in the serving and dining areas. Whenever possible, food will be prepacked to minimize the risk of contamination. Salad bars will be eliminated for the time-being and pre-packaged salads will be provided. Staff will conduct increased cleaning and sanitation of high-touch surfaces throughout the school day.

G. Facility Upgrades	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Elementary School playground will be upgraded and expanded to promote social distancing and student safety. The elementary school roof which is over 50 years old and is leaking and causing mold issues in the classrooms, particularly in the library, music room, guidance counselors office, and boy and girl lockers rooms, will be replaced to protect student health.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HVAC systems, District-wide, will be inspected and upgrades to air filter and ventilation systems will be made when possible and practical. • The District will upgrade its security systems to better monitor the safety precautions and social distancing of students, staff and visitors. • Old carpets will be replaced with vinyl tiles which are easier to clean and sanitize.
--	--

H. Visitors

Protocols	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitors will be required to make an appointment to meet with District teachers and/or staff. • Visitors will need to wear a mask. • Vendors and delivery persons may be allowed with prior notice and their movements will be closely restricted to their particular task (e.g. food delivery) and they will be required to wear masks. • Consultants will be permitted into the buildings but must make prior arrangements, wear a mask, and practice social distancing when appropriate. • All scheduled parent/teacher conferences and back-to-school nights may be offered both via Zoom and in-person to minimize the number of people in the building.
-----------	---

I. Quarantine and Close Contact

Students and Staff who exhibit COVID-19 symptoms during the day.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District will follow guidance from the SD Department of Health. If a student or staff member becomes sick with COVID-19 symptoms during the school day, the student/staff member will be isolated and then sent home. Parents/Guardians are responsible for student transportation. See the following for detailed information: https://doe.sd.gov/coronavirus/documents/DOE-DOH-073020.pdf • Classroom and other contact areas will be thoroughly cleaned.
Positive Cases and Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District will follow guidance from the SD Department of Health. If a staff/student has been confirmed by the SD Department of Health or other recognized public health entity to be COVID-19 positive, the school will follow SD Department of Health or other recognized public health guidelines for contact tracing and school closure. The District reserves the right to exclude individuals from

	<p>school based on advice from the SD Department of Health and SD Codified Law (13-28-7.3). See the following for detailed information: https://doe.sd.gov/coronavirus/documents/DOE-DOH-073020.pdf</p>
--	--

J. Transportation and Bussing

<p>Bussing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District will resume its normal bus routes and pick up and drop off times. • The District will add a larger, 84 seat capacity bus to increase social-distancing on bus runs. • The District will add an additional passenger van to increase social-distancing on activity runs. • The following will be observed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Students will be required to wear masks. ○ Students will be assigned seats and social distancing will be enforced to the fullest extent possible. ○ Windows will be lowered (weather permitting). ○ Busses will be sanitized after each use. ○ Drivers will wear masks.
<p>School Vehicles</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District will try to minimize students riding in school vehicles (e.g. passenger van). However, if used, students will be social distanced to the fullest extent possible and the vehicles will be cleaned and sanitized after each use. • The District will add an additional vehicle to help reduce student numbers per vehicle.

K. Extra-Curricular Activities

<p>Physical Education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical Education classes will be held and activities will be conducted following all social distancing requirements to the fullest extent possible. Equipment will be sanitized between classes.
<p>Field Trips</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District will resume field trips although particular care will be taken regarding the educational merits of the trip and the number of students attending. • All transportation protocols noted in this document will be followed.
<p>Sports</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District plans to resume its regular sports activities and will follow guidance from the SD High School

	Activities Association, SD Department of Education, SD Department of Health and OST Health and Education officials.
--	---

STUDENT SYMPTOM SCREENING CHECKLIST (Appendix A)

Has your child had close contact (within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes) with a confirmed case of COVID-19?	_____ YES	_____ NO
Does your child have chills or a fever of 100.4 or greater?	_____ YES	_____ NO
Does your child have new or worsening cough?	_____ YES	_____ NO
Does your child have shortness of breath or difficulty breathing?	_____ YES	_____ NO
Is your child experiencing fatigue?	_____ YES	_____ NO
Does your child have unexplained muscle or body aches?	_____ YES	_____ NO
Does your child have a headache (not related to a known health condition i.e. migraines)?	_____ YES	_____ NO
Does your child have a new loss of taste or smell?	_____ YES	_____ NO
Does your child have a sore throat?	_____ YES	_____ NO
Has your child been experiencing nausea or vomiting?	_____ YES	_____ NO
Does your child have diarrhea?	_____ YES	_____ NO

*Based on CDC guidelines

	<p>If YES to ANY of the questions, DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL. Please seek guidance from your medical provider. Contact your school to inform them of your child's symptoms. You may also contact the South Dakota Department of Health at 1-800-592-1861 with questions.</p>
	<p>If NO to ALL questions, go to school.</p>

Resource Guide for Staff and Families (Appendix B)

A. Vaccine Opportunities

The District strongly encourages staff and eligible students to receive one of the three currently FDA approved COVID-19 vaccinations. If you have a child who is 12 years old or older and you're interested in having them receive the COVID-19 vaccine, the following are a sampling of the resources available in this area and you are encouraged to find the best solution to meet your individual needs:

Monument Health, Fall River County

Call the COVID Triage Line at (605)745-8910 and press option #9 to schedule an appointment.

IHS – Pine Ridge Service Unit

Call (605)867-5131 for more information.

B. Other COVID-19 Resources for Staff and Families

South Dakota Department of Health

<https://doh.sd.gov>

South Dakota Department of Education

<https://doe.sd.gov>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

<https://cdc.gov>

Fall River Health Services

<https://www.frhssd.org>

OST Health Administration

Call (605)867-1704

C. School Contact Information

For additional information or questions please do not hesitate to call your child's teacher or PK-12 Principal Darla Peterson at darla.peterson@k12.sd.us or School Secretary Becca Naser at (605)535-2631 or rebecca.naser@k12.sd.us.

D. Stay Informed

1. School Reach

This is a phone messaging service used to convey school news and updates. Please contact Becca Naser at the above number to make sure you are subscribed.

2. Oelrichs School District website:

<https://oelrichs.k12.sd.us/default.aspx>

3. Social Media

You can also stay connected with us by following us on social media, particularly Facebook.