

# China Spring Independent School District

## Plan for the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services (RIPICS)

### *A Roadmap to Remaining Open*

The Texas Education Agency recently announced the availability of \$11.2 billion in federal funding made available to school districts through ESSER III under the American Rescue Plan. This is a substantial sum of money, though amounts vary significantly from district to district. This page on our website will be used to communicate with our staff, parents, and community members about the ESSER III funds (ESSER stands for Elementary and Secondary Emergency Education Relief). These are federal funds sent to the states to help cover costs associated with learning loss due to COVID-19 and the cost of online instruction, facilities improvements, and the pandemic.

China Spring ISD was excited to open our doors to in-person instruction in August of 2020 and remain open throughout the 2020-2021 school year. With input and support from all of our stakeholders, we were able to create a successful Return to Instruction plan for the 20-21 school year which included options for in-person and remote learning. Our adjustments in practices kept our buildings open all year, allowing students and staff to safely interact within the classrooms. As we return to full in-person instruction in the 2021-2022 school year, educational opportunities will be enhanced through expanded services and activities available to mitigate the learning loss caused by COVID-19. This statement is meant to satisfy the requirements for accepting additional funds through the American Rescue Plan (ARP) and the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund.

The top priorities of China Spring ISD are the health and well-being, safety, and academic success of all students.

#### **SAFE RETURN GOALS 2021-2022**

1. Follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Texas Education Agency (TEA) guidelines to maintain the safety of our students and staff.
2. Assess academic gaps and provide opportunities to accelerate instruction for student growth and to address the learning loss.
3. Evaluate and address the social and emotional needs of our students and staff.

**All plans are subject to change based on regulations by the Texas Education Agency and the Office of the Governor of Texas. Stakeholders will be notified if changes are necessary.**

### **Instructional Settings and Continuity of Services**

1. China Spring ISD will be opening campus doors to all students for face-to-face instruction for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year. This decision has been made based on the success of the 20-21 school year, coupled with the availability of vaccines and practices that mitigate entry and spread of COVID-19 to our campuses.
2. Enhanced programming and services will be available during the 2021-2022 school year, implemented as part of the in-person learning.
3. Alternative instructional settings may be needed in response to extenuating circumstances. China Spring ISD is awaiting further guidance from the Texas Education Agency regarding students who have a physician's verification documenting a specific medical need and whose children meet the criteria established for an alternate learning program.

### **Assessing and Addressing the Impact of Learning Loss**

1. China Spring ISD will use screeners and/or benchmark assessments to help identify student strengths, learning gaps, and areas of need.
2. Based on screener/benchmark data, classroom performance, and teacher input, students may have prescribed learning interventions to lead toward regaining any loss of learning.
3. Teachers will utilize differentiated learning platforms in the classroom in order to address instructional needs to allow for student growth.

### **Addressing Learning Loss through Instructional Time**

1. China Spring ISD will offer additional learning opportunities for students. This may include:
  - a. Summer School Invitation
  - b. Individual/small group tutoring before or after school
  - c. Saturday School
  - d. Intervention periods within the school day
  - e. Credit Recovery Program

## **Addressing Learning Loss through Instructional Materials**

1. Implementation of Frog Street Curriculum for Pre-Kindergarten
2. TEKS Resource System Research-Based Curriculum
3. Continued use of TEKS RS Instructional Considerations to Activate Purposeful Planning (Enhanced Gap Tool)
4. Increase in authentic use of technology in the classroom

## **Addressing Mental Health and Well-Being**

1. China Spring ISD will continue to utilize various programming, resources, and partnerships to benefit the mental, social, and emotional needs of our students and staff through:
  - a. In-school counseling services
  - b. In-district Social Worker
  - c. Partnerships with outreach services for students/families
  - d. Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports
  - e. Foster on-campus community partnerships
  - f. Continue the use of Student Councils
  - g. Ensure the continuity of food-service programs
  - h. Employee Assistance Program (Employees only)

## **Addressing Health and Safety through Campus Activities**

1. All staff and students shall self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms prior to beginning the school day. Any individual with a temperature of 100 degrees or greater must remain home until being fever-free for 24 hours, per CSISD student handbooks.
2. During periods of individual student illness due to COVID-19, students may access their academics through paper/packet-based delivery.
3. Campuses may continue to utilize multiple entrances/exits in accordance with local guidelines and as related to the level of presence of COVID-19 on the premises.
4. Staff will have access to cleaning supplies/disinfectants to sanitize high touch areas or commonly shared work surfaces or objects.
5. Bus transportation will continue to be equipped with hand sanitizing stations at the entrance, and students will continue to be reminded to sanitize hands upon entry and exit of the bus.
6. Buses will be sanitized daily, between morning and afternoon routes.
7. China Spring ISD will allow student/class use of playgrounds with proper safeguards.

- a. These will be community spaces and are not subject to cohort restrictions.
  - b. Students will be encouraged to wash/sanitize hands before and after recess activities.
8. Physical barriers will be removed from the campuses in the classrooms and cafeterias, however proper hygiene and respect of personal space will continue to be reiterated.
9. Athletic activities and events will resume as normal, as allowed by local/government order.
10. Field Trips will resume at campuses with proper safety protocols in place.
11. Additional safety protocols will be in place for our community partners and guests who enter the building. These protocols may include:
  - a. COVID-19 self-screening (required)
  - b. Limited building access (optional)
  - c. Masks are optional for any guest visiting campus.
12. Child nutrition service employees must adhere to Food Services Guidance. Applicable measures will be taken to ensure the safe delivery of food and food service items to students and staff.

### **Addressing the CDC Proposed COVID-19 Health and Safety Protocols**

1. Face coverings are no longer required.
  - a. Per GA-36, face coverings may not be mandated. However, masks may be worn by any student, staff member, or visitor who feels more comfortable doing so.
  - b. Face coverings will not be required in any educational space or activity, to include but not limited to buses, athletic areas/events, classrooms, etc.
  - c. Face masks may continue to be available upon request while supplies remain.
2. Physical distancing will no longer be implemented. The use of cohorts may continue on Elementary campuses but will not be required as a tool for separation of students.
3. Hand washing practices will continue to be encouraged. Students will be reminded to wash hands after using the restroom, before meals, and have access to hand sanitizer upon entering and exiting the building and interior classrooms.
4. Practices put in place for sanitizing facilities will continue on a scheduled basis.
  - a. Hi-touch points such as door knobs/handles, light switches, etc. will be a priority for disinfection.
  - b. School buses will be disinfected daily.

5. Contact tracing will no longer be implemented due to the removal of the quarantine requirement.
  - a. Should a student or staff member test positive for COVID-19, China Spring ISD will follow local/state guidelines for reporting and any additional timelines implemented for lab-positive cases per TEA/CDC requirements.
  - b. Diagnostic testing and screening of individuals with lab-confirmed COVID-19 will follow TEA/CDC guidelines for a safe return timeline to school.
6. COVID-19 vaccinations have been made available to China Spring ISD employees through various agencies. Vaccination opportunities will continue to be disseminated as a courtesy to the stakeholders as they are made available and CSISD is made aware. The COVID-19 vaccination is not a current requirement for any staff or student to be eligible to be enrolled, employed, or present on China Spring ISD premises.