

Greeley-Evans School District 6

Safe Return to School



2023-2024 School Year

Revised: September, 2023

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1. Overview

Mission: District 6 engages every student in a personalized, well-rounded and excellent education, preparing students to be college and career ready.

Vision: District 6 engages, empowers and inspires today's students in partnership with families and communities to succeed in tomorrow's world.

District 6 is committed to ensuring all students are prepared for their future. The District 6 Mission and Vision are at the core of every decision we make. We know that school closures due to COVID-19 had a large impact on our students, families and community. The information and procedures outlined in this document will continue to be updated as we receive additional guidance from the Colorado Department of Education (CDE), the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

District 6 is transitioning to a routine disease control model for COVID-19 in schools. As of February 7, 2022 the mask mandate which required masks to be worn by all students, staff and visitors at non-charter schools in grades preschool through eighth, as well as at other District sites, including the Administration Building, is no longer in effect. Knowing that in-person learning might not be the best option for every family, District 6 is providing a K-12 online learning school option for those who are interested. No matter which option is best for your family, we promise to engage, nurture and support students through this phase of their education. These values steer our work:

- Our students come first. In all our planning, we make decisions based on what is best for our students.
- We ensure safe, secure and healthy schools. We have listened to the experts and take the health guidance to heart. We have a highly qualified team who have and who continue to build protocols in response to COVID-19 to ensure students will be safe when they return to in-person learning.
- We promote access, opportunity and choice. While the majority of families want in-person learning, we know that this is not the right choice for all families which is why there will be an online learning option.
- We commit to excellence, innovation and continuous improvement. We have had to think outside of the box and innovate to educate students through the pandemic. We will continue to keep up to date with expert guidance and make adjustments when necessary.

District 6 believes that teaching students in-person is important for the wellness of our students and families. The health and safety of our students and staff is our number one priority. Using the following guiding principles, we will be able to minimize the risk to students, staff and the public.



Safe Return to School Plan Sample Template

Greeley-Evans District 6 Safe Return to School Plan

Plan for Safe Return to In- Person Instruction

Important Dates
This plan will be reviewed by:
- September 30
- February 28

Return to school date:
- August 14 for grades 1-12
- August 17 for Kinder

- All District schools open in-
person
- District 6 Online Academy
- [List of District Schools](#)

Social, Emotional, Mental
supports available
through the [District 6
Website](#)

Layered Prevention

CDC Recommendations

- Universal and correct use of [masks](#)
- [Physical distancing](#)
- [Handwashing and respiratory etiquette](#)
- [Cleaning and Maintaining healthy facilities](#)
- [Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine](#)

Phased Prevention

Colorado Department of
Public Health and
Environment 4300Cherry
Creek Drive South Denver,
CO 80246

District 6 Administration makes decisions about preventive actions based on the guidance from Colorado Department of Education (CDE), Colorado Department for Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), Weld County Department for Public Health and Environment (WCDPHE), Center for Disease Control (CDC).

1.2 School Day Structure

Elementary and K-8 Schools

Seating Charts

Teachers will need to keep seating charts for students throughout the day so that if targeted quarantines are necessary, we have the ability to identify students within a radius of the sick student/adult.

Schedule

Normal schedule is Monday: 8:40am- 2:50pm and Tuesday-Friday: 7:40am- 2:50pm for most schools.

Instruction should include a minimum of 120 minutes of literacy (could be two blocks, could include targeted instruction), 90 minutes of math, 40 minutes of writing and 40 minutes of science/social studies.

Schedules should also include 268 minutes of individual planning time within the week (at least one 40-minute block per day) as well as 30 minutes duty-free lunch on a daily basis.

Synchronous Learning will be used only when staff determine it is appropriate for students that are out sick.

Middle School

Middle school plans are being created to ensure the safety of all students and staff. Student schedules will reflect a traditional schedule with semester/year-long classes. Schedules will be established using student first scheduling in which some students may be in the same class due to unique needs/services while other classes will be mixed. For electives, students will choose their classes which will create mixed groups.

Seating Charts

Student seating charts will be created so that if targeted quarantines are necessary, we have the ability to identify students within a radius of the sick student/adult.

Schedule

Normal schedule is Monday: 9:35am- 4:00pm and Tuesday-Friday: 8:35am- 4:00pm for most schools.

Instruction includes a rigorous math, science, language arts, and social studies block with additional electives for students. Schedules should also include 268 minutes of individual planning time within the week (at least one 40-minute block per day) as well as 30 minutes duty-free lunch on a daily basis.

Synchronous Learning will be used only when staff determine it is appropriate for students that are out sick.

- Having courses developed for the year in Schoology will provide the flexibility for students to access curricular resources whether in the classroom or at home.
- The additional benefit of having full courses developed is the ability to provide a personalized learning experience for students who are ready to move ahead or need support with unfinished learning.

High School

High school plans are being created to ensure the safety of all students and staff. Student schedules will reflect a traditional schedule with semester/year-long classes. Schedules will be established using student first scheduling in which some students may be in the same class due to unique needs/services while other classes will be mixed. For electives, students will choose their classes which will create mixed groups.

Seating Charts

Student seating charts will be created so that if targeted quarantines are necessary, we have the ability to identify students within a radius of the sick student/adult.

Schedule

Student schedules will reflect a full course load.

Normal schedule is Monday: 9:10am- 3:40pm and Tuesday-Friday: 8:10am- 3:40pm for most schools.

Synchronous Learning will be used only when staff determine it is appropriate for students that are out sick

- Having courses developed for the year in Schoology will provide the flexibility for students to access curricular resources whether in the classroom or at home.
- The additional benefit of having full courses developed is the ability to provide a personalized learning experience for students who are ready to move ahead or need support with unfinished learning.

1.3 Food and Nutrition Services

All school meals will be at no cost to the family during the school year 2023-24 once the family has submitted the [Meal Benefits Application](#).

Elementary and K-8 Schools

For breakfast, it is recommended that students eat in the classroom. Some sites may wish to continue with a grab and go program.

For lunch time, students will return to eating in the cafeteria and follow recommended guidelines.

Middle School

At this time, it is recommended that students eat breakfast in the classroom. Some sites may wish to continue with a grab and go program.

For lunch time, students will return to eating in the cafeteria and follow recommended guidelines. Supervision of students must be in place while students are eating and outside at recess.

High School

Students will be served breakfast according to each building's protocols and capacities beginning at 7:15 in the morning. Some schools will provide a grab and go option.

For lunch time, students will return to eating in the cafeteria and follow recommended guidelines according to each building's capacities. Supervision of students must be in place while students are eating and outside at recess.

We encourage all students to take advantage of free lunches rather than leaving campus.

1.4 Transportation

The Transportation Department supports students by providing safe and timely transport services for eligible riders attending in-person learning. Parents will utilize the Infinite Campus Portal to register for transportation usage during the annual student data update. The district continues to serve special education as well as students who qualify under McKinney-Vento and Foster Care programs. Cleaning and disinfecting protocols following student pick-up and drop-offs will be implemented.

- Hand sanitizer stations will be available in school buses.
- All students will be required to scan on/scan off the bus using their student ID card.
- Additional cleaning and decontamination of school buses after each run.
- Students must stay in their seats and not change seats.

1.5 Social and Emotional Learning Support

At District 6, we are committed to the social and emotional health of our students, families and staff, especially in these uncertain times. District 6 schools are staffed with a Building Mental Health Team including school counselors, school social workers, school psychologists, and school-based North Range Behavioral Health Therapists. Mental health staff work closely with teachers and school administrators to provide all students with the appropriate social-emotional supports. In order to ensure access to essential resources and services, school and district administrators will work closely with educators throughout the building to proactively identify, provide and monitor additional support for students who are struggling socially, emotionally, behaviorally or academically. In every school, the Multi-Tiered Systems of Support process involves referral for additional supports. In addition, parents are welcome to share concerns with their child's educators and/or access support through the district website for mental health services.

One foundation of the District 6 Social Emotional Learning Framework is to engage with families, students and community partners to build supportive environments for children. Professionals across the district are engaging in professional development this summer in the area of mental health support and social-emotional learning to ensure we are

ready to meet the unique needs of students, families and staff using trauma-informed, culturally responsive and resilience-building strategies. Students will engage in opportunities during the day to practice and reflect on their Social Awareness, Self Awareness, Self-Monitoring, Relationship Building, and Responsible Decision-Making skills with social-emotional lessons and activities. For more support and guidance on specific school mental health supports, visit our [Mental Health Services and Supports](#) website.

2. Detailed Information

2.1 Public Health

Overview

District 6 Administration makes decisions about preventive actions based on the guidance from Colorado Department of Education (CDE), Colorado Department for Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), Weld County Department for Public Health and Environment (WCDPHE), Center for Disease Control (CDC).

Key Actions for Attending School Safely

Adapt school policy where appropriate

- Encourage students and staff to stay home when sick or caring for sick family members.
- Parent-Student Handbook 2023-2024 This handbook is part of the annual student data update through the SIS department. It can also be found on the website at the following link: [Parent-Student Handbook 2023-2024](#)

Sick students and staff should not come to school

- Per current guidelines, students and staff with a fever of 100.0°F or higher must not come to school.
- Students exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19 or other communicable disease while at school will be isolated on-site until parents/guardians are able to pick their student up from school.
- Attendance and reasons for absence will be monitored to understand trends that may signal the beginning of an outbreak.

Targeted health precautions

- Frequent hand washing opportunities will be provided along with instruction on proper hand washing techniques. Hand sanitizer will be provided, when available, for use until hands can be washed with soap and water.
- Students should bring a water bottle from home.
- Volunteers and family members are allowed into the school building. All visitors to the building need to follow safe and healthy routines.

- Plexiglass dividers will be required in front offices and utilized in classrooms as appropriate.
- Restroom facilities will be disinfected frequently.
- Good and frequent handwashing by students and staff.
- Hand sanitizer provided at all district sites upon request.
- Isolation of positive cases.
- Vaccination recommended by Public Health.
- Option for online learning/D6 Online Academy.
- Stay home when you are sick.

Masks

- Effective February 7, 2022 the mask mandate which required masks to be worn by all students, staff and visitors at non-charter schools in grades preschool through eighth, as well as at other District sites, including the Administration Building, is no longer in effect.
- Per the CDC Guidelines “Wearing a well-fitting mask consistently and correctly reduces the risk of spreading the virus that causes COVID-19. Universal indoor mask use is recommended at a high COVID-19 Community Level.”

2.2 Academics

Definitions

- Asynchronous Learning - An approach where teachers and students are not online at the same time. The teacher provides learning resources and tasks in Schoology. Students access learning and tasks at a time that works for their family.
- Synchronous Learning - An approach where teachers and students are online at the same time with a set schedule. The teacher provides learning resources and tasks through Schoology during the set class time.

Special Education Services

Overview

The Office of Special Education is committed to providing free and appropriate educational opportunities for students with disabilities in alignment with public health guidelines. Collaboration with families has always been a necessary part of the special

education process and continues to be during this time. To address the unique needs of students with disabilities, special education providers will continue the work with families to collaboratively identify services for each student that can be provided both directly and indirectly in remote and in-person learning environments. Service plans may be adjusted as needed for the circumstances of the learning environment.

Individualized Education Program (IEP) Meetings

District 6 is committed to providing families an opportunity to have meaningful participation in the special education process. Whether in-person or an alternative format, such as videoconferencing or by phone, special education teams will partner with families to determine the most practical format to conduct IEP meetings and arrange for an interpreter if necessary.

Delivery of Special Education and Related Services

Schools will continue to ensure that students with disabilities receive a free appropriate public education (FAPE). They will be working to incorporate new health and safety precautions that must also be enacted while providing FAPE to students with disabilities. Because FAPE must now be provided consistent with the need to protect health and safety, there may be disruptions, delays, and/or changes in how services are provided. It is a District priority to ensure that students with disabilities have equal access to the same opportunities as their non-disabled peers. IEPs will continue to be developed and implemented based upon each student's unique needs and the learning environment chosen by the family.

Progress Monitoring and Reporting

Special education teams will have in place consistent data collection and service log procedures for use across learning environments. Collecting data and tracking the provision of services will assist educators and families in determining the effectiveness of instruction provided, student performance on IEP goals/objectives, and assist IEP teams in making any necessary adjustments to instruction. Periodic reports on the progress the child is making toward meeting the annual goals will continue to be provided.

Accommodations and Modifications

Accommodations and modifications will be provided regardless of a student's learning environment. General and special education teachers will continue to collaborate in determining the appropriateness and success of a student's accommodations and/or modifications. The IEP team (general education teachers, special education, related services providers, and families) will work collaboratively to identify alternate solutions if it believes an accommodation and/or modification is not appropriate or successful in a particular setting.

In addition, District 6 understands that some students with disabilities may not be able to wear a mask or face covering for medical, physical, or disability-related reasons. Those with trouble breathing, or those unable to remove a mask or face covering without assistance, should not wear a mask or face covering. In such cases, IEP teams will work together to determine an alternate accommodation. Similarly, we know that some students with disabilities are at high risk of medical complications or have medical conditions that may preclude in-person learning. For such students, IEP teams will meet to consider individual needs and, as appropriate, alternate placement options.

Gifted and Talented

Overview

The Gifted and Talented (GT) Department will continue to support schools, gifted learners, and their families in either an in-person or remote environment. The District 6 GT Specialist will also be available to support families, staff, and students, both in-person and remote environments. District 6 Gifted Education Department will coordinate with all relevant stakeholders to ensure the needs of gifted learners and their families are met.

Gifted Identification

We will continue to accept GT identification referrals and will review them as per the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) guidelines, though we may not be able to make determinations until we have a complete body of evidence. The gathering of this body of evidence may be delayed if we are in an in-person or remote learning environment. Universal Screening of all 2nd graders and other testing scenarios may be delayed until further guidance is provided by CDE and alternative testing options are evaluated.

Parent/Family Support

The GT team will continue to offer our family support activities that will be coordinated with each school. We are always available to answer questions or concerns via phone, email, or remotely if necessary.

All Activities Including Athletics and Co-Curricular

For the 2022-23 school year, District 6 has resumed all programs and athletics following routine practices and procedures for safe participation. If guidance should come from CDE or CDPHE, District 6 will re-evaluate District protocols and practices.

Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent Teacher conferences will be in person with the parent's ability to choose a virtual option for conferences through zoom if desired. Parents could utilize their child's chromebook for virtual conferences if needed.

Visitors and Volunteers

Parents arriving at school to pick up students will be requested to follow school specific procedures for student pickup. Parents will be allowed to enter the school building to attend IEP meetings, re-entry meetings, etc. All visitors to the building need to follow safe and healthy arrival routines.

2.3 Quarantine/Isolation Protocols

District 6 will follow guidelines as determined by the Colorado Department of Public Health (CDPHE) and the Weld County Department of Public Health and Environment (WCDPHE).

2.4 Workforce Management

Overview

During planning and implementation of workforce management initiatives, attention will be given to two primary needs: 1) delivering all services related to education and operations 2) supporting our staff with their personal needs related to their work, safety, and personal health. Each model of educational delivery; in-person teaching and remote/online teaching, may pose challenges, and the workforce management plan and implementation will follow the structures below.

Key Points

The district will be prepared, if necessary, to transition from an in-person model to a remote/online environment depending on public health conditions. All guidance will be reviewed and determined to ensure all employees understand the expectations of the new and potentially changing work environment. In the event of a change in the school or district model, necessary shifts will be made quickly and thoughtfully to cause the least disruption to the education of our students.

Educator Staffing and Leaves

Properly qualified licensed/certified staff can be used to deliver content in order to keep teacher-to-student ratios safe and as optimal as possible in the in-person and remote learning environments. All legally required leaves, and leaves available through board policies or the Master Contract, will be available, communicated, and honored. Human resources staff is available to support educators with questions regarding absences, leaves or the accommodations process.

Operations and Administration Staffing Flexibility and Leaves

Administrators will maintain flexibility in their own work to support staff, as needed, with the goal of building networks of support for staff and students. The District will consider the use of non-school administrators to support schools and learning in different ways based on the critical timing of essential tasks. Administrator and operations/support positions will be reviewed with human resources and department leaders to identify remote work possibilities and the requirements of remote work arrangements through the accommodations process. All legally required leaves will be available, communicated, and honored. Human resources staff is available with questions regarding absences and leaves.

Staff Safety, Reporting, and Problem-Solving

The District is dedicated to protecting the safety of our staff and will respond to any requests or concerns made by staff regarding work conditions and safety. Every layer of the management/leadership team shares this dedication. Substitutes are expected to adhere to building protocols. Requests to address issues of work conditions and safety should be made to an employee's direct supervisor(s).

Evaluations, Work Agreements to Complete Work, Check-Ins

While no adjustments or waivers are currently anticipated, we will expect informal and formal observations as well as a summative meeting to be completed during the year following the appropriate evaluation guidance for all employees. This will be monitored for flexibility, should waivers be provided by the Colorado Department of Education.

2.5 Operations

Facilities Management

The Facilities Department prioritizes the health, safety, and education of District 6 students and staff within the educational environment. The Facilities Department will maintain all its working divisions:

- Custodial
- Grounds
- IT
- Warehouse

In alignment with guidance from public health, the facilities department will implement cleaning and disinfecting protocols at all schools and will increase ventilation to maximize the circulation of outdoor air.

In addition, the facility divisions will continue with:

- Renovations and projects as scheduled.
- Site repairs and maintenance.

Nutrition Services

District 6 will continue to provide meal service to students to the extent possible for in-person and remote/online learners at no cost to families.

Please complete [Meal Benefit Applications](#) online.

2.6 Technology

During the summer of 2020, District 6 purchased Chromebooks from MLO, CRF and ESSER funds to ensure each student has access to curriculum content. As a result, all students have a district-issued Chromebook to complete school work.

In collaboration with various departments, community partners, and business we are working to ensure all students and staff have reliable internet access to complete their work remotely.

Finally, in continued application of our blended learning model, we continue to provide tools and applications to meet the needs of in-person and online environments, optimizing efficiencies and providing stability across our system for all our students. The Core Tools and Applications that we use are as follows:

- ALEKS
- Clever
- Edgenuity
- Enrich
- Google Read/Write
- Reading Plus
- Infinite Campus
- Schoology
- Lexia
- Naviance
- ST Math
- iStation
- iXL

2.7 Communications

Community Outreach

The district will continue to develop and nurture partnerships and relationships with community organizations, interest groups, and initiatives that align with and support our district's mission and strategic needs. Parent and Family Advocates along with building leadership will provide leadership, coordination, and information dissemination for outreach and engagement initiatives conducted by, or in cooperation with, other district departments. Examples include securing funding or other resources to assist families

and students with addressing critical needs and food insecurities, mental health support, and affordable internet access. The district will continue to translate essential documents to support families and their access to important information.

Family Partnership

Family partnership initiatives create opportunities, programs, and resources for families to partner with their student's school, connect to educational progress, and engage in aspects of learning with their student. Engaged families have a direct impact on learning outcomes and are especially critical for the success of remote learning. For both in-person and online learning environments, Parent and Family Advocates will work to provide tools and resources to families through the district website and other communication media. We will also provide both in-person and online family engagement training for staff, students, and families.

2.8 Relevant Orders and Guidance provided from

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Safer at Home and in the Vast, Great Outdoors
- Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Orders
- Colorado Department of Education
- Weld County Recommendations
- City of Greeley Recommendations

3. Bibliography

CDE Protocols for Protecting the Health of Students and Educators

<https://www.cde.state.co.us/safeschools>

CDC Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) Considerations for Schools

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools.html>
<https://>

CDPHE Guidelines for Infectious Disease for Schools and Childcare - COVID-19

www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/infectious-disease-guidelines-schools-and-childcare-settings

National Association of School Nurses Coronavirus 2019 Resources

<https://www.nasn.org/nasn/nasn-resources/practice-topics/covid19>

District 6 Communicable Diseases Manual