



**Magazine School District
Ready for Learning Plan 23-24
REVISED October 12, 2023**

This plan aims to provide students, staff, and parents of the Magazine School District with updated information throughout the school year as we continue to provide rigorous educational experiences while trying to navigate the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

This plan is a fluid outline of the items that have been and will continue to be addressed and reviewed throughout the 2023-24 school year by our Continuity of Services Committee, which is made up of members from our Personnel Policy Committee (PPC), nurses, administrators, bus drivers, paraprofessionals, food service staff, maintenance staff, teachers, and parents.

The Magazine School District formulated this plan under the guidance and direction of the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) and the Arkansas Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). As knowledge and resources have evolved throughout the pandemic, our district's policies and practices have consistently been updated to keep in line with current ADH/DESE directives and guidance.

Please understand that any/all information within this plan is subject to change based on new directives or guidelines that could be issued by the ADH and/or DESE. Updates to this plan may also be needed as new variants are introduced and/or positive case counts rise rapidly within our community or school district.

We value your input as we plan for the remainder of the school year. Please provide us with your thoughts and opinions at feedback@magazinek12.com or https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdYSPiHLdxBUJKYIqUvv_KUBWAE-DXFAA6HQR9kp5qDeTAQag/viewform?usp=sf_link

Considerations:

- **Current Guidance**

Current Arkansas Department of Education guidelines:

<https://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/programs-services/topics/covid-19-health-guidances>

The Arkansas Department of Health and Arkansas Department of Education strongly advise districts to continue to follow all measures that have allowed successful in-person learning to occur.

- The success can be attributed to the multiple layers of mitigation strategies that have been implemented by schools, such as social distancing, reduced class sizes, mask-wearing, disinfecting and cleaning, handwashing, and physical distancing to the extent practical.

Masks: Provide a narrative of the local school board directive concerning masks for the remainder of the school year. Add a link to any necessary policy or procedure or school board resolution.

On Feb. 10, 2022, during a regular board meeting the board elected to discontinue mask-wearing as a requirement. The Board will review this decision when the number of cases spike. At the time of this update, no changes have been made to the Feb. 10th decision to discontinue wearing masks.

Board Minutes:

https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/1926876/02._Minutes_-_February_10_2022.pdf

Considerations:

- **Masks-Continuation of mask policies and proper wearing have benefits** A school system may continue to require the use of masks for adults or students for whom it is developmentally appropriate.
 - Local school district boards must review current policy and determine whether to ***continue, modify, or eliminate by formal action*** policies that require the wearing of masks.
 - If the district elects to continue a universal mask policy:
 - Proper mask-wearing may be a consideration when identifying individuals as close contacts in K-12 schools that continue to implement mask requirements.
 - When making decisions districts should consider approaches that are safest for a variety of situations, such as, *buses, classrooms, lunchrooms, hallways, activity and special event spaces* to determine the extent and impact of changes.
- **Close Contact Identification**

As knowledge and resources have evolved during the Pandemic, the response to COVID-19 has been modified to balance the educational and physical well-being in public schools. Contact tracing and quarantines for students who are identified as probable close contacts remain best practice as mitigation strategies, but there is no directive for districts to do so. Isolation is still important for individuals who test positive for COVID-19 or for those who are symptomatic.

Physical Distancing: Provide a narrative of the local school board directive concerning physical distancing for the remainder of the school year. Add a link to any necessary policy or procedure or school board resolution.

The district will follow state guidelines concerning safety protocols and comply with Arkansas Department of Health directives.

The CDC has updated guidance to reflect the latest science on physical distance between students in classrooms.

- The CDC still recommends social distancing of 3 feet between adults, as well as adults and students, in common areas, when masks can't be worn (such as while eating), during activities with increased inhalation like sports or band practice (which would preferably be held outside), and in community settings outside the classroom. At this time quarantines are no longer required by the school district. Physical distancing will be reinstated upon a climb in cases.

Board Minutes:

https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/1926876/02_Minutes_-_February_10_2022.pdf

Considerations:

● **Physical Distancing**

CDC has updated guidance to reflect the latest science on the physical distance between students in classrooms.

- ADE now recommends but does not require that students can maintain a distance of at least 3 feet in classroom settings.

Responding to Confirmed Positive Cases: Provide a narrative describing how the local district will respond to a confirmed positive case of Covid-19 based on their local masking/physical distancing policy/procedure. Identify any pertinent information related to Points of Contact (POC) and ADH public hotlines.

The district no longer has a need for physical distancing as there are no known cases and/or the science no longer implies the need for any further mitigation.

Considerations:

- **Responding**

Schools are no longer responsible for responding to confirmed cases within the school district by identifying close contacts/quarantines. Governor Asa Hutchinson announced in a press conference that schools were to treat COVID as the flu.

Continuation of Services: Provide a narrative of how the local district will continue to provide in-person learning. Identify how public comment will be made available and how feedback will be taken into account.

The district will follow state requirements concerning safety protocols and comply with Arkansas Department of Health directives. The district will continue to follow this plan regarding the response to provide in-person learning.

Ready for Learning Plan:

[https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/1926876/02._Minutes - February 10 2022.pdf](https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/1926876/02._Minutes_February_10_2022.pdf)

Public comments will be made available through a feedback link on the district webpage. The Ready for Learning Committee will regularly review the comments and take those comments into account when revising the plan. Closures will be dependent on the number of active cases. Closures may be specific classrooms, grade levels, buildings, or the district.

Considerations:

- **Continuation of Services**

As part of the American Rescue Plan Act, school districts must post for parents and the general public a summary of its plan for safe continuation of in-person learning and continuity of services.

- Magazine School District will stay open as long and for as many days as possible. Closures will be dependent on the number of active cases. Closures may be specific classrooms, grade levels, buildings or the district.

Summer and Back-to-School Planning: Provide a narrative of how the local district will develop or modify the Ready for Learning Plan for summer and back-to-school activities. Identify how public comment will be made available, possibly linked on the district website, and how feedback will be taken into consideration when developing the plan.

The district will provide additional learning opportunities in the summer as well as back-to-school activities as funds are available. This Ready for Learning Plan will be updated and revised by the Ready for Learning committee as needed throughout the year. Public comments will be made available through a feedback link on the district webpage. The Ready for Learning Committee will regularly review the comments and take those comments into account when revising the plan.

Considerations:

- **Summer and Back-to-School Planning**

Districts receiving American Rescue Plan Act funds must request public comment and take such comments into account in the development/modification of the plan for summer and back-to-school activities.

- Districts should archive the posting, along with public comments, for future auditing purposes.
- Please see the district public comment link at:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdYSPiHLdxBUJKYIqUvv_KUBWAE_DXFAA6HQR9kp5qDeTAQag/viewform?usp=sf_link