

School Year 2021–2022



Updated March 9, 2022



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August 2021

Dear Washoe County School District Family,

On behalf of the Washoe County School District Board of Trustees and all of us at the District, we welcome you and your students back for a new year of teaching and learning.

As we embark on the 2021-22 school year, we want to thank you for your support as our District continues to deal with developments resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. We are proud of our staff members and grateful for the efforts of everyone whose hard work and encouragement helped our students succeed during an extraordinary school year.

As always, our District will follow the Governor's directives and guidance from local, state, and federal health authorities, which may change during the school year. If directives are adjusted, we will keep our students, families, and staff members informed about the latest requirements and how they may impact our day-to-day operations throughout the District.

We will resume classes full time this fall and will continue to offer an online learning option through North Star Online School for students who choose to participate in this learning model.

We are grateful for assistance from lawmakers at the state and federal level who have directed ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief) funding to WCSD. With this financial assistance, we will offer the intensive extra support our students need as they emerge from the pandemic, move forward with their education, and make plans for their future. Our dedicated staff members stand ready to help.

Washoe County School District Superintendent Dr. Kristen McNeill



Washoe County School District Board of Trustees President Dr. Angela Taylor



In addition, WCSD has created a "Response to Recovery" Strategic Plan which will guide our steps forward and ensure the needs of our students, families, and staff members are being met. View the plan at www.washoeschools.net/domain/633. The plan serves as a District-wide roadmap for:

- achieving equitable access for all students;
- maintaining high academic expectations for all students;
- continuing to follow health guidelines issued by authorities and providing safe in-person instruction; and
- addressing the academic, social, emotional, and mental health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The past year brought hardship and heartache to many people in our community, but it also provided moments of inspiration and hope. Our teachers and students adapted to new ways of teaching and learning, most of our students were able to attend school in classrooms by the end of the school year, and our seniors and their families were able to celebrate graduation ceremonies together. Along the way, there were countless stories of compassion and collaboration that enabled our students and staff members to succeed and finish the school year strong.

Throughout this tumultuous and challenging year, WCSD's commitment to students and families has never wavered. As we begin the 2021-22 academic year, we remember the lessons of the past and look forward to another year of teaching, learning, and achieving.

President Dr. Angie Taylor WCSD Board of Trustees

Superintendent Dr. Kristen McNeill

Washoe County School District



COVID-19 Mitigation Plan

The goal of the Washoe County School District (WCSD) mitigation plan is to keep our schools open safely, to prevent the transmission of the COVID virus, and to support students and staff who may become ill or who are in close contact with someone who has been ill.

On February 27, 2022, Nevada Governor Steve Sisolak issued Emergency Directive 052 requiring school districts to develop a COVID-19 mitigation plan. WCSD collaborated with the Washoe County Health District (WCHD) to develop the following COVID-19 mitigation plan. The plan was submitted to the WCSD Board of Trustees on March 8, 2022 for approval.

Please note: The Washoe County School District will continue to follow guidance from the Governor's Office and local, state, and federal health officials. These directives may change during the school year, and WCSD will communicate closely with families and staff about these changes. This document will be updated as guidance changes.

This document is available in English and Spanish and in various ADA accessible formats on our website at www.washoeschools.net/strategicplan.



Prevention Strategies

Encourage Vaccination

- WCSD will promote ongoing community vaccine events to students and staff on a weekly basis.
- WCSD is working with community health partners to offer vaccination clinics for seniors and junior high school students.
 - 3/15/2022 at Spanish Springs HS
 - 3/22/2022 at Wooster High School
 - 4/12/2022 at North Valleys High School
 - 4/19/2022 at Sparks High School
 - 5/3/2022 at Reed High School
 - 5/10/2022 at Hug High School
 - 5/17/2022 Damonte Ranch and Galena High Schools
 - 6/7/2022 Incline High School

Each clinic will offer COVID-19 vaccinations, as well as other required immunizations.

Self-Screen Every Day

Every day before coming to school and work, students and staff must self-screen using the current WCSD self-screening tool; the current version of this tool is available online at washoeschools.net/selfscreening. If a student or staff member is symptomatic, tests positive for COVID-19, or is identified as a close contact to a COVID-19 positive case, the individual must notify the school and follow the corresponding guidance for isolation or quarantine in the screening tool.



Stay Home when Sick and Get Tested

If a person has symptoms, in accordance with the self-screening tool:

- Assume the person has COVID-19 until proven otherwise. Persons who are symptomatic must remain at home for 5 full days until criteria are met for returning to school, assuming until proven otherwise they have COVID-19.
- If the symptomatic person opts to be tested, only a laboratory test will be accepted to verify the person does not have COVID-19. The test should be collected 48-72 hours of symptom onset. Athome tests may not be used to verify a negative result.
- A symptomatic person who tests positive with an at-home test will be encouraged to seek a laboratory (non-at-home) test.

Anyone in the household who is unvaccinated/undervaccinated against COVID-19 and is unable to isolate from the case must quarantine as a close contact (see below).

Contact Trace: Identifying Close Contacts Needing to Quarantine

Close contacts (persons exposed to a positive case) who are unvaccinated, undervaccinated, or have not had a laboratory-confirmed case of COVID-19 in past 90 days must quarantine and will be excluded in accordance with most up-to-date Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance, see self-screening tool. Close contacts who are vaccinated (see screening tool) and symptom free should monitor symptoms and wear a mask (see **Masking for Contacts Exposed to a Positive Case** below).

Close contacts will be identified through basic contact tracing within schools. Close contacts are those who have been within 6 feet of a lab-confirmed positive COVID-19 case for 15 minutes or more in a 24-hour period. When a school is notified that a laboratory-confirmed positive case who attended while infectious, contact tracing will be performed by the school.

- When seating charts are available for classrooms, individual close contacts identified through contact tracing will be notified and excluded in keeping with current guidance.
- When seating charts are not available for classrooms, the entire class may be excluded in accordance with current quarantine guidance.
- Contact tracing will not be performed for lunchrooms or buses.
- Classes that cannot mask upon return (ex Pre-K and special education classes) must quarantine for the full 10-days. Contact tracing may be performed if consistent mask wearing is possible for certain students.



Consistent and Correct Mask Use

- Because WCSD is not requiring universal masking, each classroom will be notified when a case has attended while infectious (see **Contact Trace** above).
- Masking upon Return from Isolation for Cases (symptomatic or positive test) Cases returning from isolation on Day 6 after symptom onset/first positive test, who meet symptom criteria to return, must wear a well-fitting mask days 6 through 10.
 - If the case cannot or will not wear a well-fitting mask, the case may return from isolation on Day 11 after symptom onset/first positive test as long as they meet the symptom criteria to return.
- Masking for Contacts Exposed to a Positive Case (Close Contacts)
 - If *vaccinated against COVID-19* (see screening tool for requirements), contact must wear a well-fitting mask for 10 days after the date of exposure.
 - If *unvaccinated or undervaccinated against COVID-19* (see screening tool):
 - o If the school district is notified of a contact exposure prior to Day 5 of the quarantine period, unvaccinated students will quarantine at home and be able to return to school on day 6 of quarantine, as long as they are able to wear a well-fitting mask days 6-10 and remain asymptomatic.
 - o If the school district is notified of a contact exposure on or after Day 5 of the quarantine period, unvaccinated students will be allowed to stay in class, as long as they wear a well-fitting mask through day 10 after exposure.
 - Regardless of vaccination status, if the asymptomatic contact cannot or will not wear a wellfitting mask as indicated above, the contact must quarantine for 10 days, and is eligible to return from quarantine on Day 11.
 - Regardless of vaccination status, asymptomatic contacts may return to community masking requirements beginning Day 11.
- Masking while Riding Public Transportation
 - Mask requirement on school buses and other school vehicles will follow CDC guidance.

Testing for COVID-19

WCSD COVID-19 testing is available to students, staff, and volunteers traveling to local venues that require COVID-19 testing. Schools will check with the local venue in advance; if testing is required, schools will contact Student Health Services to schedule testing. Participants who are scheduled to attend events shall complete the WCSD self-screening tool daily (washoeschools.net/selfscreening).

Students and staff who are exhibiting symptoms highlighted on the self-screener should follow guidance regarding exclusion, secure a laboratory COVID-19 test after 2-3 days of the onset of symptoms, and report the results to the school. Consult the COVID-19 testing website for WCSD and community testing resources (washoeschools.net/covid19testing).

Layered Mitigation Techniques

- **Ventilation** is actively addressed through air filtration and circulation. Indoor air is recirculated and filtered at least 6 times per hour with 20% outside air. This leads to a complete replacement of indoor air with fresh, filtered outside air at least once per hour, all day long, in all district schools.
- Handwashing and respiratory etiquette is strongly encouraged for both students and staff. The school district continues to emphasize the importance of personal hygiene through signage and in-person instruction and reminders. Schools are being equipped with new hand soap dispensers to encourage and promote handwashing. Hand sanitizer and hand wipes are also provided at no cost to all locations to augment handwashing opportunities.
- **Cleaning and disinfecting** continue to be an important part of maintaining a safe and healthy learning and working environment for students and staff. Housekeeping follows Process Cleaning for Health nightly, prioritizing emptying trash, cleaning high touch surfaces, sanitizing restrooms, and vacuuming. If a whole site is placed into an outbreak status, Housekeeping provides additional daytime staff to clean surfaces for 3-4 hours daily until the outbreak is closed. Disinfecting wipes are available to schools at no cost to support any additional cleaning staff and students (of appropriate age) wish to conduct throughout the day.
- **Physical distancing and cohorting** are strongly encouraged, whenever possible. Due to limitations to available space and the number of students attending school, it is not always possible to ensure physical distancing/cohorting.

As local, state, and federal guidance changes, these migration procedures will updated as needed.



Positive Case Reporting to Washoe County Health District

WCSD school nurses report positive cases using the Excel spreadsheet shared in Teams.

Outbreaks

Definition of Cluster and Outbreak

See Washoe County Health District (WCHD)-provided Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) definition of clusters and outbreaks.

What mechanism will be used for outbreak declaration and notification of the outbreak?

- If criteria for a cluster OR an outbreak are met, WCSD School Nurses will report to WCSD Director of Student Health Services and Washoe County Health District epidemiology program by calling 775-328-2447.
- If cluster OR outbreak criteria are met, an outbreak will be declared by the Washoe County Health District.

What mitigation measures will be in place once an outbreak is declared?

- Aggregate report line listing will be completed at least once per week. Form will be sent by WCHD
 when an outbreak is declared. At minimum, line lists will be reported weekly; daily reporting is
 preferred, if possible.
- WCSD Student Health Services staff will recommend that symptomatic persons obtain a laboratory (non-at-home test) to prove symptoms are not COVID-19 related, which could reduce the outbreak declaration duration.
- Layered prevention and mitigation techniques to be enhanced from Section One:
 - 1. Promoting vaccination
 - 2. Staying home when sick and getting tested
 - 3. Contact tracing in combination with quarantine
 - 4. Ventilation
 - 5. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
 - 6. Cleaning and disinfecting, in accordance with WCHD WCSD Outbreak Surveillance and Response Plan for Schools.





How will the outbreak be monitored?

Aggregate report line listing will be completed at least once per week, **see Attachment 4 WCHD document.**

What criteria will be used to close an outbreak?

An outbreak will be closed when two full incubation periods (28 days for COVID-19, as 14 days is the full incubation period) pass without any new persons in the setting developing symptoms.

Testing can be used to support outbreak determinations:

- Testing will be encouraged in symptomatic cases to prove symptoms are not COVID-related, otherwise the 28 days will start over with each new onset OR positive test.
- Positive at-home tests will be included for outbreak purposes, although not used for non-household contact exclusions.

What mechanism will be used to notify of outbreak closures?

Email notification to school point of contact and Washoe County Health Outbreak Response Team which is official declared the close of an outbreak.



Back To School

How to Safely Wear and Take Off a Cloth Face Covering

A face covering should fit snugly and entirely cover your mouth and nose.

Wearing a Face Covering



Wash your hands before putting on your face covering. Put it over your nose and mouth and secure it under your chin. Try to fit it snugly against the sides of your face. Make sure you can breathe easily. Do not put the covering around your neck or up on your forehead. Do not touch the face covering, and, if you do, clean your hands. Do not place a mask on a child younger than 2.

Removing a Face Covering



Untie the strings behind your head or stretch the ear loops. Handle only by the ear loops or ties. Fold outside corners together. Wash your face covering after each use. Wash your hands with soap and water.

Communication with Families

The Washoe County School District is making every effort to communicate information and plans with our families and

staff. All information is shared on our website at

www.washoeschools.net/covid19. The District has communicated with families and staff via email and telephone messages frequently throughout the pandemic and will continue to do so.

Connect Ed System:

The District uses the Connect Ed call system to provide information about lockdowns, exclusions, weather delays/cancellations, bus delays, school events, and other important developments. Families receive text messages, automated phone calls, and/or emails with details.

School staff members also communicate with families via the Connect Ed call system and post information on individual school web pages.

In addition, emergency information is posted and updated on the WCSD website at www. washoeschools.net.

For more information about emergency procedures, go to www.washoeschools.net/Page/11521.

Infinite Campus Parent Portal:

Infinite Campus is an online application designed to track your student's progress in school. With this tool, you can see their grades, class schedule, and upcoming assignments, as well as other important messages and documents. There are two versions of Infinite Campus: a parental version and a student version. If you have more than one student, you can use the same account to monitor each student's progress. Both the student and parent versions include teachers' e-mail address to set up direct communication.

To set up your account for the first time, you need to complete the online student registration at www.washoeschools.net/register. If you already have an account, use this link to register: https://washoenv.infinitecampus.org/campus/portal/washoe.jsp. If you forgot your username, contact your student's school.

We encourage families to get this app to help their students stay on track with their schoolwork and attendance, and to foster communication between families and school staff members.





Supporting Mental Health and Wellness

The COVID-19 pandemic has had lingering effects on young people across the country, with many students experiencing anxiety and loss of learning. As schools return to more traditional schedules and learning models in the coming year, WCSD counselors, psychologists, social workers, and teachers will work together to practice social and emotional skills with students.

In Washington, D.C., Congress approved financial assistance through the Elementary and Secondary Emergency Education Relief (ESSER) funds. WCSD's ESSER funding will help support a variety of equitable mental health services to address the physical, mental, and social and emotional needs of our students. This work is vital to their health and well-being.

With ESSER funding, WCSD will be able to recruit and hire mental health experts, and work with staff to provide programs to support our students in a variety of important ways. For information about ESSER funding, visit www.washoeschools.net/esser

The mental health and wellness of students and staff members is a high priority for WCSD, and schools will receive funding to support school social work, counseling, and safe schools professionals who work directly with students and staff.



Our District supports these trained mental health professionals, who assist with mental health concerns, behavioral concerns, positive behavioral support, academic, and classroom support, consultation with teachers, parents, and administrators, and individual and group counseling. These professionals will be integrated and located on school campuses and will be ready to begin working with students in August 2021. We know students are more likely to access services and care if these resources are available at school.

Staff are encouraged to talk with their supervisors and/or utilize the Employee Assistance Program, Guidance Resources, www.guidanceresources.com, through the District health insurance.

In the 2021-22 school year, students and staff members will use best practices in ways of learning, teaching, and working following the pandemic. WCSD will continue to emphasize Social and Emotional Learning in its classrooms, where students learn and practice important skills including:

- **Self-awareness:** The ability to accurately recognize your emotions and thoughts and know how they influence behavior.
- **Self-management:** The ability to regulate your emotions, thoughts, and behaviors effectively in different situations. This includes managing stress, controlling impulses, motivating yourself, and setting and working toward personal and academic goals.
- **Social awareness:** The ability to adopt the perspective of other people and to empathize with other people from diverse backgrounds and cultures.
- **Relationship skills:** These skills enable a person to establish and maintain healthy and rewarding relationships with diverse individuals and groups.
- **Responsible decision-making:** A person who makes responsible decisions can make constructive and respectful choices about personal behavior and social interactions.





School Meals

The WCSD Department of Nutrition Services provides delicious, nutritious meals to students and staff members throughout the year and works in partnership with area agencies including the Food Bank of Northern Nevada to provide meals to children during the summer months, school breaks, and to students who are engaged in online learning.

Thanks to federal funding support during the 2021-22 school year, all students will receive free meals and snacks at school regardless of family income.

For more information visit www.washoeschools.net/Page/15053.

While maintaining a safe environment for our students and staff, WCSD Nutrition Services is excited to return to regular operations with increased menu variety and breakfast and lunch meals served in the cafeteria. Only Community Eligible Provisions (CEP) approved schools will offer breakfast in the classroom. Students can still bring their own lunch; however, any child under the age of 18 will qualify to receive free breakfast and lunch. There will be no meals-to-go service.



Contingency Plans/School Closures

If a school day must be canceled in the event of inclement weather or another extenuating circumstance, families will be contacted via the Connect Ed call system. The cancellation will also be posted on the WCSD website and social media and shared with local media partners. For the first three contingency days in a school year calendar, no classes will occur in person or via distance learning, and the lost learning day must be made up at the end of the school year. Contingency days reserved for the 2021-22 school year are June 6, 7, and 8, 2022 for schools following the balanced calendar. After receiving guidance from the State Department of Education, the fourth day of an emergency or inclement weather in a school year will be a professional development day. The fifth day of inclement weather or emergency and all subsequent days of building closures will move to distance learning. For more information, visit www.washoeschools.net/emergencydl.

Air Quality Guidance

There are times throughout the school year, especially in the fall and winter months, when air pollution levels are higher than typical. District Leadership monitors air quality throughout the community around the clock and makes decisions regarding the safety of air quality in consultation with the National Weather Service.

If air quality worsens due to nearby wildfires, in-person learning will continue. When the air quality is poor, bus windows will be closed and all students will be moved indoors. Students will remain indoors, and outdoor activities will be prohibited while adverse conditions persist. Student Health Services and Emergency Management will provide schools with direction.

Utilizing the Fire & Smoke Map, located on the AirNow website and app, the area air quality is analyzed using the official EPA and other sensors throughout the Truckee Meadows. When a majority of the sensors are in the hazardous (301 or above) range the National Weather Service will be contacted to obtain a forecast of anticipated wind patterns and strength. If the air quality is expected to remain the same, or worsen, school will be canceled. The same will apply to Gerlach and the schools in Incline Village.

Information about WCSD's air quality guidance for schools and athletics can be found at www.washoeschools.net/airquality.





Appendix: Resources for Families

The Family Resource Center (FRC) is a safe and friendly place to go for different types of resources when families need help. For information, go to www.washoeschools.net/Page/13927.

The FRC serves anyone who lives in the surrounding community, including children, teens, parents, single adults, and seniors. There are no income qualifications to use the Center, although some referrals to other services may be limited according to income guidelines.

Anticipated/expected ESSER funding will allow the FRC to purchase emergency basic needs, as well as to support emergency housing assistance for families at immediate risk of being evicted or homeless.

These are the services that the Family Resource Center offers:

Resources / Referrals: Individuals may call the FRC for information and referrals to resources in the community which may be able to help meet basic needs, housing resources, application assistance, and other services. Staff is available to assist families with identifying needs and to help them locate the resources to potentially meet those needs.

Family Success Program: This is a voluntary program that includes an initial assessment to determine the needs of the family, and then links the family with appropriate community and government resources. A plan is made with the family to help set goals and actions steps necessary to meet those goals. The plan is tailored to address the unique needs of the family. Families who are acting and making progress towards attaining their goals may be eligible for additional services.



Ongoing Support: Staff members of the FRC provide ongoing support to families. They are available to help with budgeting, goal setting, and problem solving. They can also aid in obtaining services through advocacy and interventions with other community agencies.

There are three locations that serve specific areas in our community:

Central and South Reno 1950 Villanova Dr. Reno, NV 89502 (775) 321-3185

Sparks/Northeast & Northwest Reno 921 12th St. Sparks, NV 89431 (775) 353-5733

Sun Valley/North Valleys/Spanish Springs 115 West 6th Ave. Sun Valley, NV 89433 (775) 327-1511

The WCSD **Department of Family-School Partnerships** staff members work with families on behalf of all children. The department provides resources to support family involvement in student learning and academic progress, literacy, online learning, Social-Emotional Learning, attendance, seeking financial aid for higher education, and much more. The Department also maintains a virtual library of resources for families who wish to learn more about how to support their students on their academic journeys. For information, go to www.washoeschools.net/Domain/161#calendar425/20210729/month.

In addition, the Department sponsors free Parent University events where families can learn more on a variety of topics to help their students succeed in school.

The Department may be reached at (775) 789-4680.

To learn more about the resources and services available for our families to support learning and the mental well-being of our children, review the following list:

- **Parent U** Learning Resources page Information on how to support your student's education, community resources for basic needs as well as information about adult learning. www.washoeschools.net/Page/6106
- **Parent U** Family Learning Library Videos organized by grade level and topic for social and emotional learning, attendance, digital citizenship (safety and balancing your student's media use) and literacy. www.washoeschools.net/Page/13892
- **Video Library** YouTube channel Webinar recordings and video tutorials on college access, high school Career & Technical Education programs, technology tips, family wellness, and other learning supports. https://bit.ly/36ichIE



- Washoe County Library System Brainfuse Free live, virtual tutoring, writing lab and test preparation (SATs, ACTs). https://washoecountylibrary.us/downloads/brainfuse.php
- Washoe County Library System Libby Digital magazines for younger children and teens that can be checked out virtually. https://washoecounty.overdrive.com/collection/1164267
- Washoe County Library System Overdrive e-books and audiobooks for children to download on their computer, tablet, or phone. https://washoecounty.overdrive.com/library/kids/
- Washoe County Library System Tumblebooks e-books and read alongs for elementary children available in different languages and include games, puzzles, chapter books and picture books. https://washoecountylibrary.us/downloads/tumblebooks.php
- Attendance Works Video A short video to understand why attendance is so important for your student's education and includes practical, everyday steps parents can take to help their children attend school. https://vimeo.com/101425388
- Video Tip Monitoring your Child's Grades & Assignments https://www.youtube.com/embed/kvFU-a-9THc%22
- Video Tip Supporting your Child to Stay Organized and On-track https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bUcNSv0pJYc
- Video Tip Discussing your Child's Progress with them Directly and Encouraging them to do their Best https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dx7c_K9ez5c
- Video Tip Supporting your Student to Advocate for Themselves https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MJ5dTVHMRvg
- NBC Toolkit for Families on Social & Emotional Learning (SEL) Age-appropriate tips and resources for families aligned with WCSD's competencies for SEL https://www.today.com/parenting-guides/social-skills
- WCSD Family Resource Centers Support for housing, food, SNAP, and energy assistance as well as more resources. www.washoeschools.net/Page/13927
- **Asking for Help and Emailing Teachers** Follow this link to see the examples: https://tinyurl.com/zx4k8vsz
- **Family Wellness** Local and national resources for mental health, emergency services, and behavioral support. www.washoeschools.net/Page/14383

WCSD's Back to School Guide and ESSER III budget plan will be reviewed by district leadership and community stakeholders and updated if needed by the following dates:

January 10th, 2022 July 10th, 2022 January 10th, 2023 July 10th, 2023

