

Hope Community Charter School

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

June 17, 2021

Hope Community Charter School mission is to guide and inspire students as they discover and develop their talents, building their literacy skills as the tools for imagining, self-reflection, and responsible decision-making. Within a safe and caring environment, literacy is the path to a solid academic foundation.

Hope believes that language makes the difference in a child's future success. A solid foundation in literacy leads to a high level of academic mastery and to a future where learning never stops. We understand the need to create a safe, vibrant, and nurturing space, rich in resources and opportunities for students to learn about the world. We recognize the need to continuously cultivate our culture so parents are partners in our high expectations that each child can achieve success, create a meaningful dream for themselves, and live responsible and fulfilling lives.

Hope Community Charter School Goals

- Develop, in each student, a highly literate and effective communicator with a strong academic foundation and a confident lifelong learner ^{[[1]]}_{SEP}
- Provide a safe, nurturing environment that promotes tolerance and empathy for others and supports a culture of high expectations for behavior and academics ^{[[1]]}_{SEP}
- Cultivate a love of reading and literature
- Foster an environment that promotes respect and the responsibility ^{[[1]]}_{SEP}

On May 17, 2021, Governor Murphy [announced](#) that upon the conclusion of the 2020-2021 school year, portions of Executive Order 175 allowing remote learning will be rescinded, meaning that schools will be required to provide full-day, in-person instruction, as they were prior to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.

Hope recognizes that information released by, and recommendations from, the state and federal government is fluid and ever-evolving/changing and will make changes as deemed necessary based on this information and recommendations.

1. Maintaining Health and Safety

For each mitigation strategy listed below (A–H), please describe how the LEA will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff and the extent to which it has adopted policies, and a description of any such policies, on each of the following safety recommendations established by the CDC.

A. Universal and correct wearing of masks

Hope will continue to follow the CDC guidelines/recommendation at a minimum regarding masks. Hope will continue to communicate all requirements and updates to families, staff, visitors and stakeholders. Masks will completely cover the nose and mouth and fit snugly against the sides of face without gaps. Adults must wear masks at all times, unless in a room alone. Students will wear masks on buses, in the hallways, in the cafeteria, going to, and in the restroom, in classrooms.

B. Physical distancing (e.g., including use of cohorts/podding)

Hope will continue to follow the CDC guidelines at a minimum regarding social distancing. We will continue to monitor every classroom, office, social distancing guidelines at a minimum, and are marked or partitioned as necessary. Students will be assigned to cohorts as deemed necessary to ensure physical distancing. Signs will be posted reminding staff and students about social distancing.

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Classroom teachers are responsible for teaching and reinforcing hand sanitizing and hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and increase monitoring of students. Staff should assist/observe young children to ensure proper hand washing.

Hand hygiene should take place:

- Upon arrival at school
- Before and after meals and snacks
- After going to the bathroom
- Before leaving for the day
- After blowing nose, sneezing, or coughing into tissue
- When hands are visibly soiled

Hope will continue to educate and encourage students and staff to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue if not wearing a mask. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash and hand hygiene as outlined above should be performed immediately.

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

E. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments

Hope will respond to any outreach from the Camden County Health Department in order to address positive cases of COVID-19 that impacts the district/school community that may have been reported to them to commence contact tracing and case investigation. Hope will report to the Camden County Health Department health officer about staff, students, or any person with a close relationship to the school that tested positive, that information will be verified by the health department before it commences contact tracing and case investigation. All positive persons will undergo contact tracing and case investigation whether the information was first passed through the school or came automatically through the health department communicable disease surveillance system. The Camden County Health Department will handle all contact tracing and have staff available to perform contact tracing and case investigation.

F. Diagnostic and screening testing

Hope will continue to provide information regarding locations for COVID diagnostic and screening tests locations in the area.

G. Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible.

Hope has provided opportunities for all staff to get vaccinated. We will continue to provide vaccine opportunities, as available, to new staff members. As the CDC changes vaccine guidelines in children, Hope will work to provide vaccination opportunities to eligible students.

H. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies.

Hope will provide all accommodations deemed necessary for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies. The Child Study Team will identify, implement, and oversee compliance all necessary accommodations for children with disabilities.

2. Ensuring Continuity of Services

A. Describe how the LEA will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address students' academic needs and students' and staff's social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services. (1000 character limit)

All special education and ELL students who are eligible for special education and related services will receive services. Compensatory education will be available for services missed during the pandemic to remedy knowledge and skill deficits, and ensure the students have an opportunity to achieve their individual goals and objectives. The need for compensatory education will be assessed on an individual basis by the IEP team. Compensatory education will not be determined at a 1:1 ration when calculating the amount of services needed.

Hope will be providing professional development workshops that will support staff and help staff understand and supports student social, emotional, mental health.

3. Public Comment

A. Describe how the LEA sought public comment on its plan, and how it took those public comment into account in the development of its plan. Note, the ARP requires that LEAs seek public comment for each 60-day revision to the plan. (1000 character limit)

This plan was presented at a board meeting with public comment to follow. The plan will be placed on the school website with contact information where public comments can be sent and questions can be answered.

B. Describe how the LEA ensured that the plan is in an understandable and uniform format; is to the extent practicable written in a language that parents can understand or, if not practicable to provide written translations to a parent with limited English proficiency, will be orally translated for such a parent; and upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA, will be provided in an alternative format accessible to that parent. (1000 character limit)

When writing this plan, the target audience was Hope's parents. It was written in a format easily accessible to parents. This version is available in Spanish and a staff member has reached out to parents to inform them about the availability of oral translation. At a parent's request, Hope will provide an alternate format to parents.

Have a Question or Want To Comment on a Specific Aspect of our Plan?? Who Can I Contact?

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