

 

Raton Public Schools

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

2021-2022



Purpose of Plan

The Raton Public Schools (RPS) are committed to ensuring that every student is afforded a safe and equitable educational experience within our district. The RPS Re-entry Plan is subject to change depending on the spread of the coronavirus and revised public health orders. The 2021-2022 Re-Entry Plan is based on flexibility and the following principles:

- All students and safety is at the forefront of our planning.
- Students will return to school with options for in-person learning in our school buildings and virtual learning at home.
- We will communicate transparently with families and staff as the COVID-19 pandemic changes and evolves.
- We will work to reduce barriers and ensure equity and access for all students.

This re-entry plan is a guiding document that will continue to evolve and change as the COVID-19 situation around us changes. The District will follow the guidance of public health experts and the New Mexico Department of Education (NMPED) and the [NMPED Re-Entry Guidance](#) when making decisions regarding the resumption of instruction in our schools.

NOTE: Guidance may change in accordance with the updates from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and New Mexico's Department of Health. Guidance is based on current medical knowledge of how COVID-19 is transmitted, primarily through close physical contact, vocal and musical activities during which aerosol particles might be emitted, and touching shared surfaces or objects.

For information regarding coronavirus 2019/COVID 19, please visit the CDC website:
<https://cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.htm>.

Dear Families,

During the 2020-21 school year, the COVID-19 pandemic affected almost every aspect of our lives. Despite some challenges and inconveniences this last school year has been a very successful one. We appreciate everyone's cooperation as our district navigated the past school year. As we prepare to welcome students back to school for the 2021-2022 school year on August 16, 2021, we plan to continue with two educational options, five days a week instruction with early release on Fridays, following the adopted 2021-2022 school calendar and the precautions and procedures we put in place for the 2020-2021 school year.

Raton Public Schools will offer two academic options again for the 2021-22 school year. While the Raton Public Schools believe that the most effective instruction for your child happens in a classroom with our highly qualified teachers, there will be an online option available for students in grades K-12. There will be more specifics about this option once we have more detailed information.

The 2021-2022 school year at RPS will begin on August 16, 2021, as scheduled. RPS will assume your student(s) will be returning as normal as a traditional brick and mortar student unless you complete the formal request for the Home/Online learning option by Friday, July 12, 2021.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfeGmEplkRbwTWIW7REz7rexW5zf8NcqpnOUrnsKW8-r_gxg/viewform?usp=sf_link

Please be advised that students will not be allowed to transition from online to in-person or in-person to online throughout the year.

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Teaching & Learning

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Virtual Option

Students will have their classes taught by RPS teachers, but they will attend and participate from home. Canvas will be used to deliver the RPS guaranteed and viable curriculum. There will be a combination of activities both on and off of the computer with attendance and grading captured through Canvas participation and completed teacher-assigned activities. Please be advised that students will not be allowed to transition from online to in-person or in-person to online throughout the year.

In-person Option

Students grades Pre-K through 6 will attend school five days a week, and the RPS guaranteed and viable curriculum will be delivered by direct instruction on the days they are physically present in class. Students are marked present when participating in the physical classroom on assigned in-person learning days. Canvas will be used for asynchronous learning on days when students are not physically present due to quarantine or extended illness. Fridays will be early release at all schools. Our goal is to create an environment that provides an opportunity for students to return to the traditional school experience, while providing effective safeguards to protect the health and safety of students and staff.

Teaching & Learning

Middle & High School (7-12)

Virtual Option

Students will have their classes taught by RPS teachers, but they will attend and participate from home. Canvas will be used to deliver the RPS guaranteed and viable curriculum. There will be a combination of activities both on and off of the computer with attendance and grading captured through Canvas participation and completed teacher-assigned activities. Please be advised that students will be allowed to transition from online to in-person or in-person to online throughout the year but deadlines will be established for each semester to allow for ample time dedicated to each platform and once the deadlines have passed no changes will be allowed.

In-person Option

Students grades 7 through 12 will attend school five days a week, and the RPS guaranteed and viable curriculum will be delivered by direct instruction on the days they are physically present in class. Students are marked present when participating in the physical classroom on assigned in-person learning days. Canvas will be used for asynchronous learning on days when students are not physically present due to quarantine or extended illness. Fridays will be early release at all schools. Our goal is to create an environment that provides an opportunity for students to return to the traditional school experience, while providing effective safeguards to protect the health and safety of students and staff.

Teaching & Learning

Special Services

What is the obligation of the schools under Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) in transitioning students back to school buildings?

Under the IDEA, the schools are responsible for providing a student with a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE). During this period of extended school closure and re-opening, the FAPE obligation includes:

1. Reviewing the appropriateness of the Individualized Educational Program (IEP) in effect when a change in service delivery model occurs or when student progress monitoring indicates a lack of progress; and
2. Addressing the need for compensatory education and/or recovery services if there is a loss of FAPE. Depending on the process adopted by the schools to reopen school buildings, these responsibilities may need to be revisited multiple times.

If a necessary IEP or 504 services cannot be implemented in the adjusted educational environment, the student's team will need to determine whether the service can be provided through alternate means, or if there is no feasible alternative, the team will consider whether compensatory/recovery services are necessary.

Teaching & Learning

Special Services

How will RPS Special Services meet Section 504 requirements?

Section 504 continues to have a responsibility to ensure that FAPE is provided to each eligible 504 student no matter what the environment. All 504 requirements will be followed.

How will Gifted services be provided?

Teams will determine the educational needs for students receiving Gifted services in conjunction with an addendum or full IEP. Services will then be followed according to the outlines services on the IEP.

SAT /MLSS (Student Assistance Team / Multi-layered Systems of Support)

The SAT team continues to have a responsibility to provide interventions and support when students are struggling. The SAT team will continue to communicate with parents and families to keep them informed about their child's progress.

Student Evaluations:

Schools will continue with child find activities for children ages three through 21 with known or suspected disabilities. This means that evaluation teams will consider the most appropriate way to conduct evaluations in a manner that is consistent with the current NMPED guidance regarding school services.

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Student & Staff
Support

Student & Staff Support

Social Emotional Learning and Mental Health

- Schools will provide Social Emotional Learning (SEL) strategies to support each student and family with their emotional and mental health.
- Specific strategies for SEL support are used daily by staff and students.
- At the secondary level, advisory is being used to support daily student to adult contact for emotional needs, engagement, and attendance.
- Staff (Teachers, Counselors, Social Workers, etc.) support and connect with students through a variety of ways such as whole class, small group, and individual sessions.

Food Service and Cafeteria

- Breakfast and lunch meals will be free for all students.
- Students will go to the cafeteria for meals.
- Meal choices will be limited and served on disposable trays.

Athletics

Athletics is following all NMPED Guidelines, NMAA Return to Play Guidelines and Governor's Orders, i.e. transportation, use of Locker rooms, 100% mask wearing of coaches and students/athletes are required for those who are not fully vaccinated, social distancing and the New Mexico Department of Health heat map/color designation of our county as a guide for the attendance of athletic events.

Student & Staff Support

What about transportation?

Bus routes will resume. Bus drivers will implement social distancing rules to the greatest extent possible.

Dismissal

Families will utilize the PikMyKid app as a dismissal and emergency family alerts communication tool to ensure safe dismissal and absentee procedures. [Click here for more information](#)

Technology

03

Technology

The successful deployment of instructional technology is necessary to provide on-going and high-quality instruction for students. We must ensure that every student has access to technology and possesses the knowledge and skills to use it effectively.

Devices:

- All K-12 students will receive a Chromebook or iPad and charging cord
- Devices will travel from home to school and back
- Preschool-as determined by the classroom teacher
- All RPS buildings are equipped to handle multiple devices
- Students will be asked to bring their devices fully charged to school
- Students must follow the Technology Usage Agreement

Technology

Student Support:

- All students will log in as themselves; no generic accounts to login to devices
- Canvas (software) will be the Learning Management System
- Student communication options- Canvas, Google Classroom, gmail, and Zoom chat
- Teachers will provide the following training:
 - Student Commitments for Chromebooks / iPads
 - Logging into Chromebook / iPad
 - Canvas
 - Google Classroom
 - Google Docs, Slides, Jamboards
 - Zoom
 - Common sense for online safety
 - Communication options and office hours for students

Technology

Supports for Learning with Technology for Staff

- Continue to provide opportunities for teachers to learn at their own pace and with coaches/mentors.
- Ongoing opportunities via NMPED Canvas

Supports for Learning with Technology at Home

- Continue to provide technology devices, curriculum, and IT support for students as needed

Policies/Procedures and Privacy and Security

- Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) Compliance
- Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA),
- email security, ransomware, phishing attempts, etc.
- CommonSense.org for Parents
- Acceptable Use Policy (AUP)

Connectivity

- Continue with Verizon for the coming academic year to provide hotspots to families.
- Expand contracts to cover any new families that will need internet connectivity.
- Work with City/Library and Faith-Based Organizations to help support needs
- Work with businesses to adopt families in need

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Health & Safety

Health & Safety

Rapid Response

- Rapid response teams (RRT) will consist of the following personnel:
 - Administration Member
 - Nursing/Medical Member
 - Safety & Security Member
- Each school shall create RRTs as needed.
- RRTs will respond to the location of a student or staff member needing assistance. This includes escorting students to the isolation room.
- The nurse shall notify the school administrator:
 - If a student or staff member has been found to be infected with COVID-19,
 - To conduct contact tracing if necessary.
 - The New Mexico Department of Health will be contacted to activate their contact tracing efforts
 - Isolation rooms will be established in every school, and will be equipped with all necessary PPE, and any other items.
- Staff will be required to complete a Safe Schools training related to Covid-19.

Masks:

Covid safe practices will be observed at all school buildings. Students and staff are required to continue to wear a mask as long as this is required by NMPED.

Health & Safety

What happens if students get sick?

If your child exhibits any COVID symptoms and/or has a fever at home, they should not be sent to school. A student at school who begins exhibiting COVID-19–like symptoms will go to an isolation room. The student will remain in the isolation room until they can be picked up as soon as possible after contact is made with the parent(s).

Cleaning & Supplies

RPS will supply masks, cleaning supplies, hand soap, and hand sanitizer for classrooms and common areas. Each classroom will be supplied with cleaning and sanitation supplies for classroom cleaning purposes. Proper cleaning procedures and CDC guidance on approved products and methods will be used. High touch desks, counters, door handles, elevators, etc. surfaces such as doorframes/edges, light switches, thermostats, window handles, etc. will be sanitized daily. Signs will be displayed for hygiene, masks and social distancing. Frequent disinfecting of bathrooms and regular bathroom checks for supplies will be conducted daily by custodians.

Water Fountains

Water fountains will be off limits. Students may bring a refillable bottle. Water stations are available throughout the building.



Our Vision:

Raton Public Schools will be known as an organization that exemplifies high quality education for every student through excellence in teaching and learning.

Our Mission:

Engage * Equip * Empower

Our Values:

Students first

Respect

Safety

Responsibility

Academic Growth

Continuous Improvement