



Gilpin County School District RE-1

# School Restart Plan

*August 10, 2020*

***REVISED July 29, 2020, September 3, 2020***



## *Teaching and Learning*

*2020/2021 School Year*

### ***Mission***

*It is the mission of the Gilpin County RE-1 School District to provide a positive caring culture in a safe environment that is focused on academic excellence.*

### ***Vision***

*It is the vision of the Gilpin County School District to be schools of excellence and become a District of Distinction and Destination.*



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# GILPIN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1

*\*10595 CO 119\*Black Hawk, CO 80422\*(303)582-3444\**

*Home of the Eagles!*

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September 3, 2020

Dear Gilpin School Community,

As of today, nation-wide and in Colorado, COVID-19 positive cases and hospitalizations over the past 4 weeks are on a decline. Since we began our back-to-school year activities on August 10, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) issued [\*COVID-19 GUIDANCE Cases and outbreaks in child care and schools\*](#), which provides updated guidance for schools to implement the return to in-person learning. GCSD will follow the CDPHE health safety guidance.

To be clear, the in-person learning model concedes that it is likely a student(s) or staff member(s) will contract COVID-19 as we bring students and staff back together in the building. The in-person learning model also concedes that it is likely that the school may be on a rolling schedule through the school year due to COVID-19, moving fluidly from in-person to remote learning and back to in-person learning due to a 14 day quarantine(s). This rolling schedule means that in-person learning includes remote learning as positive cases are confirmed, contact tracing is implemented, and a 14 day quarantine is issued for a class(es) or grade(s) or school(s) throughout the 2020/2021 school year. There is no guarantee that a student or staff member will not become infected with COVID-19 during in-person learning.

GCSD started the school year on August 10 with two program offerings for students: 100% **Remote Distance Learning Program** with Gilpin teachers and a 100% **Gilpin Online Learning Program** with pre-made computer courses with support by a Colorado licensed teacher.

I surveyed parents and staff the week of August 24 and reported the results to staff and to the Board of Education on September 1. The Board directed me to create a plan to be implemented on September 21, 2020 that provides parents and students with **all** of the following learning program option choices:

- **In-person Learning Program** in the school building 4 days a week with Gilpin teachers, Monday through Thursday.
- **Hybrid Learning Program** is a combination of remote distance learning and in-person in the school building one (25/75%), two (50/50%), or three (75/25%) days a week with Gilpin teachers.
- **Remote Distance Learning Program** with Gilpin teachers 4 days a week Monday through Thursday.
- **Gilpin Online Learning Program** offered through the school year. Fall semester CDLS enrollment is closed. However, Edmentum is still open for enrollment in grades 6-12.

Again, thank you for your understanding as we prepare the next iteration of teaching and learning programs that will begin on September 21.

Sincerely,

David S. MacKenzie, Ph.D.  
Superintendent



## 1. Public Health COVID-19 Pandemic Requirements

### 1.1 *Health Safety Practices*

- Teach and reinforce washing hands and covering coughs and sneezes among students and staff.
- Teach and reinforce appropriate use of cloth face coverings among students and staff (when age and developmentally appropriate) when in the vicinity of others, particularly in indoor settings.
- **Require** school **staff** and **students** and **parents** wear a nose and mouth covering whenever possible and, for students, when age and developmentally appropriate, during the school day and anytime when present in the building. Staff and students are expected to provide their own cloth nose and mouth covering, for example, a mask, bandana, or scarf. Patients with a pre-existing respiratory condition may be exempt with a doctor's note.
- Provide supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors, including soap, paper towels, hand sanitizer, etc.
- Schedule breaks for handwashing hygiene. Schedule nose and mouth covering breaks.
- Post signs on how to stop the spread of COVID-19, properly wash hands, promote everyday protective measures, and properly wear a face covering.
- Avoid immediate contact such as shaking or holding hands and hugging.
- Ensure ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible by opening windows and doors, and other methods that do not pose additional safety or health risks.

### 1.2 *Classrooms and Other Educational Spaces*

- Implement 6 feet physical distancing at all times and to the greatest degree, wherever and whenever possible.
- Consider the utilization of additional barriers (e.g., plastic sneeze guards, face shields) for employees working directly with younger children or where spacing and masking may be more difficult for either staff members or students.
- Clean, sanitize, and disinfect frequently touched surfaces (e.g., playground equipment, door handles, sink handles, drinking fountains, refillable water stations) multiple times per day. Shared objects should be cleaned between use.
- Disinfect and sanitize shared education tools regularly (e.g. books, whiteboards, computers).
- Ensure adequate supplies, to minimize sharing of high touch materials and disinfect between each use.
- Keep each child's belongings separated in individually labeled storage containers, cubbies, or taken home each day and cleaned.
- Avoid the use of items not easily cleaned, sanitized, or disinfected (e.g., upholstered furniture or soft or plush toys).

### 1.3 *Student Grouping/Cohort Management*

- Consider keeping classes/cohorts together, as often as possible, to include the same group of children each day.
- Minimize the mixing between classes/cohorts as much as possible.
- When students rotate from one space to another, the room and equipment will be cleaned and sanitized prior to having another group in the space.
- Reduce the number of shared items. Students will be expected to have their own school supplies to reduce or eliminate sharing items. Student supplies will be kept in their desk, backpack, cubby or other container.
- When common supplies and equipment are used by one group of students will be cleaned and sanitized prior to having another group of students use the same supplies and equipment.



- Limit group gatherings and events to those that can maintain adequate social distancing and support proper hand hygiene.
- All school events such as assemblies, plays, concerts, back-to-school nights, etc. will be placed on hiatus or will be redesigned for an on-line platform until further notice.
- All field trips and/or other activities outside of school will be canceled until further notice.
- Consider limiting the use of common space such as cafeterias and develop plans to allow students to eat in their designated (class/cohort) group whenever possible.
- Consider alternative classroom settings serving students with special health care needs.
- Recess will be staggered for groups to be in smaller numbers. Six foot distancing will be observed as much as possible.

#### **1.4 Personal Responsibilities**

- Staff and students are expected to provide their own cloth mouth and nose face covering.
- Staff members and students/parents should self-screen each morning before boarding the bus or driving to school by checking temperature and identifying if experiencing new or unexplained symptoms are present.
- Staff and student temperature and symptom checks will be performed at school each morning upon arrival.
- The symptom questions:
  - Temperature over 100° F?
  - New or Unexplained Persistent Dry Cough?
  - Shortness of breath/Difficulty Breathing?
  - Chills?
  - Muscle pain?
  - Headache?
  - Sore throat?
  - Nausea or vomiting?
  - Diarrhea?
  - Running nose or congestion?
  - Loss of taste or smell?
- Staff and students are to stay home if they or a family member is experiencing new or unexplained symptoms.
- Staff will report illness and/or symptoms to their supervisor and families will report illness and/or symptoms to the school secretary/attendance reporting line.
- Staff and parents will report international or out of state travel in the last 14 days prior to returning for work or school. If travel has occurred, the Gilpin Public Health agency will be consulted to determine if students or staff will need to quarantine for 14 days from the date of travel.
- For illness other than COVID-19, staff and students should stay home if they are experiencing symptoms such as:
  - fever, cough or shortness of breath, or diarrhea,
  - “flu-like” symptoms (Fever over 100°F with a cough or sore throat, tiredness, body aches, vomiting or diarrhea.),
  - coughing, mild respiratory or cold symptoms (Stuffy nose with clear drainage, sneezing, and mild cough.), and
  - vomiting will stay home from school for 24 hours after the last instance of vomiting or diarrhea.



### **1.5 *School Transportation***

- To meet social distancing and small group requirements on school transportation, parents are highly encouraged to self-transport their children to and from school.
- Drivers will ask students if they have any symptoms before boarding school transportation.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided in school transportation vehicles.
- **Require school staff and students and parents** wear a nose and mouth covering whenever possible and, for students, when age and developmentally appropriate, during the school day and anytime when present in the building and when riding on school transportation. Staff, students, and parents are expected to provide their own cloth nose and mouth covering, for example, a mask, bandana, or scarf. Patients with a pre-existing respiratory condition may be exempt with a doctor's note.
- All drivers will record passenger attendance on school transportation to allow for contact tracking in the event of exposure to COVID-19.
- Additional cleaning and decontamination of school buses will occur after each morning and afternoon route.
- The drivers will open windows at least 1" to allow for ventilation and use their discretion as to how many windows to open to provide fresh air to all passengers, even in cold or inclement weather.

### **1.6 *Building Entry***

- All people entering the school building are required to wear and are expected to provide their own nose and mouth covering, for example, a mask, bandana, or scarf. Patients with a pre-existing respiratory condition may be exempt with a doctor's note.
- All people entering the school building are required to be temperature and symptom-check screened.
- All people entering the school building must adhere to 6 feet social distancing and grouping requirements.
- Parents/visitors do not enter the building and drop-off and pick-up at the exterior door.
- Nonessential visitors, volunteers, and outside group building entry will be limited or eliminated.

### **1.7 *Suspected and Confirmed Positive COVID-19 Cases in the Gilpin County School Community***

- Gilpin County Public Health (GCPH) is notified immediately and person(s) are confined to isolation room when:
  - High temperature identified during check
  - Self-report or observed COVID-19 symptoms during check
  - Self-report or observed becoming ill while at school
  - Contact parent to pick-up student immediately or send staff member home
  - Ill students or staff members will not be able to stay at school in the health room or in the isolation room.
- Immediate review of aforementioned case(s) with GCPH
  - Close school building for 2-5 or more days to deep clean and disinfect
  - Follow CDPHE/GCPH protocol for contact tracing and implement 14 calendar day quarantine for the cohort/group as indicated.
  - The quarantine staff and students return to 100% Remote Distance Teaching and Learning Plan
  - Suspend extracurricular activities when a school or the District closes due to COVID-19.
  - Maintain COVID-19 case(s) confidentiality as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA).
  - Communicate an instance(s) of confirmed COVID-19 case(s) to the Gilpin County School Community.



- Monitor, evaluate, and collaborate with GCPH when to return to the school building.

### 1.7 ***Deep Cleaning and Disinfecting***

- GCSD contracts with Omni Pro for Custodial Cleaning Services
  - Common Areas (restrooms, clinic, kitchen preparation surfaces, locker rooms, weight room) and high-touch Common Areas (door handles, handrails) are disinfected daily.
  - Classroom Surfaces (counter, table, and desk tops; door handles) are disinfected as student groups change in the classroom and at the end of the school day.
- Custodial Cleaning Service applies EPA approved disinfectant to surfaces that kills COVID-19.
- Custodial Cleaning Service uses electrostatic sprayers with EPA approved disinfectant that kills COVID-19.
- Staff has cleaner/disinfectant to clean periodically high touch-surfaces for use in student occupied spaces.

## 2. **Teaching and Learning 2020/2021**

### 2.1 ***Teaching and Learning Program Offering Options***

- GCSD began the school year on August 10, 2020 with a ***100% Remote Distance Learning Program*** with Gilpin teachers and concurrently, GCSD offered the ***Gilpin Online Learning Program***, an online course of study in grades Kindergarten through 12 for students provides pre-made computer courses that students complete independently with teacher support. Access the ***Gilpin Online Learning Program*** information page at this [link](#).

The August 24, 2020 Parent Survey results indicate 64% of parents wanted their child(ren) back in the school building participating in in-person teaching and learning. On September 21, 2020, the following teaching and learning programs will be offered and available for **all** students and parents as options to choose:

- ***In-person Learning Program*** in the school building 4 days a week, Monday through Thursday.
- ***Hybrid Learning Program*** is a combination of remote distance learning and in-person in the school building one (25/75%), two (50/50%), or three (75/25%) days a week.
- ***Remote Distance Learning Program*** with Gilpin teachers 4 days a week Monday through Thursday.
- ***Gilpin Online Learning Program*** offered through the school year. Fall semester CDLS enrollment is closed. However, Edmentum is still open for enrollment in grades 6-12.

GCSD is monitoring the spread of COVID-19 and will assess the pandemic and its effect on the teaching and learning programs on a monthly report basis. The principals are responsible for the operation of the 4 aforementioned teaching and learning programs. Parent with questions, comments, and feedback about teaching and learning may contact your principal: [hhuntoon@gilpin.k12.co.us](mailto:hhuntoon@gilpin.k12.co.us) or [adonaldson@gilpin.k12.co.us](mailto:adonaldson@gilpin.k12.co.us)

### 2.2 ***Teaching and Learning Program Delivery Assumptions for the 2020/2021 School Year***

- Health Care Epidemiologists have been accurate predicting the presence and consequent spread of COVID-19.
- With the Epidemiologists prediction that when flu season returns, COVID-19 will become widespread again. Although the flu season is year-round, flu cases peak between December and February, and flu cases begin presenting in growing numbers in November and can last as late as May.



- Closing the school building when a positive COVID-19 case is confirmed in the school community is in the best interest of student and staff health, resulting in a return to 100% remote distance learning.
- When a positive COVID-19 case is confirmed, then contact tracing is implemented, and a 14 day quarantine is issued for a class(es) or grade(s) or school(s) throughout the 2020/2021 school year. There is no guarantee that a student or staff member will not become infected with COVID-19 during in-person learning.
- These assumptions are subject to change, especially if a vaccine can be developed. Epidemiologists originally projected vaccine development and distribution to be 12 to 18 months away. Today, 12 months for a vaccine is closer to reality as November 2020 is the projected available vaccine target.
- Given the COVID-19 situation as we know it today and the probability that in-person teaching and learning may be limited in scope and time, and fluidly moving from in-person learning to remote distance learning is likely, the best plan moving forward is to invest time and energy into planning and perfecting remote distance learning for teaching and learning when teachers are in-person with students.

### **3. School Health Services**

#### **3.1 Health Office Operation**

- The Health Aide Connie Oliver [coliver@gilpin.k12.co.us](mailto:coliver@gilpin.k12.co.us) and School Nurse Wendy Moore [wmoore@gilpin.k12.co.us](mailto:wmoore@gilpin.k12.co.us) will report to and collaborate with GCPH on any COVID-19 related student and staff cases.
- The Health Aide and School Nurse will operate the isolation room and facilitate student and staff health care, communicate with parents, and arrange immediate student pick-up by a parent.
- The Health Aide and School Nurse will wear Personal Protective Equipment when addressing student and staff health care needs.
- The Health Aide and School Nurse will ensure students who are ill will not be permitted into the health room. The health room is reserved for health plan administration of “well” students.
- The Health Aide and School Nurse will provide all required staff health training either remotely or in-person adhering to social distancing requirements.
- The Health Aide and School Nurse will coordinate with and compile data from principals on the daily check of temperature and COVID-19 symptoms.
- All student medication will be on-site in the health room and available to the student any time the student is at school.
- All student Health Plans will be updated and amended due to COVID-19 if required by a physician.
- Current student immunizations are required for the student to be present in the school building. The Health Aide and School Nurse will facilitate immunization compliance.
- The School Nurse will complete health reviews and attend student plan meetings either remotely or in-person.

#### **3.2 Mental Health Support**

- Parents or students may make a confidential contact for Mental Health Support at any time. School Counselor [Kim Cobb](#) and School Psychologist [Cassandra Marschall](#) are available to students, and School-Based Therapist [Jennifer Kinsey](#) is able to meet with students and their families.
- The pandemic and the change in routines is a stressful time for everyone. Concerns about COVID-19 generate anxiety. Adults may follow this guide when talking with children: [Talking to Children About COVID-19 \(Coronavirus\) A Parent Resource](#)
- The COVID-19 Pandemic and the resulting new normal of doing school work at school and at home has created stress and tension between students and parents. Families may find some components of



restorative justice principles helpful at home for de-escalating conflicts, addressing a child's inappropriate behavior, and providing meaningful consequences to modify behavior. The [Restorative Practices and Discipline Parent Handbook](#) promotes inclusiveness, relationship building, and problem solving.

- Mental Health Resource Organizations:
  - [Jefferson Center for Mental Health \(JCMH\)](#) – Offers a full range of services and resources to support the mental health of children, youth and families. Call 303-425-0300.
  - [Colorado Crisis Services](#) provide free, confidential, professional and immediate support for any mental health, substance use or emotional concern, 24/7/365. Call 1-844-493-TALK (8255) or text TALK to 38255 to speak to a trained professional.
  - [Safe2Tell](#) Make a report. Make a Difference. Call 1-877-542-7233. Anonymously report anything that concerns or threatens you, your friends, your family or your community. Open 24/7, 365 to take reports.
  - [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#) Provides 24/7, free and confidential support for anyone experiencing distress and suicidal thoughts. Additionally, the organization offers prevention and crisis resources. Call 1-800-273-8255.

### 3.3 ***Culture and Climate***

- The Counselor, Psychologist, and School-Based Therapist will support staff in providing students with best practices ([CDE's Guidance for Well-being and Connectedness](#)) around trauma informed classrooms and schools. A focus will be placed on supporting a positive climate and culture that acknowledges universal trauma care strategies that are best for all students. Best practice guidelines will be available in order to support students who may need more support. The school Health Team will provide ongoing consultation to staff.
- The school Health Team supports staff in providing students with best practices with teaching and learning that embeds Social Emotional Learning (SEL) into instruction.

### 3.4 ***Other Assistance***

- The Food Bank is open for food pick-up on Thursdays from 1:30 pm to 4 pm on the northside of the Justice Center on Dory Hill Road. [Gilpin County Food Bank](#).
- This program ends on September 30, 2020, but is still accepting applications and is authorized by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) called Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) is now available to families at this [link](#).
- Contact [Gilpin County Human Services](#) for help with child care, medical, heating, and other assistance.

## 4. **Gilpin Technology**

### 4.1 ***Student, Parent, and Staff Technology Support***

- Ensure that all students and staff members have a working device. Contact [Mr. Rothenberger](#) for technology support.
- Connecting with students, parents, and staff for solutions for reliable internet access. Complete the [Household ISP Support](#) form to determine a possible internet access solution.
- Collaborating internally with the Gilpin School Community and externally with cell phone and internet providers to problem-solving internet access solutions so students and staff members have reliable internet access to complete their work remotely when that cell service is available.
- Supporting students, parents, and staff when utilizing the core digital learning tools and existing system applications.



- Modifying existing tools and applications to meet the needs of remote distance and hybrid learning environments.
- Researching and implementing new effective learning tools and applications to increase capacity, offer flexibility, and provide secure and protected student and staff data.
- Provide training on core digital learning tools and existing system applications.

## 5. Conclusion

Please direct any *School Restart Plan* questions, comments, and concerns to your school principal.

- Contact Elementary Principal Heather Huntoon [hhuntoon@gilpin.k12.co.us](mailto:hhuntoon@gilpin.k12.co.us)
- Contact Secondary Principal Alexis Donaldson [adonaldson@gilpin.k12.co.us](mailto:adonaldson@gilpin.k12.co.us)