



OABCIG Community Schools

Return to Learn Plans

2020-2021

The Odebolt Arthur Battle Creek Ida Grove Community School District has developed a Return-to-Learn Plan for the 2020-21 school year as directed by the Iowa Department of Education. Within the District plan, three different learning situations are included. The three different situations are highlighted with the understanding that this is a fluid document that may change upon additional guidance, direction or legislation from the Iowa Department of Public Health, the Iowa Department of Education, Ida/Sac County Public Health, the Governor of the State of Iowa or the Iowa Legislature. Everyone involved should prepare for all three types of learning. We truly believe on-site learning is the best type of learning environment for students, not only educationally, but social-emotionally, as well. This may look different than what we are used to within the “normal” educational environment, but the students will be back to required learning.

School Year/School Day:

In preparing to get students back in the classroom, the District has chosen to start school on the originally scheduled date of August 24th. We NEED to get students safely back in the classrooms. This is five months out from when schools were closed due to COVID-19. The school day will begin and end at the regularly scheduled times, which will be communicated from each building.

On-Site Learning:

Learning of this type, as discussed earlier, is optimal for the educational experience. The OABCIG Board of Education authorized the purchase of chromebooks so all students, 2-12 would have access to a device for learning. The laptops are internet accessible and can be used at school and home.

Professional development for teachers and training of students is a priority when we begin school in the fall. Time will be needed at the beginning of the school year to assess where each student is at with his or her learning so staff members can address learning gaps that may have been created due to the inability to cover the scope and sequence of the curriculum. Once this has taken place, staff members will work to fill in those gaps to get students back on track with their learning as they go forward.

Additional safety measures will be in place and may change as conditions require. During movement outside of the classroom or walking between classes where there are a large group of students in immediate proximity to each other, students and staff are strongly recommended to wear a school appropriate mask or face covering. Students are encouraged to bring their own mask or shield to school. Students and staff will clean their desks and classrooms after use. During times where classrooms are idle, a staff member will disinfect the entire classroom. Hand sanitizer will be available throughout each building at high traffic areas. We will monitor

CDC guidance and make adjustments to procedures as needed. Students will be asked to bring a water bottle or drinking container to school and use the bottle filling stations, instead of using the traditional drinking fountains as much as possible.

We ask all parents to take their child/children's temperature before they leave home, when going to school or a school activity. If a child has a temperature of 100.4 or higher, the child should stay home until fever free without fever reducing medications for 24 hours. (See Appendix A for Health guidelines) If a child were to test positive for COVID-19, they should quarantine at home for at least 10 days from when symptoms begin and follow the guidance of the county health department. If a child has any close contact with an individual who tests positive, then the child should stay at home for 14 days. If there is a close contact with a positive case, the Iowa Department of Public Health will contact the family exposed. Please do not contact them. Educational services will still be provided to that child via virtual learning.

A priority to the OABCIG CSD is the health and safety of the students and staff. High-touch areas in the building, other than the cleaning already done in the classrooms, will be cleaned regularly. Parents or guests of the building will be restricted from visiting during the school day. This is a precautionary measure since we are unable to determine where that visitor would have been prior to coming into the building. Visitors will not be allowed to eat with their child or grandchild during the school day. Any visiting professional to the building will be temperature screened and have limited access, during the school day. Additional District mitigation measures, which may be implemented, are located in Appendix B.

Hybrid Learning:

Hybrid learning occurs when a decision is made by the Governor or the local school board, in conjunction with the District Health Department(s), that buildings can operate but with a limited capacity, due to a COVID-19 concern.

There are several options for hybrid learning that the district may implement, depending on the scenario of recommended limitations. These options are not intended to be all-inclusive. They are examples of what the district **may** choose to do.

Option 1:

A particular building has a high rate of exposure and is recommended to close. In this scenario, a particular building will participate in virtual learning, along with any family members of those students in that particular building. The district buildings would remain open.

Option 2:

A particular classroom has been identified as having a high rate of exposure and is recommended to self-quarantine, along with family members of those in that classroom

(i.e. - a 3rd grade classroom). That particular class will participate in virtual learning activities while the rest of the school has been recommended to continue, as is.

Option 3:

The school must shift to an alternate schedule to allow for more social distancing during the school day. This option would include some students being assigned to attend on certain days while other students attend on different assigned days. The District will make every attempt to assign common attendance days for members of the same household. A possible example of this option would be as follows: The first group of students may attend on a Monday and Thursday while the other group of students would be attending on Tuesday and Friday. While a particular group is not involved with “in-person” learning, they would still be required to attend virtually and/or complete work for those days away from the classroom. This may be by watching a recording of the lesson, by being involved live electronically, or completing work assigned from when they were on-site.

Option 4:

Students may attend every school day, but be split into smaller groups throughout the day to allow for more physical distancing. This could happen by class, by building, or with the entire district.

Our purpose for the hybrid model is to provide the best possible educational experience under the limitations we have been given. Students are still required to do the work and participate in the educational practice. Attendance will be taken. Tests will be given and grades taken. There may also be requirements for certain high school classes to be on-site for labs or assessments, especially for Advanced Placement or other college credit courses. If one of these models is adopted, please stress to your child(ren) the importance of this educational framework, and the necessity that they fully participate in order to comply with compulsory attendance laws.

Virtual Learning:

Virtual learning will take place when/if a decision is made for an emergency closure of a building and/or buildings. If a single building closes due to a COVID-19 outbreak and there is a need for sanitization, the students and staff in that building will immediately transfer to virtual learning. If there is a need to close the entire district, students and staff of the district will immediately transition to virtual classrooms. Attendance will be taken. Grades will be earned and credit will be awarded based on those grades.

The District will utilize virtual learning methods that have been previously utilized. For elementary students there will be learning packets provided. There will also be opportunities for video conferencing (i.e. – Zoom or Google Meet) as a class as well as established “office hours” for parents/guardians/students to contact their child(ren’s) teacher for assistance. Middle

School and High School students will utilize Google Classroom to receive assignments and submit the majority of their work product. High School and Middle School teachers will utilize Zoom and/or Google Meet to conduct live online classes at scheduled times to provide instruction and answer questions. These teachers will also have designated “office hours” to assist students with questions and/or reteach curriculum individually or in small groups as needed. The list of methods to teach virtually is not intended to be all-inclusive, and may include additional electronic platforms as deemed appropriate and necessary.

Temporary Remote Learning Option

With the Governor’s Proclamation on July 17th, school districts are allowed to provide temporary remote learning opportunities for individuals. The district will participate in voluntary remote learning options for students if it is verified that having the student attend on-site classes would create a higher level of health risk for the student and/or a member of the student’s household. Below are the requirements for establishing this option:

1. If a temporary remote learning option is desired, parents/guardians must contact the building administrator of the building the student would normally attend to arrange things.
2. Consideration for a temporary remote learning situation will require verification from an Iowa Board of Medicine licensed medical professional confirming that remote learning is medically necessary due to the vulnerable health condition of the student or a household member of the student (following HIPAA requirements).
3. If the temporary remote learning option is approved, it will be re-evaluated on a quarterly basis.
4. If the student wishes to return to on-site learning during a quarter, it will be allowed, but no further changes will be considered until the end of the quarter.
5. If a student wishes to move from on-site learning to a temporary remote learning option during the school year, it will not be implemented until the beginning of the following quarter in which the request is submitted and approved.

Contact Information

If there are questions regarding the district plans, please direct them to the Superintendent’s Office. Superintendent Matt Alexander can be reached by email at malexander@oabcig.org, or by phone at (712) 364-2255.

Appendix A – Health Guidelines

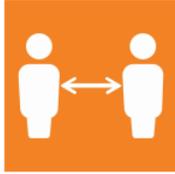
COVID-19 information and recommendations are constantly changing. OABCIG CSD will follow recommendations set forth by the CDC, IDPH, Department of Education, and our local health departments in both Ida and Sac Counties. Please note that the following are district guidelines we have discussed at length and are being put forth to keep your child(ren), our staff, and our community as safe as possible. Since COVID-19 safety recommendations change frequently, we will notify students and parents of any changes via JMC messenger. However, the following guidelines are recommended for ALL transmissible illnesses. Please take time to talk to your students about these practical ways to stay healthy before they return to school.

- Cover your cough or sneeze using the crook of your elbow if possible. If a tissue or your hands are used wash them immediately after.
- Wash hands before and after handling food and eating, after using the restroom, after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing into your hands or a tissue. Wash your hands whenever they are visibly dirty.
- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds using warm water and soap. After drying your hands with a paper towel, use a clean paper towel to turn off the faucet and open any door to exit the restroom.
- Soap and water are the BEST way to make sure your hands are clean. If soap and water are not available use hand sanitizer. Making sure that hands stay wet for at least 20 seconds. Talk to your children about the hazards of ingesting hand sanitizer.
- Social distancing of 6 feet is encouraged as much as possible.
- When social distancing cannot be maintained, such as on the school bus, during passing periods, when using public restrooms, wearing a face covering is strongly recommended.
- If you are sick, STAY HOME.
- Children with fevers of 100.4, vomiting, or diarrhea will need to stay home for 24 hours after the fever, vomiting, or diarrhea have stopped. If using a medication such as acetaminophen to lower a fever this will not count towards the 24 hours fever free.
- Children and staff who have COVID-19 like symptoms without a known exposure will need to stay home for 24 hours after a fever has broken and symptoms improve without fever-reducing medications.
- Children and staff who have symptoms and think they may have COVID-19 or have tested positive for COVID-19 should quarantine at least 10 days from when symptoms first appeared AND at least 24 hours without a fever without using fever-reducing medication AND symptoms have improved.
- If a student or staff member has had direct contact (closer than 6 feet without a face covering for more than 15 minutes) with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, they may need to quarantine for 14 calendar days after last known contact with the individual. This will be determined on a case by case basis after consultation with Public Health and CDC guidelines.
- Children and staff who have tested positive for COVID-19 without symptoms will need to self-isolate for 10 days after a positive test.
- If your child is showing signs of illness you or an emergency contact will be asked to pick them up from school as quickly as possible.

Appendix B – Additional District Mitigation Strategies

- Hand Sanitizing Stations in high-traffic and common areas
- Assigned seats on buses to ensure contact tracing, if necessary
- Assigned seats in classrooms to assist with contact tracing, if necessary
- Built in hand washing times (especially elementary students)
- Expanded lunchroom area and/or additional lunch times to allow for additional social distancing
- High School lunch times adjusted to allow for fewer people in the commons
- Lunch options served to the students rather than them being able to serve themselves.
- If a hybrid option or virtual learning, still providing lunches for students not in the building
- Smaller groups of students at recess at one particular time
- Potentially more electronic homework instead of paper and pencil when appropriate (older students)
- Limited movement in the classroom and taking exercise breaks where the classroom gets out of their seats and goes for a walk outside.
- Cancel large gatherings that are traditional to the district. (Grandparents day, Open houses, Possible limited Homecoming activities, etc.)

This is not an all-inclusive list of mitigation measures and is subject to change



SOCIAL DISTANCING

Students and staff are highly encouraged to wear face coverings since maintaining a 6-foot distance may not always be possible in the educational environment.

- Students will be spaced as far apart as possible in each room.
- School buildings may have some one-way hallways.
- Limited field trips at the secondary level; no field trips this fall at the elementary level.
- Plexiglass barriers will be installed for public-facing employees as well as some classrooms where physical distancing is less feasible.



FACE COVERINGS

“Face coverings” includes face masks, face shields, and neck gaiters made of appropriate material to help protect against COVID-19.

- **All Students:** Face coverings are highly recommended. Students will need to provide their own re-usable face covering. The district will supply disposable masks on an as needed basis.
- **Teachers and Staff:** Employees will be provided with a plastic face shield and a mask and are highly encouraged to wear them when unable to physically distance or when outside their workspace.
- **District Transportation:** Bus riders are highly encouraged to wear a face covering at all times while on the bus. Bus drivers are highly encouraged to wear a face covering whenever loading or unloading a bus.



HAND-WASHING AND SANITIZING

- Students will have dedicated time and/or opportunity to sanitize their hands before eating and before/after recess
- Soap dispensers and hand sanitizing stations will be checked frequently and refilled as needed.
- Students and staff will be encouraged and reminded to wash hands regularly; use hand sanitizer; avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth; and properly cover coughs and sneezes.
- Water fountain use will be limited. It is recommended that the bottle filling station be utilized instead of the main drinking faucet.



DAILY SYMPTOM CHECKS

Please take your child’s temperature each day before school.

- Students are asked to stay home if they feel ill and/or have a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher.

Staff are also asked to perform a daily wellness self-check prior to entering the building.

- Staff should check their temperature and be aware of any symptoms they have that might indicate the need for further investigation.

Staff or students who begin to feel ill during the day will immediately contact the building office to be evaluated by school health personnel and/or office staff. Staff or students may be sent home after that evaluation.



CLEANING AND DISINFECTING

- OABCIG Custodial Staff will disinfect touch points daily throughout all buildings.
- Bus drivers will sanitize “high-touch” surfaces at least once per day and between trips when possible.
- Disinfectant supplies will be available in each room for staff to use.
- Sharing of all supplies, utensils, devices, toys, learning aids, etc. will be limited.
- Teachers will be provided sanitizing spray and/or wipes to clean high-touch areas in the classrooms.