

Big Pasture Schools

American Recovery Plan

Safe Return to Learn Plan

2021-2022

Introduction

On March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plans (ARP) Act was signed into law. In it, the U.S. Department of Education is providing an additional \$121.9 billion for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER III Fund). This legislation will award grants to state educational agencies (SEAs) for providing local educational agencies (LEAs) with emergency relief funds to address the impact that COVID-19 has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools across the nation.

This plan describes how Big Pasture Schools will provide the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services. This plan complies with all reporting requirements of the ARP Act (Public Law 117-2), the ESSER III grant terms, conditions, and assurances (CFDA Number 84.425U), and the interim final rule established by the United States Department of Education, 86 FR 21195.

The guiding principals that are reflected in this plan are our highest priorities in educating our children. These priorities include:

1. Universal and correct wearing of masks
2. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing
3. Handwriting and respiratory etiquette
4. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities including ventilation
5. Contact tracing, isolation, quarantine, with coordination with the state, local, and/or Tribal health department
6. Diagnostic and screening testing
7. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities
8. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies
9. Coordination with state and local health officials
10. Continuity of Services
 - Academic
 - Social and Emotional Learning
 - Meals
 - Special Education Services
 - English Learners
 - Equity for Special Populations

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Protocols have been developed and implemented to enable learning to continue to the safest possible environment. Our protocols are based on CDC regulations combined with educational best practices to maximize students' health and safety. We will continue to work alongside local and state health officials, while also following guidelines and recommendations set forth by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Oklahoma Department of Education, County, State, and Federal guidelines regarding COVID-19 vaccinations. Safety protocols will continue to be shared with our parents and teachers as the recommendations change.

MASKS

Masks are recommended inside our buildings, as per, state and local health departments and CDC regulations that do recommend vaccinated and unvaccinated people wear masks indoors.

The correct way to wear masks for their full effectiveness and protection is that they should completely cover the nose **and** mouth and fit snugly against the sides of face without gaps. This is illustrated on signs and posters throughout the district.

*An indication from a parent/legal guardian or student age 18+ that wearing a mask is not possible due to medical, religious, or strong personal reasons, will be respected.

Masks will be available for students, staff, and individuals who wish to wear one.

MODIFIED FACILITIES FOR PHYSICAL DISTANCING

Social Distancing of three to six feet is used as a safeguard when feasible to help mitigate any Covid-19 issues in classrooms and in common areas such as cafeterias, hallways, gymnasiums, etc.

The use of pods is executed in the high school and elementary school facilities. Dividers on desks are utilized in the classrooms in order to separate the respiratory functions of the individual students. Postings on *how to cover a sneeze* and *how to wear a mask* is evident in our schools. Marking distance on gym floors helps with social distancing while doing physical education.

Along with a staggered lunch schedule, students socially distance in the cafeteria to the extent possible and is encouraged to eat and transition to recess or the classroom limiting their time in the cafeteria.

Students are not allowed to mingle in hallways. They are to pass on the right side of the hallway.

HANDWASHING AND RESPIRATORY ETIQUETTE

Handwashing guidelines are posted throughout the classrooms, halls, and restrooms. Students will be reminded to wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds prior to eating, and especially after sneezing, coughing, and blowing their nose. Towels that are used to dry hands will be disposed of properly in a trash bin.

Respiratory Etiquette guidelines are taught and posted throughout the school in order to avoid contact with each students' respiratory functions. These guidelines include: cover your mouth and nose with a tissue; if you do not have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your elbow, not your hands; dispose of the used tissue into the proper trash bin; and immediately wash your hands after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing.

CLEANING AND MAINTAINING HEALTHY FACILITIES AND VENTILATION

Buildings are disinfected on a scheduled basis with commercial sprayer with appropriate sanitation products. This includes gym, bleachers, and auditorium. Funds from grants helped purchase equipment and solution, (including hand sanitizer.)

Sanitizing products are available to students and staff, including hand sanitizer and disinfectant products in order to sanitize student desks and highly touched areas.

Staff disinfects their own workspace and classroom giving special attention to commonly touched surfaces.

Students will continue use their own school supplies and share as little as possible.

Touch free fountains are used by students to fill individual water bottles.

Cleaning and sanitation of campuses and buses, especially highly touched areas, will be occur on a scheduled basis.

Filters for ventilation have been upgraded and changed on a scheduled basis.

Parents and visitors will be allowed in building lobbies or main offices for scheduled appointments.

CONTACT TRACING AND QUARANTINE

Parents will be notified if their child is within three (3) to six (6) feet for 15 minutes or more of a person who tests positive for COVID-19.

State and local health departments and the CDC recommend quarantine for those who are in close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual. Upon receiving a negative test result from a test that was taken after 5 days of the first symptom of the positive case to which the student was exposed, the student may return to school. Otherwise, they will be quarantined for recommended 10 days after being exposed to the positive COVID-19 case.

Students or employees who test positive for COVID-19 must stay home for ten (10) days. If symptoms persist, the person may need to stay home longer.

BPS will track positive COVID-19 cases among students and staff.

DIAGNOSTIC AND SCREEN TESTING

Parents or guardians are expected to screen their child for COVID-19 symptoms each day prior to sending their student to school.

Diagnosis and screening will be done symptomatically in the classrooms, cafeteria, and/or office. Temperatures and symptoms will be gauged in order to determine whether a student or teacher may return to the classroom, be dismissed for the day, or will require a doctor's release in order to return to school.

Students and staff should stay home if experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 or any other illness.

EFFORTS TO PROVIDE VACCINATIONS TO SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

Oklahoma Senate Bill 658, effective July 1, 2021, restricts school districts from requiring a COVID-19 vaccine for students, however, students, staff, and community members have been afforded several opportunities to receive their vaccine on Big Pasture Schools campus through the Cotton County Health Department. State and local health departments and the CDC recommend COVID19 vaccines for those eligible.

Big Pasture Schools offered all school related vaccines including COVID-19 vaccines for children and adults 12 years and older on August 10, 2021 on campus. Flu shots were offered to school employees on October 6, 2021 on campus.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

A student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) is still in effect during this COVID-19 pandemic. The core requirement of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) -- for schools to provide a free appropriate public education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment (LRE) -- has not been modified. Unless an IEP is changed by parental agreement or in accordance with IDEA, the IEP in place at time of the COVID-19 school closure remains in effect. If your child has an IEP, your child has the right to receive the special education and related services required by that IEP, as appropriate and to the greatest extent practicable, during the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes specialized instruction, related services such as speech and language therapy, counseling, and occupational therapy, and accommodations (such as extra time to complete assignments) or modifications that are spelled out in the IEP.

COORDINATION WITH STATE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS

Any Covid-19 case and related contact tracing, diagnostic testing, and quarantines within our district will be coordinated with the Cotton County Health Department, local agencies, the Oklahoma State Health Department, Centers for Disease Control (CDC), State Department of Education (SDE), Tribal Health Departments, and OSSAA.

CONTINUITY OF SERVICES

Continuous learning, progress, and educational needs of our students and families that are unique to the Big Pasture Community will continue to be a priority as we enter into a new school year. Big Pasture Schools returned to school in a traditional, all in person (PreK-12), academic school day format on August 12, 2021. The safety and well being of our students are always at the forefront in order for them to be able to learn in the most positive, conducive environment possible. Big Pasture Schools will remain open for in-person instruction unless COVID19 case numbers within the district necessitate a transition to temporary distance learning.

Continuity of services for Big Pasture Schools will include, but not limited to, services to address students' academic needs, students' and staff social, emotional, and mental health and other needs such as food services.

- **ACADEMIC – Addressing Learning Loss**

Staff member(s), intervention teachers, materials, programs, and technology to ensure that learning "gaps" continue to be filled as we progress through the school year. BPS will ensure time for teachers and paraprofessionals to plan for and implement effective support for student learning.

Research based interventions will be used to address gaps in learning. Student assessment data is analyzed to determine the extent of learning loss. In response to the data, teachers will use Istation diagnostic tool to create individualized learning pathways to address learning loss. Students will work toward reaching goals, then "stretch goals" to accelerate learning and close the gaps in their learning. Before and after school tutoring is offered by each teacher. Summer school is also offered.

High school students will receive additional tutoring, content recovery through IXL, Edmentum, and credit recovery to help ensure students are on track to graduate from high school on time. BPH will work to ensure our graduates are college and career ready.

In response to our state scores and diagnostic data, a math intervention teacher was hired to serve grades one through twelve.

- **SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING**

Big Pasture Schools will address the additional social and emotional needs of students created by the pandemic by hiring a second counselor. This now gives our district of under 200 students, a full time and a part time counselor to address the SEL needs of our students. Temporary or long term counseling sessions, referrals, confidential assessments. Our guidance counselors also receive ongoing training to provide students with support to succeed in and out of the classroom. The training will help our counselors to implement additional programs that will support social and emotional well-being. These programs include but not limited to, suicide prevention, prevention of drug and alcohol use, character education and conflict-resolution curriculum. Big Pasture ensures that EVERY student, including those disproportionately impacted by Covid-19, is benefiting from the implementations and interventions provided by Big Pasture Schools. We strive to provide stability and routines for students, families, and teachers in support of student learning.

- **MEALS**

Breakfast and lunch are free to all students for the 2021-22 school year.

Students or members of the public who want to pick up a free meal for a child, may do so each weekday from 10:30-11:00 a.m. at the cafeteria.

- **SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES**

Individual Education Programs (IEPs) or section 504 plans are reviewed to address learning loss and other student needs. Our highly qualified Special Education staff will ensure our students receive quality services specific to individual student needs.

- **ENGLISH LEARNERS**

Teachers will continue to follow individualized learning plans to ensure accommodations are provided for our EL students.

- **EQUITY FOR SPECIAL POPULATIONS**

Big Pasture Schools have less than 200 students in EC through 12th Grade. We serve all students in each grade span in a single school. All students at Big Pasture Schools have equally qualified teachers and staff in all subjects and grade levels.

PLAN REVISION

Big Pasture Schools will review this plan in accordance with federal guidelines set forth in ESSER III legislation, and update the plan, following input from stakeholders, every six months.

ENGAGEMENT WITH STAKEHOLDERS AND PUBLIC INPUT

Teachers, administrators, parents, and students were represented at two separate meetings concerning the American Rescue Plan/Return to Learn and the American Rescue Plan Use of Funds. The committee members were involved in the planning process and plan revisions and evaluation of our Return to Learn Plan. A list of uses for the use of ESSER III funds was compiled from input at the ARP meeting discussion on the use of ESSER III funds. Notices of both meetings were posted at the school, on the school's webpage, and Facebook page. The ARP Return to Learn plan was posted on our school website for 10 days for public input.

Big Pasture Board of Approval: 11/10/21

**AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN (ESSER III)
USE OF FUNDS PLAN (PROJECT 795)**

**BIG PASTURE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
1502 N. 10th Street
P.O. Box 167
Randlett, OK 73562**

**Superintendent: Nora Curry
Phone number: 580-281-3276**

On July 29, 2021 there was a public hearing to discuss all Federal Programs including the (ESSER III) Use of Funds Plan, Project 795. The following items were discussed. There was a second public hearing on October 5, 2021.

1. The Return to Learn was reviewed with the following highlights:
 - a. All in-person learning
 - b. 3 feet social distancing where feasible including staggered lunch times
 - c. Masks recommended but not required
 - d. Stressing good hygiene practices with students.Plans are in place to sanitize desks and various areas throughout the day Hand sanitizer will be available for teachers and students throughout the district.

2. ESSER III Funding Allocation: \$330,201.89 over a 3-year period
 - a. To address learning loss and learning gaps and the social and emotional needs of our student, Big Pasture School will
 - allocate 54% of the funds to hire additional staff and the purchase of supplemental curriculum to address the learning loss and the emotional needs due to COVID.
 - Creating a position for a Math Support instructor for K-12 and providing summer intervention for students with significant learning loss due to COVID19.
 - Adding a full time counselor to meet the emotional needs of students who suffer from the effects of COVID19
 - b. School Messenger will be used to improve communication with parents and staff. (less than 1%)
 - c. In order to help provide safer transportation of students that may need special attention due to COVID19 12% is designated for purchase of a 14 passenger van.
 - d. 33% of ESSER III funds will be used for maintenance and infrastructure. Items to be addressed include: remodel of a classroom to provide a cleaner learning environment, repairs to the gym locker rooms to allow for social distancing and replacing windows to improve air quality in the classrooms.

3. Big Pasture School ensures their implemented interventions respond to the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of students by evaluating their ESSER III funds annually or more frequently as needed.

Subgroup	Academic Needs	Social Needs	Emotional Needs	Mental Health Needs
Low socio-economic	School Supplies	We encourage all students to become involved in extra-curricular activities	Counselors and teachers monitor and support emotional needs of students	Extra Counselors
Minority	Software programs to remediate as needed	We encourage all students to become involved in extra-curricular activities	Teachers monitor emotional identified in the classroom to refer the child to the Counselors making contact with students on a regular basis for intervention and support as needed	Extra Counselors
EL	Small Group Instruction	We encourage all students to become involved in extra-curricular activities	Counselor coordinates with student/parent/ and teachers to assist with any emotional issues identified	Extra Counselors
Migratory	Small Group instruction	We encourage all students to become involved in	Counselor will build a relationship with the students to	Extra Counselors

		extra-curricular activities	address issues identified due	
Special Education	Paras for individual help	We encourage all students to become involved in extra-curricular activities	Paras and Counselors will provide emotional support determined by the day to day student needs	Extra Counselors
Homeless	School Supplies	We encourage all students to become involved in extra-curricular activities	The Counselor will contact students on a regular basis to ensure all their needs are being met and to provide additional counseling as needed with assistance in transitioning into their new environment	Extra Counselors
Foster Care	School Supplies	We encourage all students to become involved in extra-curricular activities	Counselors will meet with students and foster parents to provide resources required to meet each child's emotional needs	Extra Counselors

Accepted by the Big Pasture School Board: August 8, 2021

Reviewed by the Community Public Meeting Committee October 5, 2021

Reviewed by the Big Pasture School Board: October 6, 2021

Revisions approved by the Big Pasture School Board November 10, 2021