Revised Ransom Grade School Reopening Plan

Academic Year 2023-2024

Welcome back to school,

The purpose of this reopening plan is to provide teachers, staff, parents/guardians, and students information concerning safe school operations and education for the fall of 2023. The original Reopening Plan was developed by committee and board approved in August of 2020. There have been important changes to the Reopening Plan based on recommendations provided by the CDC and fully adopted by the IDPH.

A committee was formed to discuss various ways to best utilize these funds and reorganize the reopening plan. Committee members include Dr. Mary Pat Baima, Interim Superintendent; Lindsey Paul, Principal; Brad Coughlin, Teacher/Union President; Katie Hamilton, Teacher/Parent: Shaina Ludkowski, Teacher/Parent; and Tina Gagnon, Special Education Teacher. In addition, this plan was placed on the school website on the Parent Resource Page and a letter was sent home informing parents that a meeting would be held April 11, 2022 at 3:00 pm to answer any questions concerning the grant and discuss the use of the grant money and then Reopening Plan.

Ransom Grade School will open for full day in-person instruction five days a week. The CDC has determined that in-person learning is a priority and has recommended that students should be present in school; therefore, no remote learning will be offered unless a student is determined to be medically unable to attend for in-person instruction.

It is important to note, that as the CDC and IDPH review the current situation regarding the safety and welfare of students, recommendations by these organizations will be implemented into the Plan.

**General School Operations**

Students, teachers, staff, bus drivers, maintenance and administration are no longer required to wear masks at all times, in the school and on the bus.

Students, teachers, staff, bus drivers, maintenance and administration are encouraged to maintain social distance of three feet.

Teachers are encouraged to hold classes outside if weather permits.

**Health and Wellness**

It is a goal to ensure that students are as safe as possible during their time in the building and on the bus.

* Students who exhibit symptoms or register a fever cannot come to school. **Students cannot be medicated for a fever or other symptoms and sent to school.**

Transportation

* There will be two buses picking up students and there will be assigned seats.
* Students in the same household will be seated together.

Classroom

* Student in grades K-5 will remain in their classrooms during educational time, except for art, PE. and music, which will be held in the art/music room. Junior high will resume changing classes.
* All classrooms will have disinfectant sprays to be used to disinfect high touch areas as needed throughout the day.
* The school will be deep cleaned as needed.
* Hand sanitizer will be readily available in each classroom and students will be given time to thoroughly wash hands with soap and water several times throughout the day.

Cafeteria

* Breakfast and lunch will be offered daily. Students will eat lunch and breafast in the cafeteria and will be seated with their classmates by grade level. Three feet of distance will be maintained between grade level tables.
* Students may bring a reusable bottle of water to use at filling stations. Students will not be provided with a bottle of water at the office. Fountains have been changed to filling stations.

**Illness at Home and at School**

Students should not attend school if they exhibit any of the following symptoms.

Vomiting Diarrhea Headache Fever over 100 F Cough

Nasal congestion Fatigue Poor appetite Muscle pain Loss of smell/taste

Families that have medically fragile and immunocompromised students should consult their medical provider prior to attending school.

All employees should report to the administration if they test positive for COVID-19. Employees should report any symptoms of illness to the administration. If an employee tests postitive for COVID-19, it will be suggested that they quarantine for 5 days with an additional 5 days of masking.

Students who become ill during the school day will be sent to the office from the classroom. A parent/guardian will be notified, and the student will remain in the side office until they leave building. If a teacher becomes ill, they will leave the building immediately to avoid further exposure to others. If a teacher is too ill to leave, they will wait in the side office until an ambulance arrives.

\*\*If a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19 is identified, the administration will determine if the building needs to close for cleaning. This determination will be made on a case-by case basis, relying upon information provided by the student’s family or employee, current State guidelines and with input from the LaSalle County Health Department.

All areas where the individual might have been will be identified and closed for a thorough cleaning and disinfecting after a 24-hour period.

\*\*Confidentiality will be strictly maintained for teachers, staff, administration, and students.

**Teaching and Learning**

* The school psychologist will continue to schedule meetings with students to provide social and emotional support.

Special Education

* Special education teams will continue to meet and make determinations regarding special education services as established in Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Section 504.

* When weather permits, PE will be held outside.

**Allen-Otter Creek District 65**

**Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Plan**

**Purpose of the ESSER Plan**

Under ESSER, the Department of Education has made funds available to local education

agencies to address the diverse needs arising from or exacerbated by the COVID-pandemic.

These funds can be used to for a wide range of activities. including responding to health and

safety such as improving ventilation, responding to students’ social, emotional, mental health,

and academic needs, professional development, technology, after school programs and summer

school.

A committee was formed to discuss various ways to best utilize these funds. Committee

members include Dr. Mary Pat Baima, Interim Superintendent; Lindsey Paul, Principal; Brad

Coughlin, Teacher/Union President; Katie Hamilton, Teacher/Parent: Shaina Ludkowski,

Teacher/Parent; and Tina Gagnon, Special Education Teacher. In addition, this plan was placed

on the school website on the Parent Resource Page and a letter was sent home informing parents

that a meeting would be held at a convenient time at Ransom Grade School to seek further input

and answer questions.

Gaps in student learning are identified using Aimsweb benchmarking, which is conducted

three times during the school year and collects growth data at the classroom level and the

individual student level. Monthly teacher meetings are conducted to monitor student progress

and offer interventions to students identified a needing additional assistance, including RTI. IAR

testing provides further information concerning the student progress.

The timeline for providing services and assistance will begin as follows:

* Summer School: July – August of 2022, 2023
* English language tutoring: June – August of 2022, 2023
* After School Program: September – May of 2022-2023, 2023-2024
* Mental health services and supports for teachers: September – May of 2022-2023, August 2023-2024
* Purchase eight LEGO Education BricQ Motion Prime Kits and 8 LEGO Education Spike

Prime Kits: August 2022. Additional materials such as computer programs, and

STEAM Kits will also be purchased September 2022

* K-5 English Language Arts Curriculum Materials August 2023
* Purchase Chromebooks to replace 6-8 students models August 2023
* 9 SMARTboards to be purchased for each classroom: August 2023
* Replace existing classroom windows and window panels: September of 2022 – August of

2024

**Reservation to Address the Academic Impact of Lost Instructional Time**

Use of ESSER Grant funding requires that twenty percent of the total grant amount be

reserved to address the academic impact of lost instructional time. The following items have

been added to the Grand application.

● Hire two certified teachers to staff a summer school program. The program would operate

for three weeks, six hours per day for five days. Teachers would be paid their prorated

salaries per hourly rate.

● Hire one Spanish speaking paraprofessional to tutor one Spanish speaking student during

the summer at Ransom Grade School. The program would operate three days a week for

two hours each day for a total of six hours per week for eight weeks.

* Hire a highly qualified teacher who will work three days a week at Ransom Grade School

to teach an after-school program to improve student achievement in math and reading.

* Provide mental health services and supports for teachers such as after school yoga

instruction, mental health workshops, motivational speakers.

* Purchase eight LEGO Education BricQ Motion Prime Kits to engage students in grades

four through eighth in STEAM learning. Purchase 8 LEGO Education Spike Prime Kits

to engage students in grades four through eighth in STEAM learning.

ESSER funds may be used for renovation, including for such projects as making improvement to a school facility to improve indoor air quality and projects that would promote social distancing and safe in-person instruction. The following item has been added to the Grant application.

* Chromebooks will be purchased to encourage online learning and promote student ability to navigate their devices well for Remote learning purposes. All students will have their own device/charger.
* Smartboards will be purchased for all classrooms to increase STEM learning and close the learning gap created by COVID
* Replace existing classroom windows and window panels. Aluminum windows with

integral blinds and new Kalwall Translucent panels.