

# Chico Independent School District

*“Every Student Every Day”*

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## Chico ISD

### Safe Return to In-Person Instruction & Continuity of Services (RIPICS) Plan 2023-2024

*Updated/Reviewed August 21, 2023*

This document summarizes the extent to which Chico ISD has implemented CDC Safety Recommendations. Protocols are subject to change pending guidance from local health authorities, the Texas Education Agency, or the Governor's Office.

**Masks** – masks are not required but may be worn by those who choose to do so.

**Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing** – shielding protocols are in place in the campus reception areas. Hand sanitizer, tissues, and trash cans are available in classrooms and common areas. Bottle-filling stations have replaced water fountains.

**Handwashing and respiratory etiquette** – staff will review proper handwashing and general hygiene practices with students at the beginning of the year (i.e., washing hands for at least 20 seconds and coughing into your elbow.)

**Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation** – custodial staff will continue daily cleaning of all facilities and sanitation of high-traffic surfaces.

**Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine** – as of May 11, 2023, the CDC's guidance for individuals testing positive for COVID-19, is to stay home for at least 5 days and isolate themselves from others. Individuals may return to school after they have been fever-free for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medication). The administration will notify staff and parents of confirmed cases.

**Diagnostic and Screening Testing** – Tests are available for students and staff who have been exposed or are experiencing symptoms. If a student develops a fever and tests positive, they will quarantine until a parent or guardian can pick them up. Individuals must be fever-free, without the use of medication, for 24 hours before returning to school.

**Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities** – Chico ISD shares information about testing and vaccination opportunities via the Texas Public Health campaign and the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and partners with local health providers to offer vaccine clinics at the school.

**Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities for health and safety policies** – staff provide accommodations, modifications, and assistance for students with disabilities and other healthcare needs.

**Coordination with State and local health officials** – the district worked closely with state, county, and local officials during the pandemic. Chico ISD will take all necessary precautions to protect the health and welfare of all students and staff.

**Continuity of Services to Meet Students' Academic Needs and Students' and Staff Social, Emotional, and Mental Health** – Chico ISD provided every student with a device for remote learning in 2020. In-person learning was provided during the 2020-2021, 2021-2022, and 2022-2023 school years. All school functions, including extracurricular activities, have resumed as normal.

Chico ISD utilized ESSER funds for instructional technology upgrades including additional student devices, learning management systems, digital tools, and curricular resources to reinforce learning and boost student engagement to address the academic impact of lost instructional time.

Universal screeners are administered to students in PK-2 to identify gaps in student learning and inform instruction. Teachers in grades K-3 have completed Reading Academies and are implementing evidence-based practices to positively impact student literacy achievement. A phonics program was purchased to supplement reading instruction to ensure students have foundational skills in literacy.

Teachers at all campuses utilize digital platforms to monitor individual student progress and growth. Each campus provides additional instructional time and accelerated learning via one-on-one and small-group instruction during the school day. Opportunities for additional instructional time include tutoring during the school day, after-school tutoring, summer school, and credit recovery.

Students have access to differentiated learning platforms that adapt to individual student needs. To further increase student engagement and the transfer of learning, supplemental curricular resources were purchased to increase hands-on experiential learning in science and math.

To support the implementation of evidence-based interventions that provide direct services to students that respond to their academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs and address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable student populations, Chico ISD hired an additional counselor during the 2021-22 school year. An additional counselor ensures the district is providing more individualized support to our most vulnerable students. Counselors work with the campus leadership team to identify and provide services to all students through guidance lessons, small groups, individual planning, and individual counseling to maintain the safety and well-being of students. Counselors directly support students in developing and achieving their academic, personal, and social goals, and provide indirect student services by coordinating and consulting with staff, families, and the community to support each student's educational, personal, and social development. Having an additional counselor has helped with the identification of students who may need additional behavioral or mental health support as well as the provision of timely interventions. Chico ISD counselors partner with community agencies such as the United Way of Wise County and the Wise Area Relief Mission (WARM) that provide assistance for needy families.

ESSER funds were used to bring motivational speakers to student assemblies that promote social and mental health. Chico ISD employs a school nurse. Her office is located at the Elementary, but she works at both Middle School and High School as well. Chico ISD has partnered with Cook Children's Virtual Health Program to offer telemedicine to keep students on campus.

Chico ISD is a member district of the Wise County Shared Services Arrangement. Chico ISD staff and WCSSA staff worked diligently to ensure the continuity of diagnostic and support services for students with specialized instructional needs during remote learning.

Chico ISD shares information from TXEL.org, a web portal that provides information and resources that are relevant, accessible, and impactful to support educational leaders, teachers, parents and families, and community partners to ensure the academic success of the State's English learners. Chico Elementary School hosts watch parties for the TEA

Title III Engagement Series to provide parents with the skills, activities, and training needed to improve their English language skills and become more active participants in their child's education.

Chico ISD aspires to meet the needs of all students through an educational process that focuses on real-world standards and challenges all students to achieve at their maximum level.

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