

# Explore Academy Las Vegas



## Re-opening Plan

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7/16/2020

Esteemed Families,

In these unprecedented times, we thank you for entrusting us with your child's education. Please know that the health and wellbeing of our stakeholders is of critical importance, and we will take every precaution to protect it.

Explore Academy has worked with stakeholders in our community to create a plan that meets the needs of families, students, and staff, while prioritizing the physical and emotional health of all. Our plan was shared via facebook live for feedback, and we have surveyed our families to better understand their needs regarding re-opening. A large majority of our families indicated a need for a five-day, in-person learning option. Our plan provides for such, along with additional considerations for our families who opted to learn from home and those who preferred a hybrid model.

The following plan is designed to meet the diverse needs of our families while providing a top-quality education for our students, guided by four principles:

1. Explore Academy ensures that our families, students, and staff have all of their physiological, safety, and resource needs met.
2. Explore Academy focuses on human connectedness with interactions, experiences, and social-emotional learning opportunities that focus on relationships and community.
3. Explore Academy engages and supports parents as educational stakeholders.
4. Explore Academy creates learning experiences that are student-centric, focused on acquiring new knowledge while building new technological literacy skills.

Again, thank you for being part of Explore. We are all in this together, and we will make it through together.

Gretchen Larsen  
Principal

## Communication

Families will receive ongoing communication in their language of origin about the reopening process via email, text, and our frequently-updated “Back-to-school” guide. Weekly email updates will be sent to stakeholders detailing our ongoing efforts to keep students healthy and learning, reminders on how to protect oneself and others, as well as our progress with implementation of distance learning.

Frequency	Communication	Purpose
Ongoing	Text, email	Communication to stakeholders about reopening process, urgent updates
Ongoing	<a href="#">Back to School Guide</a>	General updates for families about the start of school
Weekly	Parent email	Updates for families on individual student progress
Monthly	Student/Family/Staff email survey	Social/emotional check-in data for monitoring
Bi-Weekly	Coffee With the Principal	Virtual check-in with stakeholders
Monthly	State of the School Update	Updates for all stakeholders on progress toward school-wide goals

## Re-Opening School Building

### Re-Opening Approaches

For all plans, school will begin August 6<sup>th</sup> according to the current calendar. The school will work under guidelines from the Southern Nevada Health District and any confirmed cases at the school or in the home of any member of the school (staff or student) will be reported to the SNHD for guidance regarding ongoing operation. Confirmed cases within the building will result in a 2- to 14-day closure (Backup Option B) for cleaning and monitoring. Stakeholders will be notified via text and email of any impending changes as soon as possible.

**Plan A:** School will begin with three cohorts: Cohort 1 will attend school every day, Cohort 2 will attend two predetermined days a week, and Cohort 3 will learn entirely at home. Cohorts will be determined by family-identified need initially, then refined as needed to best meet individual learning needs and to maintain <50% capacity.

**Backup Option B:** In the event that fully online classes are necessary due to increasing infection rates or directives from the SNDH or Governor Sisolak, the school will communicate the shift to parents via email and text message. All students will learn from home, and all teachers will work from home. Under this plan, students will log into their computers daily, ready to learn during regular school hours.

**Backup Option C:** In the event that more than 50% of our facility's room capacity request in-person learning, it will be necessary to offer staggered scheduling for in-person students. In this plan, Cohort 1 would attend M/T, Cohort 2 would attend W/Th, and Friday would be an entirely virtual learning day. Cohort 3 would learn entirely online.

**Backup Option D:** In the event that more than 50% of our facility's room capacity request in-person learning, it will be necessary to offer staggered scheduling for in-person students. In this plan, Cohort 1 would attend one week, and Cohort 2 would attend the following week. Cohort 3 would learn entirely online.

### **Academic Needs**

Students will be assessed using internal assessments to determine varied learning needs. Students will receive individualized supports for learning gaps through Flex periods, utilizing tutors and small groups. Additionally, students requiring further support will be able to meet with teachers during virtual or in-person office hours on a weekly basis. In addition to the above, special populations such as students learning English and those with IEPs or 504s will receive accommodations and services either virtually or in person.

### **Physical Health Screening**

Students and staff will self-screen at home daily before reporting to school. Anyone who is feeling sick or who has a fever must stay home. Students will be screened again upon arrival at campus using a scanning thermometer.

If a student or staff member feels ill or exhibits symptoms while at school, disinfecting protocol will be followed and the person will be isolated and sent home as quickly as possible.

### **Physical Hygiene**

All students and staff will wear face coverings while on campus. Students who are unable to wear a face covering for extended periods of time will learn from home. Hand sanitizer will be located at each threshold, and students will be reminded to use sanitizer upon crossing a threshold. Students will be taught to minimize the spread of germs through effective hygiene practices. Reminders will be posted throughout the school, in emails to parents, and reinforced by on-site staff.

### **Social Distancing**

Students attending in-person learning will be spaced six feet apart in the classroom. During passing periods, students will follow arrows on the ground to move to their classes while minimizing proximity to others. Teachers will stand in doorways during passing periods to minimize touching of door handles

In the morning, students will report to their classroom, and eat breakfast (if provided and wanted) in their assigned seats. At dismissal, students will be called individually to the pickup line, leaving their classrooms one at a time in the order called. Students will maintain social distancing while queuing and loading into cars.

Any changes to the current plan will be communicated to stakeholders via text and email, including the teaching of any new procedures. Whenever possible, impending changes will be communicated to stakeholders with notice of the procedure and opportunities to give feedback or express concerns.

## Human Resources

### **Staff Return to Work**

Staff will begin the year with virtual PD. Staff members who are identified as vulnerable will notify school administration, and universal precautions and cleaning protocols will be followed to ensure the safety of all students and staff.

Our staff will be trained on delivering online instruction by recording instructional videos, hosting live learning sessions, and supporting virtual learning for students. Reopening PD will include familiarizing staff with the various components of the plan, ensuring that protocols are followed and that any necessary changes in delivery method occur smoothly.

In preparation for potentially increased absences, the school will seek to maintain a bank of available substitute teachers.

### **Governing Body and School Leadership Role**

Weekly communications will be sent to all stakeholders regarding the safety of staff and students, updates on our ongoing efforts, and any anticipated changes. Our board will approve the reopening plan that is submitted to the state for approval, and will take part in any revisions to the plan.

## Logistics

### **Attendance**

Weekly stakeholder communications will include reminders on balancing in-person attendance with health needs. Students will be expected to be in their uniform and ready to learn at 8:30 daily, whether learning in person or online. Teachers will take attendance at the beginning of each class period for those in attendance at the school, and for those in attendance virtually. Should personal circumstances dictate missing a full or partial day of school, students will have 24 hours to complete missed content and submit it to be counted as fully present for each day.

In the event that a student is not able to attend in person or virtually and no contact is initiated from the family, the school will initiate contact to ensure that expectations for attendance are clear and to see if the school can provide any support.

### **Facilities Management**

All school restrooms will be limited to one occupant at a time. Restrooms will be cleaned twice daily, and all door handles will be cleaned hourly. In the cafeteria, students will sit individually at tables, which will be cleaned after each use. Students eating on the turf will maintain six feet of distance. In classrooms, teachers and students will clean desks at regular intervals throughout the day as part of movement breaks. Hand sanitizer will be placed at each threshold for student and staff use, and at other areas as needed.

### **Nutrition Services**

Students will receive pre-packaged meals from the cafeteria or bring a lunch from home. Students with a home lunch may choose to wash hands and eat on the turf, or wash hands and eat in the cafeteria. In the cafeteria, students will wash hands, then collect their cafeteria food, maintaining six feet of distance in line. Students will then proceed to their table or the turf, if eating outdoors. Students who do not attend in-person learning can notify the school and make arrangements to drive through to pick up food during regular drop off or dismissal. If transportation is a concern, food can be delivered to those in need.

### **Transportation/Arrival & Dismissal**

Arrival and dismissal will follow a structured pattern of five cars disembarking at a time. Students will exit their cars, then walk to their classrooms individually, maintaining six feet of distance. Students eating breakfast will collect it on their way into class. As they enter classrooms, they will use hand sanitizer and sit in their assigned seats. Students will remain seated until class begins.

At dismissal, students will be called from the room individually, reporting to the queue to load into cars in groups of five. Students will wait on marked spots for their car to be in the loading zone.

### **Athletics/Extra-Curricular Activities**

Extracurricular activities will not occur on campus. Students will not stay after dismissal except as part of a pre-arranged agreement with a before/after-school care provider. PE classes will begin the year with activities that do not require common use of equipment and minimize the risk of spread of illness.

### **Information Technology**

The school will provide chromebooks for families as needed. Families have been surveyed to determine chromebook need, and a provisional order has been placed. More chromebooks will be ordered as families indicate need. Families and teachers in need of internet will be referred to discount offers and community partners as necessary.

## Wellness and Recovery

### **Social-Emotional Learning: Tier 1**

Instruction will be engaging and exciting to encourage students to dive in with enthusiasm. Students will have opportunities to discuss academic and emotional concerns with staff during the school day. The school will host virtual engagement activities to choose a mascot, pick the school colors, and make other decisions about the school. Students will have the opportunity to refine our

school values and engage deeply with shaping the community we become. Ongoing lessons in mindfulness, healthy habits, and social skills will be delivered during Flex.

**Trauma-Informed Practices: Tiers 1-3**

Before the start of school, staff will complete training on trauma-informed teaching.

Students, families, and staff will complete a monthly self-check and submit via google forms for monitoring. Students will receive instruction and guidance on effective self-monitoring social and emotional needs through their Flex periods.

Families will be provided with resources for support services via ongoing stakeholder communication. Staff will have ongoing opportunities to report concerns about any students. Additionally, all staff and stakeholders will receive ongoing instruction on monitoring themselves and others for signs of trauma and mental health concerns.

At tier 2, students exhibiting or self-reporting signs of concern will receive individual check-ins with staff, tools, lessons, and resources for coping, along with referrals to additional resources as necessary.

At tier 3, students will be assessed for immediate need and referred for crisis evaluation and/or counseling.