

Alpine Academy Charter High School 2021-2022 Re-Opening Plan

Overview and Purpose of this Document

Background

All charter schools must develop re-opening plans for the 2021-2022 school year that contemplate instruction offered through:

1. In-person instruction following social distancing protocols;
2. Distance education under an approved Path Forward Program of Distance Education; or
3. A combination of distance education and in-person instruction.

Re-opening plans must be based on *Nevada's Path Forward: A Framework for a Safe, Efficient, and Equitable Return to School Buildings* and include a Path Forward Program of Distance Education¹ in accordance with the minimum requirements set forth by the Nevada Department of Education (NDE).

With an understanding that developing a re-opening plan is complex and time intensive, **the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) has developed an *optional* re-opening plan template which covers the topics outlined in NDE's minimum requirements and the Path Forward Framework.** This document should be seen as a resource for schools and not a mandate. Whether schools decide to use this template or develop their own, the topics and guiding questions can serve as a tool for ensuring a comprehensive plan.

Forms

- Certification for Path Forward Program of Distance Education: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/fztw6wiwm06en2w/Path%20Forward%20Distance%20Education%20Guidance%20Memo%20Certification%20for%20FPDE.docx?dl=0>

Resources and References

School Re-Opening

- Guidance for Path Forward Programs of Distance Education: [http://www.doe.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/ndedoenvgov/content/News_Media/Guidance_Memos/2020/PathForwardDistanceEducationGuidanceMemo20-05\(1\).pdf](http://www.doe.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/ndedoenvgov/content/News_Media/Guidance_Memos/2020/PathForwardDistanceEducationGuidanceMemo20-05(1).pdf)
- Nevada's Path Forward: A Framework for a Safe, Efficient, and Equitable Return to School Buildings: https://nvhealthresponse.nv.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Nevada_Path_Forward_6.9.20_FRAMEWORK.pdf
- Nevada Summer Learning and Activity Guidance: <https://nvhealthresponse.nv.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Summer-Learning-and-Activity-Guidance-6.9.20.pdf>
- Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association Re-Opening Guidance: <https://nvhealthresponse.nv.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/NIAA-Reopening-Guidance-6.9.20.pdf>

Face Coverings

- Guidance on Face Coverings: <https://nvhealthresponse.nv.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/6.22-Guidance-on-Improvised-Facial-Coverings-JH-V1.pdf>

¹ Schools that had previously (prior to March of 2020) been approved by the Nevada Department of Education and the State Public Charter School Authority to serve 100% of students through a full-time program of distance education are not required to develop a Path Forward Programs of Distance Education, but must still develop a re-opening plan that contemplates the applicable topics within Nevada's Path Forward Framework.

School Name: Alpine Academy Charter High School

COMMUNICATION

COMMUNICATION

- *How will you communicate important information to families about the re-opening process?*
- *How will you communicate with students, families, staff and other stakeholders about the actions your school will be taking to keep people safe and healthy?*
- *How will you communicate with students, families, staff and other stakeholders about the actions individuals should take to protect themselves and others?*
- *What is your plan to ensure that Parents receive general updates regarding the district/school's implementation of distance education at least weekly? If English Learners comprise at least 10 percent of the student population, the school will be required to make these weekly updates available in any language that is the native language of at least 50 percent of English Learners enrolled in the charter school.*

Communication with all stakeholders will occur in the following formats:

- Newsletters (Monthly)
- Website - updated as needed
- Social Media - updated as needed
- Auto Dialers and handouts
- School announcements
- Reopening surveys for all stakeholders- July 2021 (See attachment)

Alpine Academy Actions - Safety and Health

- Posted signage indicating "Alpine Academy Standards of Practice"
- Newsletters, Social media, Website, and Auto-Dialers
- Registration paperwork
- Developing a "School Dialog" concerning the health of yourself and others

Weekly updates

- The website will feature a "Latest News" section to indicate current statuses, State guidance, directives from authorizer, etc. *
- Newsletter
- Handouts/Dialers*
- School announcements
- *will be translated to Spanish

RE-OPENING SCHOOL BUILDINGS

RE-OPENING APPROACH

- *How will your school building(s) re-open?*
- *Will the school request a calendar adjustment as part of your re-opening approach?*
- *How will you approach re-opening for students whose families are not comfortable with them returning to school or who are identified as "vulnerable populations"?*
- *Under a hybrid learning model how would the school determine which students receive in-person instruction at which times?*
- *What circumstances/scenarios will warrant a change in the approach?*
- *If a change in approach is warranted, how will that transition be made?*

Plan A: (See attached)

- Full capacity with full-virtual option for those students with documented immune-compromised disorder and/or those students isolating per WCHD guidance.
- Masks optional for fully-vaccinated individuals.
- Dialog and practice of hygienic practices to decrease the spread of Covid 19.

Backup Option B:

- 50% Capacity Option
- Alpine will split students into 2 groups to effectively meet a 50% capacity guidance should this be mandated
- Alpine Academy staff had great success implementing a blended scenario, however, in contract to 2020-2021, Alpine would required daily log on of all students and allow 50% capacity to attend courses in person on a 2 day a week schedule.

Backup Option C:

- Full Distance Education with guided supports.
- Alpine Academy would require daily, synchronous class with high engagement and accountability.

PHYSICAL HEALTH SCREENING

- *How will you screen staff and students?*

Students will be directed to enter through the front door. Student movement will be monitored and limited as students will primarily be moving in cohorts throughout their schedules.

All students and staff will be screened for temperature (no contact) should community rate of transmission reach high levels and symptom checked (short, simple questions). All staff will receive guidance on identifying potential symptomatic students. Should a student exhibit a temperature of 100.4 or higher and/or covid symptoms, they will be asked to leave with guardians and quarantined (if not vaccinated) until transportation can be arranged.

PHYSICAL HYGIENE

- *How will you address and reinforce hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette?*
- *How will face coverings be used?*

Per the latest directive, masks are required for public spaces for those 10 and older if not fully vaccinated.

Appropriate signage will be posted as well as modeling from staff. For those students who may have health or cognitive disabilities, alternatives such as face shields will be implemented. All common ways and classrooms will have disinfectant and access to bathrooms for handwashing will be granted to all students. All guidance will be followed.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

- *How will you maintain social distancing in line with the Path Forward Framework, Governor's Emergency Directives, and Nevada Department of Education guidance?*
- *How will you transition as necessary when the prevailing guidance shifts in response to public health conditions?*

Classrooms will space tables and/or desks to accommodate 3 ft spacing as recommended when possible.

Alpine Academy is a small school with approximately 154 students and 14 staff. Many of the obstacles with the directives for reopening are not present with this campus. Staff will implement curriculum via Google Classroom to make transition as seamless as possible in and out of quarantined status. Because the curriculum and instruction will be heavily embedded throughout the technology, this also allows for students who are believed to have symptoms but are out of school as well as those students electing a full distance option due to immunocompromised (documented) status to be as engaged as possible.

Alpine Academy has hired additional staff and has offered more courses in efforts to pace students out more throughout the building.

HUMAN RESOURCES**STAFF RETURN TO WORK**

- *How will staff return to work?*
- *How will you address circumstances where staff are not comfortable returning to work or are identified as "vulnerable populations"?*
- *How will your staffing approach ensure strong implementation of your overall re-opening approach?*
- *How will you prepare for the possibility of increased staff absences due to illness and ensure that staff who are sick are able to stay home?*

Staff will return to work the week before school starts to discuss implementation of Covid protocols. Staff have been surveyed about reopening. Additional professional development will be provided on the topics of engagement in the classroom and the Social/Emotional needs of students struggling with returning to school.

If a particular staff member is not able to return to work due to a documented immune-compromised health status or quarantined status, that teacher's course load will then be transitioned to online and a certified staff member will facilitate the course of digital learners during the physical meeting days.

Staff will be integrated into the monitoring and supervision schedule to assist in the enforcement of social distancing (as required) and sanitization protocols.

Alpine typically fills absences of staff via prep periods, however, the school can adequately provide substitutes for absences. There are also 4 part-time staff who can be hired on an hourly basis to cover periods during the day.

GOVERNING BODY AND SCHOOL LEADERSHIP ROLE

- *How will you share consistent and up-to-date information with your governing body and school leadership?*
- *How and to what extent will the governing body and school leadership weigh in on key decisions?*

The Alpine Academy Board will review opening plans. New guidance and finalization of the plan (and/or changes to the plan) will be communicated with the Board via email (if between regularly scheduled meetings) and/or in meetings).

LOGISTICS

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

- *What adjustments will be made to the facility or use of the facility to support your re-opening plan and to minimize the risk of spreading COVID-19?*
- *How and how frequently will you clean and sanitize various parts of the facility to minimize the risk of spreading COVID-19?*

Alpine has analyzed the current spaces and has opened additional spaces for students to gether during meal times. Outdoor space is planned with ESSER II allocations to assist in the spacing of students.

In discussion with Science department to incorporate digital/virtual labs to avoid gathering or students.

Friday afternoons will also be deep cleaning.

High-touch areas will be sanitized twice daily (minimum), meal areas sanitized after lunch, and precautions (TBD) taken between classes.

Each classroom has high filtration purifiers in each room and filters are replaced yearly (per device guidance).

No touch Sanitizing stations are located in common spaces as well as each classroom.

NUTRITION SERVICES/BREAKFAST & LUNCH

- *How will the school adjust meal-time procedures to minimize the risk of spreading COVID-19?*
- *If the school provides meals, what precautions will be taken during meal preparation and service to minimize the risk of spreading COVID-19?*
- *How will the school ensure that students have access to nutrition services to which they are entitled?*

Alpine Academy does not provide meals. Updated and ongoing information will be made available to students/families regarding area services/meal availability.

TRANSPORTATION/ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL

- *How will the school adjust arrival and dismissal to minimize the risk of spreading COVID-19?*
- *If the school provides transportation, what changes will be made to ensure social distancing, proper cleaning and sanitation, and overall mitigation of the risk of spreading COVID-19?*

Alpine Academy will open campus for longer periods in the morning to provide distance and time for students to safely enter the building.

Students will enter through the front door and may exit through the back and side doors to decrease possible contamination of sanitized surfaces.

Alpine Academy does not provide transportation.

ATHLETICS/EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- *How will the school adjust athletics and/or extra-curricular activities to minimize the risk of spreading COVID-19?*
- *If the school offers NIAA sports, describe your plan for athletics, which should comply with NIAA guidance.*

Archery will resume based on State and CDC directives and/or guidance.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- *What technology resources are necessary to implement your re-opening plan?*
- *How will you ensure that the school has all necessary technology resources to support your re-opening plan?*
- *What actions will you take to expand access to technology and internet connectivity for students, families and educators?*

Alpine Academy plans to become a one-to-one chromebook school with the ESSER II allocation. Students will have access to technology within all classrooms and will be sanitized between students/classes.

Alpine will check out devices on an as-needed basis for those students under quarantine and/or immunocompromised health status.

Alpine will research upgrading connectivity while on campus in the 2021-2022 school year.

WELLNESS AND RECOVERY

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING – TIER 1

- *How will the school provide tier 1 (universal) social emotional supports to students?*

Students will receive one-to-one availability to access staff via virtual office hours and/or interventions (after school, before school, and interventions).

Alpine has hired a College and Career Ready Coach for the 2021-2022 school year who can assist in the academic and/social emotional needs of the students.

Alpine has been awarded the MTSS Project AWARE grant and is currently developing school-wide PBIS program.

Alpine will survey students periodically to determine the need for social and emotional supports.

Alpine is an SEL school and dialog and activities will be developed and administered via in-class as well as virtual classrooms.

TRAUMA-INFORMED PRACTICES – TIERS 1-3

- *How will the school monitor students, staff and families who may be struggling and evaluate their social emotional needs?*
- *What tier 1 (universal) trauma-informed practices will be in place?*
- *What tier 2 and tier 3 additional supports will be available to support students, families and staff that may be in need of more intensive support?*

The school will provide detailed information about coordinating community resources as well as facilitate the referral of families to specialized support services.

Some universal supports will include (but are not limited to): Individualized support and access to the College and Career Ready Coach and/or referral services for all staff and students via digital scheduling. All students will participate in grade-level and schoolwide programs//PBIS/discussions that focus on the needs of students throughout the year. Surveys will be conducted to assess both schoolwide as well as individual needs of students and staff.

Tier 2 and 3 supports will include the coordination of efforts with services beyond what Alpine Academy can provide.

Detailed/documented referral processes will be in place and protocol will be established to determine intervention in crisis. All staff will be trained in Non-Violent Crisis intervention (Executive Director is a certified trainer for the Crisis Prevention Institutes).

ACADEMICS – Path Forward Plan of Distance Education

(required for all schools not already approved by the Nevada Department of Education to provide full-time distance education to 100% of students)

INSTRUCTIONAL APPROACH

- *How will instruction be provided to students (describe synchronous and asynchronous approaches, as applicable)?*

- *What accommodations will be provided to students without access to technology, which may include distance education through paper correspondence?*
- *How will the school ensure that students who are quarantined on the advice of local public health officials have access to distance education?*
- *How will the school ensure that a teacher attempts to contact each student via electronic means or by telephone at least once per day?*
- *How will teachers be accessible to students through the internet or by phone during the school's regular instructional hours?*
- *What adjustments will be made to specific courses to minimize the risk of spreading COVID-19, such as band, physical education, chorus, or certain CTE courses?*

Alpine will provide the following options (See 2021-2022 Alpine Academy Reopening Scenarios)

Alpine will provide access to digital resource during digital resources days/times for student who may not have consistent access. Should full distance learning be required by the State, technology will be distributed on an as-needed basis (socioeconomic data, survey data, request of family, etc).

Those students who have been quarantined will still have access to classes via synchronous zoom meetings. Students can log in and join classes as they would via their in-person schedule.

Alpine will either participate in documentation via school documents (similar to 2020-2021) OR via Infinite Campus.

Alpine staff will have a designated prep period during the day or classes with few or no students during the day to increase availability to students and families. Virtual office hours and tiered interventions will be made available to Alpine stakeholders.

Alpine is a digital science lab software school (via ESSER Comp FY 21 grant) (Labster).

Alpine will comply with all mandates concerning physical education, music, choir, etc courses.

MEETING STUDENT NEEDS

- *How will the school adapt to provide appropriate education for English Learners, students with IEPs and students with 504 plans?*
- *How will the school evaluate the efficacy of its implementation of distance learning in the spring of 2020 and determine the academic needs of students due to the disruption in in-person instruction?*
- *How will the school meet students' academic needs based on this determination?*
- *How will the school continue to evaluate the efficacy of their plan to meet students' needs and adjust, as needed?*

Alpine Academy will reopen to full capacity with mitigation efforts outlined above. Should a limited capacity restriction be announced by the State of NV, Alpine will propose a blended learning model to comply with building capacity requirements and to make social distancing practicable. Students identified as needing more assistance will be full in person to assist in the acquisition of service minutes and compliance per IEP/504 plans. Should full distance measures be implemented, Alpine will conduct daily classes for all students. This will allow for a more reasonable transition back to school should restrictions loosen during the school year. Alpine will provide devices to those students exhibiting financial need.

Alpine Academy has surveyed stakeholders in terms of efficacy of the 2020-2021 and will make changes based on data. Additional attendance and grade data will also be evaluated to determine best practices for Fall 2021.

Alpine will schedule all high needs (IEP, 504, Credit Deficient) students in Seminar periods as a preventative/supportive measure to help ensure success as well as increase attendance interventions to help support a higher positive attendance rate. Frequent contact home, assigned tutoring, and required intervention time will be assigned as needed.

Alpine Academy will conduct periodic surveys and evaluate data as a team to determine best practices and assess current practices. Committees will be formed to measure effectiveness of strategies and adjust as needed.

ATTENDANCE AND ENGAGEMENT

- *How will the school track student attendance in Infinite Campus?*
- *How will the school engage parents and families to communicate and reinforce the importance of attendance?*

We will make the necessary schedules and groups within our Student Information System to track daily check ins and/or in-class attendance.

Alpine will implement a series of attendance interventions designed to re-engage as well as inform/involve students and guardians from absence #1. These interventions include signed letters, auto-dialers, student meetings, guardian meetings, truancy referrals, home visits, and credit recovery/make-up time.

Alpine believes that every minute counts - especially in a scenario of addressing learning loss from the pandemic and limited instructional time. Much of our school-wide dialog will include the importance of being "present" in their learning.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

- *What professional learning will be provided to educators and staff regarding high-quality distance education and health and safety requirements related to preventing the spread of COVID-19?*
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All staff will participate in training concerning the identification of symptoms of Covid as well as protocol concerning the possible contagious student. Alpine staff will follow local health district protocol concerning notification of student/staff infection. All staff will participate in professional development concerning the instruction of students digitally to effectively engage all students - this will also allow for Alpine to easily adapt to COVID protocols and guidance set forth by the SPCSA as well as NDE.

SUPPORTING PARENTS/FAMILIES

- *What resources will be provided to parents/families so that they can support students?*

Alpine Academy social worker will provide a detailed list of resources for families as well as conduct periodic surveys to assess both student and family needs.

Additional surveys will be conducted to ascertain the needs of families and workshops will be conducted in areas such as: developing good study habits, self-motivation, resources to help your student, growth mindset. These will be in the form of meetings (online and/or in person) as "Parent University" workshops.

All staff will have virtual office hours to assist in supporting students and families.

Alpine Academy will continue weekly tiered, targeted intervention assistance held on Fridays.