

Elko Institute for Academic Achievement

Path Forward: Plan for a Safe, Efficient, and Equitable Return to School

2021-2022 School Year

EIAA

Our mission is to empower students to acquire and value knowledge and skills that will support them as life-long learners and leaders, to contribute to the world, and practice the core values of our school: RESPECT, HONESTY, KINDNESS, and EXCELLENCE.

I am a Coyote; I am in charge of me.
I am respectful, I am kind, I strive for excellence.

Disclaimer

EIAA's Path Forward Plan will be adjusted to align with the local, state and CDC guidelines as they are adjusted. EIAA is a public school funded by the state. Our charter to operate as a school is through the Nevada Charter School Authority. The risks of not following CDC and state guidelines are as follows; loss of Charter, loss of funding, loss of license for professionals, personal financial impact for board members and staff, and litigation.

Circumstances regarding COVID-19 are fluid and social distancing protocols and other health and safety requirements are subject to change based on the advice of public health officials, including the State's Chief Medical Officer, the CDC, and local health officials.

The purpose of this letter is to provide parents and current information for the 2021-2022 school year.

All quotes and information provided in the disclaimer have been pulled from Governor Sisolak's issues Declaration of Emergency Directive 044-048. In accordance with Directive 044 authority for managing certain COVID-19 mitigation measures is delegated to district leaders and charter school sponsors. Superintendents and charter school sponsors (LEA Leaders) may determine capacity limits, social distancing protocols, and sanitation protocols while staying within the minimum requirements set through executive order.

Within the plan schools must follow the Interim Final Rule (IFR) published by the United States Department of Education (USED). The requirement clarifies that the plan must include how it will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other school and LEA staff, and the extent to which it has adopted policies, and a description of any such policies, on each of the CDC's safety recommendations including:

- Universal and correct wearing of masks;
- Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g. use of cohorts/podding)
- Handwashing and respiratory etiquette; cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation; contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments;
- Diagnostic and screening testing;
- Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;
- Appropriate Accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and
- Coordination with state and local health officials.

Senate Bill 215 from the 2021 Legislative Session now requires the governing body of each charter school to "develop a plan for conducting a program of distance education for 10 school days in the event of an emergency that necessitates the closing of all public schools in Nevada." This plan must be submitted to the charter school sponsor and provided to the school community, parents, and school employees.

The state has made it known that the scenarios being used by schools at any given time can and will change based off COVID outbreak and current directives from the governor. "Circumstances regarding COVID-19 are fluid and social distancing protocols and other health and safety requirements are subject to change based on the advice of public health officials, including the State's Chief Medical Officer". "Districts and charter schools will be required to adhere to emergency directives, public health protocols, and NDE guidance throughout the 2021-22 school year. While directives, protocols, and guidance may evolve to reflect changes in public health conditions, at any point in time the prevailing guidance will need to be upheld.

This policy includes measures we are actively taking to mitigate the spread of coronavirus. It is our goal to sustain a healthy and safe school in this unique environment. It is important that we all work together to eliminate outbreaks within the school so we can keep our physical doors open. Reporting to the school nurse any positive results or contact with individuals who have positive results is an integral part of keeping our stakeholders safe. We assure you we will always treat your private health and personal data with high confidentiality and sensitivity.

In creating EIAA's reopening plan, careful consideration of the [CDC Guidance for Schools](#), and in conjunction with local health officials, an advisory group was formed to help inform the process. The plan must be approved by the Elko Institute for Academic Achievement Board of Directors, State Public Charter School Authority, and the Nevada Department of Education. Our top priority is to continue to provide high-quality and accessible learning opportunities to all students – without regard to means, ability, or at-home support – while ensuring the health and safety of students, staff, and communities.

All individuals should monitor their health and symptoms (Appendix A). Any individual who does not feel well or is symptomatic should remain at home and away from others.

When in public or at work, all persons should maximize physical distance from others. All EIAA team members should monitor to avoid those circumstances that do not allow for appropriate physical distancing. Again, every individual is responsible for the safety and health of themselves and those persons around them.

Individuals returning to worksites who may have any of the serious underlying health conditions as noted by the CDC, should take any and all precautions necessary to protect themselves, especially while they are in the workplace. This may include (not all inclusive) maintaining social distances, following CDC recommended guidance for good hygiene and /or the wearing of proper equipment (masks) necessary to mitigate the contraction or spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Individuals should minimize any non-essential travel to hot spots. If an individual does travel to a hotspot, they should report to the school when and where they will be traveling so as to protect others and follow CDC guidelines regarding isolation and protection of others.

Individuals of the school who have receive a positive COVID test should notify the school immediately. If an individual with the school has tested positive or someone within the immediate household has tested positive the school needs to be notified as soon as possible so correct action can be taken.

Topic	Subtopics	Key Information to Address
<p data-bbox="107 542 247 704">In-Person Learning: Health and Safety</p> <p data-bbox="107 743 247 1040">How will EIAA maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other school staff?</p>	Physical Health Screening	<p data-bbox="453 175 600 203">Employees:</p> <ul data-bbox="453 207 2003 326" style="list-style-type: none"> • Take their own temperature each morning BEFORE opening their classroom. Anyone with a temperature over 100.4 will be isolated and retested after 20 minutes of indoor rest. If elevated temperature remains staff will be sent home. If staff are able, they will teach virtually from their homes, with a substitute supervising their class. Staff may return to school once they have the okay from a medical professional or they are symptom free without the aid of medication for 24-hours. <p data-bbox="453 362 573 389">Students:</p> <ul data-bbox="453 394 2024 545" style="list-style-type: none"> • When students arrive at school, they will immediately have their temperature checked. If their temperature is within normal range, they will wash their hands with soap and water and report immediately to class. STUDENTS WILL NOT BE LET IN THE BUILDING BEFORE 7:45am. • Students who have a temperature over 100.4 will be provided a mask, isolated, and retested after 20 minutes of indoor rest. If elevated temperature remains parents will be called to pick them up. <p data-bbox="453 581 2028 727">Due to social distancing protocols and temperature checks it is imperative that we stagger pickup and drop off times when returning to school full time. We understand work schedules can be tough and some families are dropping off multiple students that may not fall within the same time slot. Please do your best to accommodate the following pick up and drop off times to help us eliminate long lines for temperature checking. Students with the last name that starts with A-K will drop off at 7:45. Students with the last name starting with L-Z will drop off at 7:55</p> <p data-bbox="453 763 2024 909">Upon notification that a positive test occurred, in consultation with local health officials, the school will assess the risk, proceed with appropriate cleaning protocols, disinfecting, and contact tracing. With guidance from the local health officials, necessary students and families will be notified in a confidential matter that there has been a positive case confirmed. Any student or staff member who lives with an individual with a positive result for COVID will follow the guidelines given by local health and medical professionals as to when they can return to school. Distance education will be provided during the time a student is out of school.</p>
	Physical Hygiene	<ul data-bbox="453 945 2011 1187" style="list-style-type: none"> • On the first day of school all teachers will teach proper handwashing techniques to all students, the proper use, removal and washing of face coverings, how to safely cover coughs and sneezes, and how to limit contact in the classroom setting. • Masks are recommended by EIAA but are not required. • Since soap and water are not readily available in the classrooms, hand sanitizer and/or Antibacterial Wet Wipes will be used. Hand sanitizer/Wet Wipes will be used at each transition between classes/subjects, or more often as deemed appropriate by the classroom teacher.
	Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities	<ul data-bbox="453 1196 2024 1349" style="list-style-type: none"> • EIAA purchased 5 non touch thermometers to take temperatures of students and staff every morning. Temperatures will be taken as directed by local and state officials. • Facility will be cleaned with CDC approved cleaners and following their guidelines daily. • If there is a positive case, Janitorial will take additional measures to ensure surfaces and facility have been cleaned to reduce chances of spread.
	Diagnostic and screening	<p data-bbox="453 1369 1969 1425">Any staff, students, or volunteers who have any symptoms will be asked to leave the school until they have a Dr. release or have been symptom free for 24 hours without the aid of medication.</p>

<p>In-Person Learning: Student and Staff Wellbeing</p> <p>How will the school meet students' social, emotional, mental, and physical health needs and provide access to a safe and inclusive learning environment?</p> <p>How will the school support educator and staff well-being?</p>	Students and Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EIAA will continue to fund a ½ time social worker position in addition to a ½ time life skills coach. All classes will receive a life skill special to help support student mental, social, and emotional wellbeing. Students will work with our social worker and life skills professionals in small groups and individually as needed. Every class will continue to implement the 7 habits of healthy kids within their classrooms. EIAA will continue to team up with outside organizations to provide needed resources to families and students.
	Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Every Wednesday the first 10-15 minutes of PD will be designated to the mental health and wellbeing of our staff. Administration will work with staff to maintain open communication and supports.

<p>In-Person Learning: Accelerating Student Learning</p> <p>How will the school address the impact of COVID-19 on students' opportunity to learn, including implementing strategies for accelerating learning, and effectively using data?</p>	Instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EIAA has teamed up with RTB Data and Consulting to analyze all data and provide professional development for administration and teachers. Teachers will pre-assess all students coming into the 2021-2022 school year. Academic goals will be set using data and leadership binders. Academic goals and plans will be shared with parents on an ongoing basis. Student data and interventions will be tracked and adjusted as data shows. Teachers will work collaboratively on Wednesdays to analyze student data and plan accordingly.
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<p>Distance Education: Students unable to participate in-person</p> <p>How will the school ensure that any student who is in quarantine on the advice of local public officials is able to participate in distance education?</p>	Online Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students who are under quarantine due to a medical professional and/or school requirements will continue to be provided with quality instruction and support by EIAA staff. Teachers will maintain close contact with both student and parent to facilitate the success of student through the quarantine process. Chromebooks and hotspots will be provided as needed.
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<p>Distance Education: Emergency Closure</p> <p>How will the school ensure that all students are able to continue to learn through distance education in the event that the school must be closed?</p>	<p>Full Distance Learning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students are required to login daily to advance their studies. If students do not login to advance their studies, a licensed teacher or substitute teacher will attempt to contact each student via electronic means or by telephone at least once per instructional day; if a student's lack of access to a telephone or phone service results in an inability to be contacted, a licensed teacher or licensed substitute teacher will record attempted contact once per week. • Any student who is quarantined on the advice of local public health officials receives access to distance education. • Licensed teachers and/or licensed substitutes are accessible to students through the internet or by telephone during the school's regularly scheduled instructional hours. • Chromebook and hotspots will be provided as needed.
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<p>Distance Education: Supporting Students</p> <p>How will the school ensure continuity of services, including access to necessary technology and resources, special education and EL services, and nutrition services, for students participating in distance education?</p>	<p>Supporting Students in Need</p>	<p>SPED and ESL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speech and Language Students will be serviced online. • Push-in time and pull-out time will be met by a Google Meet sign-up sheet with SPED staff. Group meetings will be recorded for students who cannot attend at that time. In addition, students can sign up for one-on-one time. • Time will be focused on meeting IEP goals. <p>Technology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needed technology to meet IEP goals will be provided to students as needed. • Chromebook and hotspots are available as needed. <p>Food Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EIAA will work with families and community resources to help fill any gaps or needs within nutrition and food services.
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