

# Explore Academy Las Vegas



## Re-opening Plan

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7/12/2021

Esteemed Stakeholders,

Please know that the health and wellbeing of our stakeholders is of critical importance. 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. All staff and students are encouraged to receive the COVID vaccine as recommended by the CDC and SNHD; this is the most effective way to prevent the spread of COVID.

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.

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	Back to School Guide	General updates for families about the start of school
Weekly	Parent email	Updates for families on individual student progress
Bi-Monthly	Student/Family/Staff email survey	Social/emotional check-in data for monitoring
Bi-Monthly	Coffee With the Principal	Check-in with stakeholders, update on progress toward school-wide goals

## Reopening the School Building

### Re-Opening Approaches

For all plans, school will begin August 5<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. The school is prepared to move partially or fully to closure (Backup Option B) for cleaning and monitoring. Stakeholders will be notified via text and email of any impending changes as soon as possible. Whether in person or online, classes will follow the same bell schedule and be in session for the full class period. Attendance will be taken online just as in person, and learning will continue fluidly.

**Plan A:** School will begin with two cohorts, those who will attend in person, and those who will attend online with a note from a doctor or due to quarantine. Students learning from home will attend classes according to the regular bell schedule.

**Backup Option B:** In the event that online classes are necessary, 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.

### **Distance Education: Emergency Closure**

In the event that the school must close for a period of time due to emergency, school will proceed in the following manner: Students will use their Chromebooks (we are a 1:1 Chromebook school) to participate in distance learning via Google Meets. If needed, the school will work with families that need internet access and provide a portable wireless hotspot or connect them with discount or free internet services. The daily schedule will remain the same, and students will report to their Google Meets for classes just as in person. Students will continue to submit assignments in Google Classroom, participate in discussions, and complete assignments. Extra support will be available in the flex classroom throughout the day, just as with in-person school. Social and emotional wellbeing will be monitored via survey.

### **Academic Needs**

Students will be assessed using internal assessments to determine varied learning needs. Students will receive individualized support for learning gaps through Flex periods, utilizing tutors and small groups. In addition to the above, special populations such as students learning English and those with IEPs or 504s will continue to 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**

Explore will follow current CDC and SNHD guidelines regarding prevention of the spread of illness. Currently, all unvaccinated students and staff will wear face coverings while indoors on campus; everyone may remove masks outdoors. If prevailing guidance from the CDC or SNHD recommends masks for vaccinated individuals due to a high instance of reinfection or during periods of high community transmission, Explore will adhere to such guidance regarding the usage of masks. Unvaccinated 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 three to six feet apart in the classroom, during passing periods, and in common areas, including outdoors.

In the morning, students will report to the cafeteria for breakfast. 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 queueing 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.

#### Contact Tracing

Explore will keep a log of all individuals on campus each day. Student information will be traced via Infinite Campus, and adults and visitors will be tracked via log. This information will be provided to the SNHD as needed for contact tracing purposes.

#### Diagnostic and Screening Tests

Staff or students exhibiting symptoms of illness will be immediately isolated and sent home as soon as possible. Those exhibiting symptoms will learn or work from home until a negative test result is provided or such time as the SNHD recommends returning to school.

## Human Resources

#### Staff Return to Work

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 review 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, as needed. Students will be expected to be in their uniform and ready to learn at 8:00 AM 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**

Restrooms will be cleaned and sanitized twice daily. In the cafeteria, students will maintain social distance at tables, which will be cleaned after each use. Students eating on the turf will maintain three feet of distance. In classrooms, teachers and students will clean desks at regular intervals throughout the day. 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 eat on the turf or 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 the cafeteria, maintaining six feet of distance. Students eating breakfast will wash their hands, collect breakfast, and sit separately from those awaiting the start of class.

At dismissal, students will be called from classrooms 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**

Students will not stay after dismissal except as part of a pre-arranged agreement with a staff member or before/after-school care provider.

### **Information Technology**

The school will provide chromebooks for families qualifying for free or reduced lunch as needed. Families and teachers in need of internet will be referred to community partners as necessary or provided wireless hotspots as available.

## **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 activities to foster student engagement and social/emotional wellbeing. 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 of 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.