



Futuro Academy

2021-2022

Path Forward & School Re-Opening Plan

Background

Superintendent Jhone Ebert and the Nevada Department of Education requested the submission of a Path Forward Program. In the program, schools have to provide details on their distance learning plan for full-time distance learning students for the 2021-2022 school year. There has to be key information included, such as how students were approved for distance learning, what the learning model will look like, and how attendance will be taken.

The State Public Charter School Authority requested more information from schools, such as what schools are doing to ensure health and safety for all, what a school's in-person learning will look like, and what steps schools are taking to support students and staff with their social and emotional wellbeing.

The 2021 Legislative Session produced Senate Bill 215. Schools are required to develop a distance education plan in the event of an emergency that may cause a school closure of at least 10 days. This way schools are more prepared to tackle any sudden closures, similar to what was experienced in spring 2020 because of the pandemic.

In an effort to streamline all of the requested information, the State Public Charter School Authority has requested that schools submit a 2021-2022 reopening plan. In it, there are three key requirements:

Requirement A: Charter Schools are responsible for determining certain COVID-19 mitigation measures and therefore, must develop plans for how they will ensure the safe reopening of school buildings. This plan addresses health and safety as well as how the school will respond to the impact of COVID-19 on students' opportunity to learn.

Requirement B: Pursuant to Emergency Directive 044 and guidance provided by the Nevada Department of Education on May 28, 2021, charter schools must develop Path Forward Program Distance Education Plans for the 2021-22 school year. This plan addresses how the school will provide distance education to students who are unable to learn in person. These students must provide documentation from a medical professional related to a condition that would be compromised by attending school in-person or be quarantined on the advice of local public health officials.

Requirement C: 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 at least 10 school days in the event of an emergency that necessitates the closing of all public schools in this State." This plan must be submitted to the charter school sponsor and provided to the school community, parents and school employees. This plan 1 Section 8 of Emergency Directive 044 2 establishes an emergency distance learning plan to be implemented in the event of a major emergency.

During the June 23, 2021 Futuro Academy Board of Trustees meeting, a crucial vote was undertaken to designate "In Person" instruction the primary model of instruction while allowing for up to 10% of students to enroll in virtual education by choice, with guaranteed medical exemptions granted for virtual education.

Safe Reopening for In-Person Learning

FUTURO recognizes that the health and safety of students and staff is of the utmost importance, but also that in the 2021-22 school year, per CDC guidance, in-person learning should be maximized. FUTURO will seek data, guidance, recommendations, and/or approval from the Southern Nevada Health District, the Center for Disease Control, the Nevada Department of Education, and the Nevada Governor's Office. FUTURO will continually work with its families, staff, leadership and Board to implement Covid-19 mitigation protocols that are the safest for its in-person students and staff at any point in time. Ultimately, FUTURO will use all available scientific information to help make a determination on these matters.

In-Person Learning: Health and Safety

Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette

FUTURO will continue to promote proper personal hygiene:

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth
- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Keep 3 feet between students, 6 feet of physical distance from others for adults
- Avoid contact with others if within 3 or 6 feet
- Wear a cloth face mask covering in public
- Avoid traveling if you are sick
- Stay home if you are feeling ill
- Get medical care as needed

The campus will have an abundance of signage promoting positive physical hygiene. For example, each restroom mirror will have a sticker reminding students to wash their hands for at least 20 seconds. These visual cues will be incredibly helpful, especially for visual learners.

In the event that a student may not be implementing safe and healthy hygiene practices, staff will re-educate the student and inform the student's parents.

Diagnostic and Screening Testing

Staff and students will self-screen their physical health. If any staff member or student is not feeling well and having any symptoms, that person will need to stay at home. They should only return to school when there are no remaining symptoms.

If a student or staff member chooses to go to school while ill (no matter the illness), they will not be allowed in the classroom. For students, the parent will be contacted to take the student home and will not be allowed to return until they are symptom-free. For staff, they cannot return until they are symptom-free.

In the event that a student or a staff member feels ill during the school day, they will be removed from the classroom. They will be asked relevant questions pertaining to their health and

assessed by a staff member with a touchless thermometer. If it is determined that the student needs to be sent home, a parent will be contacted and their belongings will be gathered from the classroom for them. If it is determined that the staff member needs to be sent home, another staff member will cover their classroom/classes for the remainder of the day. They cannot return until they are symptom-free. A list of symptoms will be gathered from public health organizations.

Each campus will have touchless thermometers and will be used at the discretion of school staff. Spaces will be created in our campuses for temporary isolation.

If a student or staff member is diagnosed with a contagious or infectious disease, the person will be required to self-quarantine, and the Southern Nevada Health District will be contacted. FUTURO will work in consultation with medical and public health experts, the State Public Charter School Authority, and the Nevada Department of Education to determine the extent of testing in the school and if a closure is necessary.

Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities

FUTURO will make multiple adjustments to each campus' facilities to minimize the risk of COVID-19.

- Hand sanitizer pumps will be placed on hallway stands in various locations throughout the campus.
- There is an increase in signage enforcing social distancing and healthy personal hygiene in hallways and classrooms.
- There are visual cues on the floor showing where to stand, wait, and move.
- There are decals in restrooms reminding individuals to wash their hands.
- Occupancy capacity signs are placed in each classroom.
- Desks will be arranged to be socially distanced to the maximum ability possible. Desks will be marked to show which ones are assigned to which students. Students will remain in their seats at all times.
- Furniture that is difficult to clean will not be utilized or replaced.
- All air filters will be monitored and replaced as needed and minimally on a quarterly basis.
- All shared items will be cleaned accordingly
- There will be limited use of the water fountain. Students and staff will be encouraged to bring their own water bottles, and bottle fillers have been installed for the 2021-22 school year
- Technology will be assigned to students as needed/requested
- All Emergency Operations Plans will be adjusted to accommodate social distancing guidelines while maintaining the necessary safety, urgency and precaution during Emergency Operations

At each campus, staff will check the cleanliness of the campus to ensure a safe and health environment. All restrooms will be monitored regularly throughout the day to ensure cleanliness and cleaning logs will be maintained in a visible location outside the restrooms for enforcement. High touch points, such as water fountains, sink heads, door knobs, and student desks, will be cleaned regularly by FUTURO staff. Shared materials will be limited as much as possible, and they will be cleaned and sanitized after each use.

Face Coverings

Our campuses will have masks readily available for anyone who wants it. Ultimately, FUTURO will follow the guidance of the CDC, SNHD, and SPCSA for guidelines requiring face coverings, which as of writing of this plan maintains the use of masks indoors for students ages 12 and below and staff who work with them regardless of vaccination status. If face coverings become universally mandated for whatever reason, FUTURO will ensure that anyone stepping onto campus has a face covering on, or follow ongoing recommendations regarding vaccination and/or community transmission rate impact on school settings recommendations.

Some of our students may not be able to wear a mask or face covering due to medical reasons. A doctor's note must be provided by a medical physician on their letterhead.

IEP/504 students may not be required to wear masks based on individual needs.

Contact Tracing

For any student and/or staff that has tested positive for Covid-19, principals (or designee) conduct an investigation. In the investigation, they will determine which students were in closed contact with the positive individual. Close contact is defined as within 6 feet for a total of 15 minutes.

From there, the principal (or designee) will contact the Southern Nevada Health District. At that point in time, the length of quarantine will be determined. The Director will share that information with the principal. The principal will message the appropriate families.

Social Distancing & Capacity

FUTURO will follow the guidance of the CDC, SNHD, and SPCSA when it comes to social distancing requirements and room capacity limits. FUTURO has measured each of its classrooms and maintains fire rating capacities for each common space for the purposes of planning.

Accommodations for Children with Disabilities

If students and staff have one of the disability types listed below, they might be at increased risk of becoming infected or having unrecognized illness.

- People who have limited mobility or who cannot avoid coming into close contact with others who may be infected, such as direct support providers and family members
- People who have trouble understanding information or practicing preventive measures, such as hand washing and social distancing
- People who may not be able to communicate symptoms of illness

FUTURO will work with families of children with disabilities to see if in-person learning is the best option. If it is, then campus leadership will work with each family to develop an action plan that is both academically enriching and safe and healthy.

Vaccination Access & Awareness

FUTURO has and will continue to strongly encourage students, families and staff members to get their vaccinations if they are of age and health abides.

FUTURO campuses will promote local vaccination sites to its staff and families, including continuing to host campus based vaccination clinics.

In-Person Learning: Student and Staff Wellbeing

Being in the midst of a pandemic can bring a whirlwind of feelings within oneself. In any organization, it is critical for itself to make sure that the needs of its people are met. When it comes to students, those needs most likely also include socio-emotional needs and the trauma that can be triggered by a pandemic. For FUTURO, the wellbeing and mental health of staff and students are of the utmost importance.

Supporting Students: Social-Emotional Learning - Tier 1

FUTURO will utilize multiple tier 1 social emotional support for its students across all campuses. These supports include:

- School-wide expectations and procedures
- Systematic reinforcements
- Culturally responsive practices
- Data-based decision making
- Partner & Community partnerships

- Classroom meetings
- Mindfulness practices

Supporting Students: Trauma-Informed Practices - Tier 2-3

FUTURO will provide ongoing support to staff, students and families for their social and emotional needs. For students, it will be important for staff to recognize which students have more significant needs that require a more immediate response, as well as students who have emerging symptoms that require monitoring over time. FUTURO has to work and make decisions with these social emotional needs in mind.

Universally, FUTURO will use these tier 1 trauma-informed practices & interventions for its campuses:

- Learning positive self-talk during daily circle times
- Weekly reflection meetings
- Practice problem solving skills
- Creating a “calm down toolkit”

For more targeted and intensive support, FUTURO will use these tier 2 & tier 3 interventions:

- One-on-one weekly meetings between student and assigned staff member
- Behavior contract
- Restorative justice
- Use of empathy in multiple forms

Supporting Educators and Staff

FUTURO supports the mental health and wellbeing of its educators and staff. They are the driving force behind the success of the students and the campuses. FUTURO will focus on three main bedrocks in helping teachers.

1. **Foster wellness.** FUTURO has and will continue to educate staff about mental health and encourage open conversation about the challenges people are experiencing, employees may be more likely to access care when needed.

2. **Provide training.** FUTURO acknowledges that staff members may have different levels of ability with using virtual platforms and new learning technologies. FUTURO will emphasize differentiated support through the 2 weeks of summer professional development, and through the ongoing development calendar to include no less than one training day per month.
3. **Model healthy behavior:** FUTURO will encourage all school leaders to take care of their own physical, social, and psychological needs. By doing so, they serve as role models and set the tone that it is acceptable and necessary to take care of oneself.

In-Person Learning: Accelerating Student Learning

FUTURO is well aware of the potential negative effect of the school closures and the distance learning program with limited hours of instruction provided to students since March 2020. Therefore, we are excited to be able to resume offering a full-day in person / traditional learning program starting in August 2021.

Implementing Assessments

FUTURO will begin the school year with a comprehensive plan to diagnose and identify student needs. FUTURO will use every tool available to identify student needs and the learning gaps. Some of these tools include but are not limited to Brigance Screener for Kindergarten, NWEA MAP Fall assessment, classroom level benchmark assessments, Key Data interim assessment systems, and hearing & vision screenings.

Leveraging Data to Inform Instruction

The teachers will look at the beginning of the year data during the Instructional Leadership Team (ILT) meetings and prepare a comprehensive plan to meet the student needs. Schools will make the intervention groups during the first ILT meeting by the beginning of September. Tutoring and intervention services will be provided during the school day and after school time. FUTURO will utilize a wide range of programs to accelerate learning and close the achievement gap.

In-Person Learning & Special Populations

Special populations such as SPED, EL, and immigrant students will continue to receive services from licensed teachers. These groups will be identified and services will be provided in accordance with the Nevada State and Federal requirements and guidelines. Students will be served in their own groups and grant funds and other funds will be used solely to service these students.

Path Forward Program: Distance Learning

Futuro Academy (FUTURO) has created a distance learning plan for the 2021-2022 school year. FUTURO recognizes that there may be families that need to keep learning in a virtual environment.

The distance learning plan is specifically designed for students:

- With medical accommodations limiting them from attending in-person learning, as determined by a medical health professional
- Who tested positive for Covid-19
- Identified as close contacts of Covid-19
- Affected by school closures and/or tightening government health protocols
- Limited to 10% aggregate enrollment of any grade level by choice after the circumstances above

FUTURO is dedicated to maintaining high expectations and strong academic achievement for all students, whether full-time in-person or full-time distance learning.

High-Risk Medical Exemption Process

If a student or an individual in his/her household has a high-risk medical condition*, a Request for Virtual Placement may be completed in order to participate in distance online learning at home for the 2021-2022 school year, and the request will require providing medical documentation. This was sent out to all families on July 7, 2021, with all returning and newly-accepted students enrolled.

A health care medical professional must complete the exemption form and email it to FUTURO at any point during the school year. FUTURO will review the form, and either approve or deny.

After approval of a medical exemption, a student will require medical fitness to return documentation to be allowed to return to in-person learning while Governor's Order 044 is in place.

Students who are out on a high-risk medical exemption may not participate in any in-person learning, face-to-face extracurricular or on-campus activities, including field trips, competitions, and athletics (as a participant or spectator without prior approval). This is because it would open them up to possible exposure to COVID-19, just as being in the classroom on campus would.

There may be times, like for important assessments, where students may need to be on campus. During these times, a safe, socially-distanced environment will be set up for the students to be in. Every person will wear a mask in these environments.

Once approved for distance learning, students will only be allowed to switch back to in-person learning at the first full day of instruction of the subsequent month of school.

Those individuals who are at higher risk of severe illness, as designated by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), are those with conditions including, but not limited to, asthma, chronic lung disease, compromised immune systems (including from smoking, cancer treatment, bone marrow or organ transplantation, immune deficiencies, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, or use of corticosteroids or other immune weakening medications), diabetes, serious heart disease (including heart failure, coronary artery disease, congenital heart disease, cardiomyopathies, and hypertension), chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis, or liver disease.

Parent Considerations for Distance Learning

Parents/guardians are asked to consider the following information when seeking full-time distance learning (DL) for their student:

- If a full-time distance learning student begins to struggle, intervention meetings may be conducted with the student and parent/guardian, and the student may be required to attend school for face-to-face instruction.
- Students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) may need to attend therapy and related services at the school.
- A student participating in full-time distance learning who qualifies for free and reduced lunch, may receive meals at the school at no cost.
- Successful candidates for full-time distance learning must maintain 90% attendance monthly, and may be transitioned to in-person learning if in choice based distance learning and below attendance threshold
- Students will be expected to attend and have their cameras on for the full duration of real-time sessions during the school's instructional day.
 - **Kindergarten - 2nd grade** will have a minimum of 60-90 minutes of real-time sessions daily.
 - **3rd - 5th grade** will have a minimum of 90-120 minutes of real-time sessions daily.
- Full-time distance education elementary students must have an adult at home readily available to support their learning.
- Students will be required to attend school face-to-face for designated activities and assessments.
- Some courses/classes may not be offered through full-time distance education.
- Parents will initiate communication with the teacher as soon as concerns arise.
- Parents will assist students in planning a time schedule for long-term assignments.

Covid-19 Positive & Close Contacts - Logistics

Full-time in-person students who have tested positive for Covid-19 must quarantine as determined by their campus leadership. Proof of a positive test should be provided to campus leadership. Contact tracing will be conducted to determine if there are any close contacts on campus, and the SNHD will confirm the testing documentation.

Full-time in-person students who have been identified as Covid-19 close contacts (from the school, SNHD, or personal connection for any case) must quarantine as determined by their campus leadership and in accordance with the most recent "Covid-19 Guidelines and Protocols for Students" document.

Quarantined Students & Distance Learning

We foresee there being two types of quarantines for full-time students:

1. Whole Class/Entire School Quarantine
2. Individual/Limited number of Students

When the entire class / school needs to be quarantined, students will be placed in Distance Learning with their in-person teacher. All work/activities will be accessed via Google Classroom, and instruction will be synchronous through Google Meet. If the assigned teacher cannot provide instruction, the entire class may receive instruction from another teacher who is providing Distance Learning.

When only a limited number of students need to be quarantined, students will attend via Google Meet synchronously during school hours while the homeroom teacher maintains their typical in-person schedule.

Attendance will be taken in Infinite Campus. All assignments will be turned in via Google Classroom.

Transitioning due to Public Health Conditions

Worsening public health conditions can affect the learning model that is implemented. If the Southern Nevada Health District, Center for Disease Control, and/or the Nevada Department of Education enforce new directives, we will make those changes as necessary. It will be a smooth transition for us due to our experience, and we are equipped to adapt to the changes.

Serving Special Populations in Distance Learning

The distance learning program will provide appropriate education for English Learners, students with Individualized Education Programs, and students with 504 Plan. Special education teachers will meet virtually with students as needed to meet the mandated number of instructional minutes.

School staff will consider alternative ways to provide equitable access and appropriate educational opportunities for students with disabilities, including exploring all available supplementary aids and services and related services to include online or virtual platforms, and/or other activities, such as paper/pencil activities.

Documentation of all efforts to provide equitable access to educational opportunities is required.

- Special education teachers must document that the student is receiving his/her specially designed instruction through the approved instructional model on the status record.
- Related service providers must continue to follow current procedures to document services provided.

Assessments, MDT meetings, and IEP meetings that do not need to be conducted in-person will continue to take place virtually or by phone.

If the school cannot contact the parent/guardian to schedule an IEP meeting, the school will follow standard procedures. IEP teams must include any data collected, including any deficit areas, behavioral data, the effectiveness of accommodations, etc.

A case manager or related service provider must provide how instruction is scaffolded or the background knowledge needed for the student to complete the assignments aligned to the Nevada Pre-K Standards or the NVACS and goals and benchmarks/objectives.

When on campus for an IEP-mandated procedure, the IEP should also include input from parents/guardians regarding difficulties with the student's compliance with rules related to social distancing, wearing face coverings, washing hands, and other safety protocols.

Goals, benchmarks and/or short-term objectives should be based on the current present levels of academic achievement and functional performance. Based on prior goals and benchmarks or objectives, the team should consider the student's anticipated progress for the remainder of the annual IEP.

Student Attendance in Full-Time Distance Learning

Each student participating full-time in distance education will must attend live via synchronous Google Meet participation to earn attendance for the school day while participating in Distance Learning.

If a student's confirmed lack of access to a telephone or internet service results in an inability to be contacted, a licensed teacher or licensed substitute teacher will record attempted contact via other means (e.g., home visit) once per week and maintain a record of attempts.

Staff will use a consistent method in Infinite Campus for recording contact with students participating in distance education, which may include students demonstrating regular weekly progress in their classwork that can be verified through Canvas.

Daily attendance may be satisfied in any of the following ways:

- (1) The student is physically present; and/or
- (2) The pupil participates in a real-time (synchronous) class session;

Families may contact the main office of their campus if there is an attendance issue, such as incorrectly marked absence.

Ten consecutive unexcused absences with no contact will result in a withdrawal from FUTURO.

Technology Access

For any students without access to such technology, school leadership will work with families to ensure technology is accessible. Families will have to complete a form to borrow the technology for the school year. If approved, students will be provided with a hotspot and a Chromebook at no cost to the family.

Families will receive training by a FUTURO staff member on how to use the technology if needed. If technology is not working properly at any time throughout the school year, families are encouraged to contact their teacher.

Families will have to return the technology at the end of the school year. Technology will have to be in good working condition. If deemed to be not in good condition, families may be required to reimburse the campus (at leadership's discretion).

If there are greater issues in technology (i.e., internet service provider shutdown, blackout, etc.), distance learning can be done through paper correspondence.

Student/Family Communication

A teacher will schedule one or more conference(s) with the parent(s)/guardian(s) of a student if the student is not maintaining passing grades, is not achieving the expected level of performance, is presenting some problem to the teacher, or in any other case that the teacher considers necessary. This conference may be requested by indicating so on the regular progress reports. Such conferences may be handled by telephone, in person, or via written communication

If families and/or students call teachers, it has to be a viable conversation about academics to count as a present attendance mark. If not answered, a voicemail message should be recorded. A teacher will respond within 24 hours.

If a student emails a teacher, the teacher will respond within 24 hours. Email communication sent on Fridays after 12:00 p.m. should expect a response by close of business on the non-holiday business day.

If a family communicates that they are in need of resources, campus leadership and the teacher will work together to provide resources.

Nutrition

Students will receive access to the nutrition services to which they are entitled, to the extent nutrition services are generally provided by their charter school. FUTURO only serves lunch to K-12 students at its campuses.

For virtual students to receive their lunch, the student and/or a family member will need to visit the campus in-person during a designated lunch period set by the campus administration. The school will then provide a lunch meal.

A lunch meal will be not provided to anyone arriving before or after their designated lunch period, unless at the discretion of school administration.

Important Note: *The student and/or family member will be required to wear a mask and be socially distanced.*

Social-Emotional Support

The pandemic has affected the social-emotional wellbeing of many people, students included. Staff are encouraged to get to know their students and build trust and respect. Staff are trained to identify and report anything out of the ordinary. Students have an open-door policy with all staff.

When a student does need social-emotional support, it is critical that parents work in partnership with school staff to create an action plan. The goal is to cope, mitigate or solve the underlying issue that is affecting the student. By addressing trauma sensitively and thoughtfully, it will help heal the student holistically.

Mask & Visitation Policy

Distance learning students and their family members are required to wear masks when visiting their campus at all times. This is for the safety of the students and their families.

Distance learning students and their families may only stay in the main office area. For them to move through the campus, they must be given permission from school leadership.

IEP students are allowed to be on campuses if it is determined that they need services that can only be performed in-person.

Emergency School Closure Learning Plan

FUTURO recognizes that there may be emergency situations that shut down a campus for an extended period of time. Examples of emergency situations could include, but not limited to, a pandemic, a facility issue, or a natural disaster.

Futuro Academy East Las Vegas (FUTURO) is committed to providing high-quality education to its students and has developed this emergency school closure learning plan. This plan will be made available to all staff, families, and students.

This plan will succeed in delivering instruction online to meet students' elective and general education requirements. This plan will act as a guide to improve learning and enhance student success. It is also aimed to fulfill all applicable rules, regulations, and policies stipulated by the Nevada Department of Education and the US federal government. FUTURO will continue to use email, Google GSuite and the school website for normal communications with parents, students, and teachers.

This plan is developed for at least 10 consecutive days of implementation.

Education Management System

Infinite Campus will continue to be used as the Student Information System (SIS). It will be the primary source of grading, attendance accounting and information distribution to students and families. Attendance will be recorded daily based on attendance in synchronous Google Meet sessions.

Primary Online Learning Platform

Google Classroom will be used by every teacher to relay classroom content and deliver classroom instruction. Google Meet will be the primary student platform for synchronous classes.

Student Materials, Technology, Supplies Distribution

A student survey will be delivered to families to determine technology needs at the start of each school year. Chromebooks will then be distributed to families at a time, date, and location, which will be communicated right away to families.

Additional Outreach

Emails will be sent weekly with operational and instructional details throughout the remainder of the emergency declaration to provide ongoing information on model updates.

Staff Communication

Grade level, department, and all staff Google Meet meetings are scheduled weekly as well as emergency staff meetings when necessary. How-to videos for curriculum, lesson planning, Google Classroom, grading, and other web-based programming are provided or created as needs are expressed by teachers. Leaders are included as teachers on all Google Classrooms to aid in student learning when needed.

Teachers are required to contact parents via email or Google Voice phone number as an additional means of communication with students and parents.

Weekly Department and Staff Meetings are held via Zoom large meeting platform.