

RETURN TO LEARN PLAN:

A Guide to the Challenges of COVID-19 Within the Public School Setting

2020-2021

GREGORY SCHOOL DISTRICT
GREGORY, SD



JULY 30, 2020

LAST MODIFIED:

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

The Gregory School District is fully committed to working towards "Return to Learn" for in-person learning at our schools and has constructed a district-wide community committee to address this need.

As COVID-19 continues to change the world we live in and change our landscape as a school district, we will continue to work together, share best current practices, and allocate for state and federal waivers to allow us to provide the best possible programs for all of our students. This document provides a plan for our district as we prepare for the upcoming school year.

Our plan will be individualized to the needs of the Gregory School District. There is no one-size-fits-all in regards to reopening our schools for the 2020-2021 school year. Based on current information, we are devising a plan to reopen our school district based on guiding principles, current planning considerations, and pertinent information from public health and the Department of Education. These plans are subject to change based on new guidance from state departments.

Many thanks to the school district staff and local medical community members who have helped to develop these guidelines. A special thank you to the South Dakota Department of Education and Department of Health for their contributions and insight.

Sara Anderson
Superintendent

Go Learn! Go Live! Go Succeed! Go GORILLAS!

Daily Symptom Screening Checklist

To curb the spread of COVID-19 and minimize the potential risk of exposure, we are requiring staff and students to complete a daily health check before coming to school. We ask parents to assist students with this screening process.

Is your child experiencing:

- Chills or a fever of 100° or greater?
- A new or worsening cough?
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing?
- Fatigue?
- Unexplained muscle or body aches? A headache?(not related to a known health condition, i.e. migraines)
- New loss of taste or smell?
- A sore throat?
- Nausea or vomiting?
- Diarrhea?
- In the past 14 days, have you or your child had close contact (within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes) with a confirmed case of COVID-19?

If YES to ANY of the questions, DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL and seek guidance from your medical provider. Contact your school to inform them of you/your child's symptoms. You may also contact the South Dakota Department of Health (DOH) at 1-800-592-1861 with questions.

If NO to ALL questions, go to school.

ACADEMICS

Instructional Models

The needs of each individual family in the Gregory School District may be different. In order to provide options to families, we will offer two learning models, On-campus learning (in the classroom) and Off-campus learning (distance learning from home), during the 2020/2021 school year. Both models will have the same instructional expectations and rigor. While it is our hope to maximize On-campus learning, transitions between On-campus and Off-Campus learning may be necessary for certain classrooms, groups or our district as a whole for a period of time should we get to the Yellow or Red level. On-Campus/Off-Campus Learning models are defined as follows.

Instructional Models Defined

Off-Campus Learning is not the same as Distance Learning.

Families who select Distance Learning will be enrolled for a minimum of nine-weeks during the 2020-2021 school year. Families who wish to enroll their children in the Distance Learning program must complete this registration by 11:59 PM on August 9, 2020. Students in Distance Learning will have the option at the close of each nine weeks term to remain in Distance Learning or choose On-Campus learning for the next term.

Families who do not register for Distance Learning by the deadline will automatically be enrolled in On-Campus Learning.

Please note that the Distance Learning choice will look very different than in the Spring. Carefully read through the learning models prior to making your selections.

Whether students participate in On-Campus instruction or Distance Learning, expectations of content, and standards taught will be the same.

- Attendance will be taken for all classes, whether On-Campus or Distance Learning

- If at any time during the school year a building needs to be shut down for a period of time, the teachers and students in that building will transition to an Off-Campus Learning model
- Grading, assessment and rigor levels will be the same for On/Off-Campus and Distance Learning.

On-Campus Learning

The Gregory School District will keep instruction as normal as possible, including attendance, assessment, and grading practices, following the safety guidelines and protocols established for Green, Yellow, and Red levels of COVID-19 cases in our school district.

Hybrid Learning

A school district-wide **Hybrid Learning** option may be implemented if all buildings in the district are impacted by community spread. A Hybrid Learning model may involve an alternative schedule to allow for 50% of students to be on-campus (in classroom) while the other half is engaged in off-campus (at home) learning each school day.

If this plan were to be implemented, students would be categorized and separated by families into A day/B day groups. On an A day the “A” group of students would attend school on-campus and the “B” group of students would learn from home, off-campus. Alternately, on a B day, the “B” group of students would attend school on-campus and the “A” group of students would learn from home, off-campus.

This model may be implemented during the Yellow level of COVID-19 cases within the school district.

Off-Campus Learning

In the event a classroom or group needs to be closed for a period of time due to entering the Red Level of cases, teachers will use best practice in instruction to deliver content to students in an online/remote format.

Best practices for Off-Campus instruction include consistency for On-Campus instruction in:

- Pacing and deadlines
- Communication with students and/or parents
- Feedback
- Routines and/or schedules
- Utilization of online/web-based learning systems chosen and adopted by the District
- This model of instruction may be designed to provide knowledge and information to students through videos and then involve students in active learning and practice based on newly gained knowledge.
- Assessments
 - o Learners will need to show evidence of mastery of skills and content.
- Student Engagement
- Attendance will be taken daily for each course
- Students will need to engage daily with content, assignments, teachers, etc.

Off-Campus/Distance Learning

In the event that a parent/guardian chooses Distance Learning for their child(ren), teachers will use best practices in instruction to deliver content.

The Gregory School District Distance Learning is being designed to give learners an engaging online learning experience that includes clear expectations and outcomes for each class period/week. These expectations will include online and offline learning activities. The work for the classes in each content area can be found in the teachers learning platform. The intent of the school district is that classes will be live-streamed, in the same manner as Gregory Gorillas Live. Students learning off-campus will be required to log on at the regularly scheduled class time into the teachers learning platform and watch the class live from home. Once the instruction is delivered, the student may log off for the practice portion of that particular course and work until the time scheduled for their next class.

It is important to remember that this will be the responsibility as learners to engage in their classes each day. In addition, the learners are responsible for the same regulations as listed in their building handbooks. This includes appropriate online behavior within the learning platform.

Parents/students will need to commit to a minimum of nine-weeks to be in a Distance Learning model.

There will be consistency between Distance Learning and On-Campus Learning in:

- Pacing and deadlines for content mastery
- Daily, ongoing communication with students
- Ongoing communication with parents (frequency will depend on the grade level)
- Daily routines and/or schedules
- Attendance by course during regular school hours
- Utilization of online/web-based learning systems as adopted and chosen by the District.

This style of Distance Learning will use both Synchronous and Asynchronous learning. It is important to know the difference. Synchronous learning is when the teacher and learners participate in learning activities at the same time via live stream. Asynchronous learning is when the learners are learning on their own time without a teacher with them. This will be many activities during their time in Distance Learning.

Special Education

The Gregory School District Special Education Department is committed to providing free and appropriate educational opportunities for students with disabilities to the greatest extent possible in alignment with the Department of Health/CDC guidelines and guidance from the state.

Collaboration with families will continue to be an integral part of the special education process. To address the individual needs of each student with disabilities, special education staff will continue to work with families to identify essential services that can be provided both directly and indirectly when on the school campus or when in a remote learning environment. Learning

environments will be selected by the district and/or state, and may fluctuate throughout the school year. Through collaboration with families, Individual Education Plans (IEP) may be adjusted, as needed, for the circumstances of the learning environment based on the students' needs and services. Staff will continue to work diligently in setting detailed plans for the delivery of special education services.

Special needs students who choose to be distance learners will have to have a review of the IEP through a team meeting and address the goals of the individualized plan. The team will determine what services can and cannot be addressed virtually. The goals of the document will be delineated to determine what can be met virtually and what cannot be met. There may be changes made to the amount of time services have been previously provided. All in all, the best decisions will be made by the IEP team in the best interest of the student.

As each student has unique needs, the special education department will continue to create avenues for learning and sharing new approaches. The district will provide learning sessions, online resources, and platforms to help create positive and progressive learning environments.

Section 504

Students who qualify for Section 504 will continue to be evaluated and receive accommodations in all learning models. The Section 504 case manager will review and collaborate with the 504 teams to determine and update accommodations as appropriate. The 504 teams will work collaboratively to identify alternative solutions if the accommodation(s) are not appropriate or successful through a particular learning model.

Safety & Well-Being Considerations

The safety of our employees and students is our first priority. Upon reopening, our schools have been cleaned and disinfected. In addition to the deep cleaning of facilities, the district is committed to protecting students and staff in order to reduce the risk of the spread of COVID-19.

Daily Practices

To assist us in promoting safety for all, please encourage the following:

- Proper handwashing and other hygiene practices
- A water bottle for personal use (water filling stations will be available)
- Recommended masks or facial coverings
- Limit group gatherings outside school
- No sharing of snacks or treats

In addition to general safety practices, the district will:

- Provide additional distancing to the greatest extent possible
- Provide hand sanitizer
- Prop doors when possible

- Increased cleaning protocols
- Provide training for all staff for effective and safe practices
- Establish district-wide protocols for cleaning and disinfecting school facilities and equipment
- Limit gatherings of students and staff in hallways and common areas such as gym, lunchroom, library, etc.
- Suspend all field trips for a minimum of the first semester

Transportation

- Transportation will be provided for all students, however, it will be considered “ride at your own risk” due to the fact that minimum distancing cannot occur on our busses.
- It is recommended that students wear masks when riding school transportation at the green level, but will be required to wear masks/face covering in a yellow level while using district transportation.
- Hand sanitizer will be available.
- District transportation will be disinfected daily.
- The district will not be able to accommodate social distancing on district transportation. Family members are encouraged to sit together.

Activities & **Communications**

Extra-Curricular Activities

The Gregory School District will try its best to maintain the extracurricular programs, organizations, and activities that are so important to the physical, mental, and social well-being of our students. Activity protocols and restrictions will be developed before starting the season for each activity. Information will be made available to all stakeholders as it changes. These guidelines will be developed per recommendations from the South Dakota High School Activities Association for each activity as well as Federal, State, and local recommendations/restrictions. All protocols for these activities will be adjusted as the recommendations and building levels change.

Communication

To stay current on the most up-to-date district information, please make sure your contact information on Infinite Campus Parent Portal is correct. If it is not correct, please contact

ashley.lozano@k12.sd.us or call 605-835-9651 to update your information. Updated information will be communication through district messaging systems, our website, and social media platforms.

DISTANCE LEARNING REGISTRATION

COMMITTING TO DISTANCE LEARNING

It is important students and parents understand their responsibility as learning is to engage in their classrooms each day. In addition, they are responsible for the same regulations as listed in their building handbooks. This includes appropriate online behavior within the learning platform.

Parents/learners will need to commit to a minimum of one nine-weeks to be in the Distance Learning model.

There will be consistency between our Distance Learning model and On-Campus Learning in:

- Pacing and deadlines for content mastery
- Daily, on-going communication with students
- Ongoing communication with parents (frequency will depend on grade level)
- Daily routines and/or schedules
- Attendance by course during regular school hours
- Utilization of online/web-based learning system as chosen and adopted by the District

EVERYONE CHOOSING DISTANCE LEARNING MUST REGISTER BY THE DEADLINE.

Regardless of what your preference was in our initial survey, anyone choosing Distance Learning must register their child(ren) for this instructional model. The initial survey sent out was to get a feel for parents' preferences at that time. The following link will allow you to commit any children in your family who you wish to be in the Distance Learning program.

If you agree to the terms above, you can register your child(ren) HERE.

Link taken down past the deadline.

THE DEADLINE TO COMPLETE THE REGISTRATION IS 11:59 PM ON AUGUST 9, 2020.

Students not registered by the deadline will automatically be enrolled in On-Campus Learning.