

ADA CITY SCHOOLS

Return to Learn Plan 2.0

2021-2022

2022-2023

2022-2023

2023-2024

2024-2025

Revised 6/21/2021

Revised 12/17/2021

Revised 6/17/2022

Reviewed 12/12/2022

Reviewed 5/9/2023

Reviewed 12/11/2023

Reviewed 6/10/2024

Opportunities for public comment and stakeholder input will be made available throughout the year.



Return to Learn Plan 2.0

- The Ada City School District's *Return to Learn Plan 2.0* is an updated and redesigned plan to meet the needs of **ALL**. The district's plan is modeled after the Oklahoma State Department of Education's (OSDE) *Return to Learn* framework and is closely aligned to the OSDE's *Oklahoma School Safety Protocols*.
- The *Return to Learn Plan 2.0* presented here addresses the following components:
 - School Operations
 - Academics and Instruction
 - Whole Child and Family Support
- In each case, the District's plan has been modified and tailored to meet the diverse needs of the students of the Ada City School District and the community of Ada.
- As has been stated many times, rapidly changing information and scientific research into the the transmission of COVID-19 has caused school districts to continuously adapt and change plans on what seems to be a daily basis. Many uncertainties related to COVID-19 still remain. For this reason, the Ada City School District will continue to rely on the Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE), the Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH), and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) for expert guidance and advice as we continue to make our way through these challenging times.

Return to Learn Plan 2.0

After successfully returning to learn in a traditional in-person format during the 2020-2021 school year, Ada City Schools will remain open for in-person learning for each school year hereafter unless Federal or State COVID-19 mandates dictate otherwise.

In an effort for ALL students to remain Cougars and learn from our Ada City Schools Faculty and Staff, we will be offering a virtual option for students who choose online learning.

Each enrolled student will participate in traditional in-person learning unless the Cougar Academy application is completed and approved by District personnel.

The Ada City School District's original *Return to Learn and Reopen School Plan* was Board approved at a Special Board Meeting on August 3, 2020.

Since that time, several opportunities for public comment and stakeholder input has been provided. The information gained from stakeholders proved to be invaluable as we moved forward to a successful opening to the 2021-2022 School Year. Updated guidance provided by the CDC, Oklahoma State Department of Health, Pontotoc County Health Department and the Oklahoma State Department of Education also played a critical role in developing the revised plan.

The revisions and updates resulted in what we called the Ada City School District's *Return to Learn Plan 2.0*.

The Ada City School District will continue in our efforts to provide our students, teachers and families with the most up-to-date information and research in mitigating the impact of COVID-19 on the school environment.

School Operations

The Ada City School District's *Return to Learn Plan 2.0* specifically addresses the following CDC recommendations:

- **Universal and Correct Wearing of Masks:** If masks become a necessity during an Emergency Order that is the result of a significant COVID outbreak, properly fitted masks covering the mouth and nose will be worn on buses and in situations where students are not able to social distance. As always, Ada City Schools will seek and follow the COVID-19 guidance provided by the CDC, OSDH and the State Department of Education. At the present time, masks are recommended but not required in all school settings.
- **Modifying Facilities for Social Distancing:** In certain locations, school facilities are marked to show the recommended 6 feet of distance in seating and standing wherever possible throughout the Ada City School District. In classrooms, every attempt is made to provide for the recommended social distancing to be in place.
- **Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette:** Students are trained and reminded in the classroom about the health benefits of proper and frequent handwashing as well as respiratory etiquette of covering the mouth during coughs and sneezes. Signage is posted throughout all facilities with these reminders. Hand sanitizer is available in classrooms, offices, cafeteria, and anywhere that students or patrons may pass.
- **Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities including Improving Ventilation:** Ada City Schools uses industrial misting and fogging equipment to sanitize classrooms, buses, and arena seating. In addition, the District is committed to using all available resources to upgrade indoor air quality through mechanical and non-mechanical systems including HVAC units and window replacement.

School Operations

The Ada City School District's *Return to Learn Plan 2.0* specifically addresses the following CDC recommendations:

- **Contact Tracing Combined with Isolation and Quarantine, Collaborating with State, Local, and Tribal Health Departments:** District personnel has attended training with the Oklahoma State Health Department and communicate frequently with all health agencies to remain informed on the status of infections, testing, vaccines, and CDC guidance for prevention habits, isolation, and quarantine in order to keep our students and staff as safe as possible and to maintain in-person learning for most Ada City School District students. Students and staff who are fully vaccinated are not required to quarantine if they are traced to a positive exposure. Certified contact tracers for COVID-19 are on staff and are prepared to initiate quarantine recommendations and notices if necessary. As always, consultation with all relevant health agencies will occur when Contact Tracing is necessary.
- **Diagnostic/Screening Testing:** Many local health agencies offer free COVID testing to all Ada Schools students, staff, and families. Ada Schools remain in close collaboration with the Pontotoc County Health Department, the Chickasaw Nation, Mercy Hospital and The Clinic. Each of these agencies offer COVID support to our students and employees for screening, testing and vaccinations. In addition, the District is partnering with the CDC and the OSDH in the Oklahoma Schools COVID-19 Prevention Program.
- **Vaccination Efforts for School Communities:** Health agencies such as those noted above provide opportunities for District staff and students to receive vaccinations on a consistent basis. We have ongoing collaboration with each of these community partners to provide continuous COVID support.

School Operations

The Ada City School District's *Return to Learn Plan 2.0* specifically addresses the following CDC recommendations:

- **Appropriate accommodations for students with Disabilities with Respect for Health and Safety Policies:** At times when school is moved to remote learning due to COVID, students with disabilities will be offered the option to learn in person in classrooms that have been deep cleaned and sanitized. ESSER COVID Relief funds have been used, or will be used, to purchase adaptive technology for students with disabilities to use when they are required to engage in remote learning due to quarantine, inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances.
- **Coordination with State and Local health officials:** The Pontotoc County Health Department, Oklahoma State Department of Health, Mercy Hospital, The Clinic and Chickasaw Nation Health Center continue to support Ada City Schools with information about outbreaks, COVID screening tests and vaccination clinics. Ada Schools will remain in close contact with the Oklahoma State Department of Education, the Oklahoma State Department of Health, the Oklahoma State Epidemiologist Office and the Pontotoc County Health Department concerning the level of outbreaks and safety protocols enacted in our state and local area.
- **Staying home when sick:** Students and staff should stay home when sick or experiencing symptoms of any contagious illness. You can find additional information and guidance regarding District procedures for returning to school when staff and students are ill on our website at www.adacougars.net under the Health Services tab.

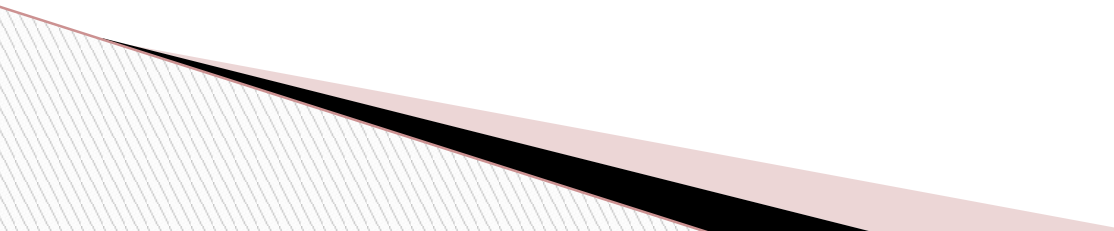
School Operations

All staff and students will receive education and training in COVID-19 safety protocols.

This will include:

- Universal and correct wearing of masks
- Washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Avoiding touching eyes, nose and mouth
- Covering coughs and sneezes
- Staying home when sick
- Social distancing awareness

The district will provide the necessary equipment, supplies and training for the proper application of procedures and safety protocols related to cleaning and disinfecting our facilities.

- All classrooms will be equipped with cleaning supplies and disinfectant and teachers will contribute to our efforts by sanitizing their rooms regularly throughout the day.
 - All high-touch hard surfaces, playground equipment, computers, cafeteria tables, etc. will be cleaned and disinfected routinely.
 - Signage will be prevalent in buildings to educate and remind students and staff regarding safety protocols.
 - Hand sanitizer will be available in classrooms and common areas.
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School Operations

- The Pontotoc County Health Department, the Oklahoma State Department of Health *COVID-19 Color Coded Alert System* and the Oklahoma Department of Education's *Oklahoma School Safety Protocols* will help guide the District's decisions for school closures.
 - It is important to remember that the Oklahoma State Department of Education's *Oklahoma School Safety Protocols* are recommendations rather than mandates.
 - The Ada City School District will follow these guidelines closely when making decisions related to COVID-19 concerns.
 - The Oklahoma School Safety Protocols can be accessed at the link provided below:

[OKLAHOMA SCHOOL SAFETY PROTOCOLS](#)

- School nurses and other trained staff members are designated to be the persons responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns.
- Notifications of positive tests will be compliant with HIPAA and FERPA regulatory standards.
- For more information, visit the following website: [Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)

School Operations

Communication Plan

- The communication plan was developed to help the district provide clear and consistent messaging to all stakeholders.
- Communication channels include the following:
 - **Districtwide “Single Voice” Communications**
 - School Messenger
 - Social Media (District Twitter and Facebook accounts)
 - District Website (www.adacougars.net) with messages and videos
 - **Specific School Site Communications**
 - School Messenger
 - Social Media (Specific school site Twitter and Facebook accounts)
 - District Website (www.adacougars.net) -- tab to “School Site Pages” with messages and videos
 - **Teacher, Parent, and Student Communication**
 - **Communicate by:**
 - Google Classroom and Google Meet
 - Emails
 - Phone Calls
 - Text Messages
 - The updated *Return to Learn Plan 2.0* can be found on the district website at www.adacougars.net

School Operations

Communication Plan

- **Single Site Point of Contact**
 - The district has established a district point of contact for all things related to coronavirus.
 - The district contacts and their email addresses are Bryan Harwell (harwellb@adapss.com) and Eddie Jacobs (jacobse@adapss.com). They can also be reached by phone at (580) 310-7200.
 - The main District contacts noted above will serve as a public contacts for any questions or concerns, as well as serving as the liaison with the health department if there is a positive case.
- **School Nurse Contact Information**
 - School Nurse
 - 580-310-7340
 - In addition to the two School Nurses mentioned above, the Ada City School District has employed additional Health Aides that are based at Hayes Grade Center and Washington Grade Center each school day. The Health Aides also make routine checks at Ada Junior High and Ada High School. Each will take care of simple first aid such as minor bruises and scrapes, administer certain medications, and check temperatures and any COVID symptoms that may occur on site at Hayes and Washington. This helps to free up the District's School Nurse to take care of serious injuries or illnesses including those associated with COVID-19. The Health Aides are trained in administering medications, CPR, AED, and first aid by the District's Registered Nurse/Director of Health Services.

School Operations

Public Health Protocols

The District will continue to provide updated and accurate information on the many options for COVID-19 diagnostic and screening testing. There are many locations around the community of Ada, including District school sites, that provide COVID testing on a regular basis. In addition, the District will continue to provide information on where to receive all school related vaccinations. Information will also be provided on COVID vaccination opportunities for those families who wish to do so. **COVID vaccinations are NOT required for school attendance.**

For school enrollment, a parent or guardian shall provide one of the following:

1. Current, up-to-date immunization records

-- OR --

2. A completed and signed exemption form.

Daily Screening Protocols are paused and will not be required unless circumstances dictate otherwise.

- If parents send their child/children to school, they are certifying to the District that they symptom free and are healthy.
- If teachers report to work, then they are certifying to the District that they symptom free and are healthy.
- Students and staff should stay home when sick or experiencing symptoms of any contagious illness. You can find additional information and guidance regarding District procedures for returning to school when staff and students are ill on our website at www.adacougars.net under the Health Services tab.

School Operations

- **Plans for School Gatherings or School Activities**
 - Depending on the level of community spread, all Athletics and Activities will continue as planned with extra measures taken to ensure the safety of students and staff. Additional measures may be implemented as needed. Procedures for Athletics, Band, and other Extracurricular Activities will follow recommendations and guidelines provided by the Oklahoma Secondary Schools Activities Association and all relevant health agencies. Specific information about practices, events, and precautions will be distributed by coaches, sponsors and the district Athletic Director.
 - The Use of Masks (Masks are recommended, but not required)
 - Certain visitor restrictions will remain in place. For example: We are encouraging all visitors to make an appointment when possible.
 - The staff of community organizations, health care providers and local government agencies that provide additional educational and wraparound services to students will be allowed into buildings.
- The Ada City School District will continue to collaborate with state and local health officials to maintain appropriate mitigation techniques in conjunction with environmental factors. The District will always consider what is feasible, practical, acceptable, and tailored to the needs of our community.

School Operations

- **Policies for Social Distancing and Gatherings**
 - **Stakeholder input has revealed a desire for our students to resume to a more “normal” daily schedule.**
 - Social Distancing will be employed when conditions warrant.
 - Our intentions are to resume a more normal approach to classroom, cafeteria and playground Social Distancing Procedures.
 - Educational Field Trips, school assemblies, guest speakers and special class activities may resume with certain protocols and safety guidelines in place.
 - Developing safety protocols will continue to be a “work in progress” as we receive updated guidance and advice from all relevant health agencies.
 - Meet and Greet and Orientation will take place over two days instead of one. At the elementary levels, Meet and Greet will be by appointment only.
 - Parents are instructed to bring school supplies on Meet and Greet and Orientation dates.

School Operations

- **Environmental Factors and Mitigation Strategies**

To help protect students, staff, and visitors while on school property, the Ada City School District will collaborate with state and local health officials to implement mitigation techniques in conjunction with environmental factors. The District will consider what is feasible, practical, acceptable, and tailored to the needs of our community. Note -- **As we receive additional guidance, the following District Strategies may be modified.**

- **Masks** -- The following is a statement of the District's current mask protocols:

- At a Special Board Meeting on May 20, 2021, the Board approved the following recommendation and policy change:
 - *Unless CDC, County and/or State Health Agency Guidance dictates otherwise (such as a State of Emergency declared by the Governor of Oklahoma), masks are recommended, but not required.*
- This policy went into effect when Summer School started on June 7, 2021 and will remain in place unless circumstances dictate otherwise. This policy pertains to all students, faculty and staff of the Ada City School District and is applicable at all school sites and facilities.
- [Senate Bill 658](#), which Gov. Kevin Stitt signed into law early in June and which went into effect July 1, prohibits schools from enacting mandates for masks and other medical devices. Therefore, our policy will remain in place and continue to state that masks are recommended, but not required. If the governor enacts an Emergency Order relating to COVID, then this mask policy may be revisited and revised.

School Operations

- **The following Environmental Factors and Mitigation Strategies may be modified as we receive additional guidance.**
 - **Enrollment**
 - Enrollment confirmation is scheduled for early August each school year. Depending on the CDC and OSDH guidance, procedures may be enacted to limit the number of people in the Ada Cougar Activity Center during those days.
 - The district can accommodate families with limited or no internet access. If this is the case, please call 580-310-7200 and you will be directed to a District staff member who can provide assistance.
 - **Calendars**
 - The guidance on school calendars that was provided by state agencies such as the OSDE and OSHD varied widely. The District has elected to adopt Academic Calendars that we feel best fits the needs of our community. The current Ada City School District Calendar can be found on the District's website at www.adacougars.net under "Quick Links."
 - **Transportation**
 - Transporting students continues to be one of our greatest challenges.
 - The District will commit to disinfecting buses before and after each route.
 - We know that many of our students currently ride the bus to and from school each day and we will continue to provide this service. Masks are recommended while on the bus. Masks MAY become a necessity during an Emergency Order that is the result of a significant COVID outbreak.

Academics and Instruction

The Ada City School District will begin the school year in a traditional learning environment where students and teachers can interact in face-to-face settings on a daily basis.

In addition, The Ada City School District will continue to offer the choice of a traditional in-person learning environment, a blended framework or a virtual learning setting through our Cougar Academy.

Students will receive instruction that is aligned to state standards. Grades will be taken regularly, and progress will be monitored for Academic Growth. Students will be counted absent if not in attendance. To be in attendance, a student must be in class or participating remotely with school permission. This includes students enrolled virtually.

All students will participate in traditional in-person learning unless the virtual application and intake process are completed and finalized.

Remote learning will be used when school is closed due to COVID, inclement weather, or other unforeseen circumstances. Remote learning days count as a day of attendance for students who login and participate in their assigned Learning and Content Management systems.

Academics and Instruction

- **Planning for Instruction**

- The Ada City School District is committed to ongoing support for instruction. Communication plans with families will be consistent, clear, and concise. Curriculum and instruction will support the social and emotional well-being of every student.
- The District will emphasize the use of technology in the traditional classroom with the expectation that ALL students will benefit from the integration of technology on a daily basis.
- Every resource available will be used to guide instruction and support learners at every grade level and in every subject area.
- Support for students will continue as our school counselors collaborate with colleges, universities, and Careertech Centers for college and career readiness.
- Internships, Concurrent Enrollment, and Individual Career Academic Plans (ICAPS) will be available for our secondary students.
- Ada City Schools will respond to the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of all students, and particularly those students disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, including students from low-income families, students of color, English learners, children with disabilities, students experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, and migratory students.
- All 504 and IEP Plans will be followed. Any modification to service due to health concerns will be documented and agreed upon utilizing normal meeting processes. All IEP/504 team meetings will be held in person unless a request is made for a phone conference. For more information about IEP and/or 504 plans, contact Special Services at 580-310-7242.

Academics and Instruction

- **1:1 Technology Initiative**

- The Ada City School District made a commitment to provide technology devices to students on a 1:1 basis at every grade level. This initiative provides every student with a chromebook, laptop or similar device. The commitment to technology will lend itself to improvements in every learning environment for every student whether that is in the Traditional, Virtual, or Distance Learning setting. ALL of the District's students will benefit from this initiative.
- The Ada City School District continues to plan for Distance Learning with required student participation, attendance, and grading requirements for the school year.
 - Distance Learning describes any means by which instruction will be delivered to students outside a traditional school setting.
 - Distance Learning may be deployed in an emergency, such as a resurgence of COVID-19 or other circumstances (ex: inclement weather) when students cannot receive on-site instruction in a school building.

Academics and Instruction

What is Cougar Academy?

The Ada City School District has expanded educational opportunities to better accommodate the needs of students and families. The *Cougar Academy (CA)* is for students who would benefit from a virtual education solution due to health concerns, scheduling conflicts, or other extenuating circumstances and that would best be served through virtual online learning.

Enrollment in the *Cougar Academy* will require a semester long commitment, a completed application and an interview with the appropriate school personnel.

The *Cougar Academy* provides an innovative opportunity for customized online learning for students in grades Pre K-12. In addition, secondary students may have an option to access all courses online or BLEND their learning experience by attending some classes in person at their school site. For example, a secondary student could choose to participate in the *Cougar Academy* online and also in on-site co-curricular activities such as athletics and/or fine arts programs if enrolled in those on-site courses.

The *Cougar Academy* is a free virtual education program for students. The CA team, composed of a coordinator, site principal, counselor, parent, and student, will determine the best option to meet the student's needs. The CA Coordinator and/or the student's certified teacher will monitor student progress weekly through in-person and/or virtual meetings, email, or phone calls.

Whole Child and Family Support

Social Emotional Learning and Mental Health

The Ada City School District makes it our highest priority to take the time to build and renew relationships with our students and families. Strategies include:

- Student Leadership programs at every grade level.
- The *Leader in Me* programs where Social-Emotional strategies are aligned with Stephen Covey's *7 Habits of Highly Effective People*.
- Site level committees, as well as District and community level committees, will be in place to monitor risk, to provide outreach to at-risk students, and to support the mental health and well-being of our students and staff.
- Continuing partnerships with local first responders in the District's *Handle With Care* program. The *Handle With Care* program provides a direct line of communication for first responders to notify District officials when a child has been identified at the scene of a traumatic event.
- *Advancing Wellness And Resiliency in Education* (AWARE Grant):
 - Provides direct student services in the area of mental health to all students enrolled in Ada City Schools.
 - District employees will coordinate grant activities, not only within the district, but throughout the community.