

North Harlem School District # 6

Safe Return to School and Continuity of Services Plan

Date of Original Adoption of 1900 Policy Series: June 8, 2020

Date Plan was Last Revised: July 10, 2021, September 8, 2021

Dates Reviewed: August 10, 2020, October 19, 2020, January 13, 2021, April 13, 2021, June 8, 2021.

August 2020-August 2021

The North Harlem School District # 6 was ordered to close to in person instruction on March 15, 2020 as per County Supt instruction.

Although our district was authorized to remain closed, we quickly mobilized and began remote

instruction during the time frame when we were authorized to remain closed. Our school

district continued remote instruction from March 16, 2020, to March 26, 2020, through hard

copy packets of materials exchanged on a weekly basis.

Beginning on March 29, 2020, until May

26, 2020, certified and classified staff worked primarily on-site (at school) or occasionally teleworking (off-site) providing instruction to students through the following mechanism:

On-line subscriptions and websites including: Think Central, Learning A-Z, Discovery Education, World Book on-line, Google Classroom.

Phone conference calls and emails. Students were also talking directly to their teacher to get help with questions.

Hard copy packets of materials continued to be a part of the instruction with a weekly exchange of materials.

In order to ensure that all students had access to on-line coursework, the North Harlem School District # 6 provided laptops for those students who did not have the necessary devices. All students and families and teachers were set up with email accounts for constant contact throughout the day.

Our district developed a plan for reopening to in person instruction, with contingencies, and we implemented that plan for the 2020-21 school year. The summer months were used to implement sanitation plans/protocols and gather supplies needed for reopening. The reopening plan, details regarding which are provided below, included adoption of various model policies provided by the Montana Small Schools Alliance under its 1900 series aligned with CDC guidance.

Full capacity normal schedule

Staff will be vigilant in monitoring student health. Staff and students not feeling well should stay home.

Students who become ill during the day will be sent home as students in North Harlem School are within walking distance of their homes.

Hold outdoor classes when possible.

Restrict nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving other groups at the same time.

Create physical distance between children on playground where possible.

When possible and if necessary, student schedules will be adjusted to accommodate social distancing measures.

Monitor students for re-emergence of virus.

Be prepared for a possible return to Phase 1 protocols/policies.

Provide technology to students in need of laptop/tablets.

During on site learning, students will be asked to assist in cleaning duties regarding desks/tables, educational materials, and technological devices.

Teacher should prepare alternative instruction for students who are unable to attend school for five or more consecutive school days.

North Harlem School District # 6 reopened to in classroom teaching on August 19, 2020, and remained opened during the entire 2020-2021 school year. All the families returned throughout the first quarter of school and returned to regular classroom at the end of the quarter on October 25, 2020.

Our district finished the 2020-2021 school year strong, having provided high quality learning opportunities to the students in our community in safe and effective learning environments.

North Harlem School District # 6 embraced a fundamental principle of providing extensive transparency to our community throughout the above time frame. We publicly noticed, held meetings, and provided extensive opportunities for our community to provide us with feedback regarding the School District's plans and we carefully considered such feedback in developing and refining the School District's plans throughout the last 14-15 months.

Part 1: Because the school is in a unique cultural environment in that all the students live in close proximity in a communal setting, we were able to monitor and interact with parents and staff on an almost daily basis. Documentation of Meaningful Consultation in Developing and Refining the School District's plan from March 2020 Through June 2021 was possible.

And a safe return was planned, with State and county recommendations.

Part II: Contents of the School District's plan for Safe return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services:

A description of how the district will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff for the 2021-2022 school year:

All students will come back to campus and resume normal instruction. Frequent handwashing, disinfecting of surfaces and commonly touched areas, and social distancing will be maintained. Students and staff may wear masks or personal protective gear if they choose.

Gatherings of larger than normal class size are restricted. Restrict nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving other groups at the same time.

Any student/staff with a fever or not feeling well must stay home.

Teachers should prepare alternative instruction for students who are unable to attend school for five or more consecutive school days.

Students who become ill during the day will be sent home, which is possible as students live within walking distance of school.

Students will be encouraged to disinfect personal belongings and desks daily.

. Students will use the fill stations for drinking fountains, but staff and students

are encouraged to bring individual water bottles. Hold outdoor classes when possible.

Create physical distance between children in school and on playground where possible.

North Harlem School District # 6 implemented policies that facilitated collaboration between the Board of

Trustees, administrator, teachers, staff, parents, students, local health officials. And community

as we established protocols aligned with CDC guidance addressing how instruction was to be

delivered to students; how gatherings and events would take place on school property; how the

health and safety of staff and students would be protected and preserved while schools were

open; and how financial and operational functions of the school district would continue during the period of public health emergency.

North Harlem School District # 6 reviewed, considered, and addressed numerous areas of operation in our reopening process. On the topic of school district policy and procedures, the district considered emergency policies and procedures, adoption and amendment of policies, suspension of policies, and administrative procedures. To support students' academic, mental, social, and emotional success, the district considered alternative grading, counseling, student instruction proficiency, support of particularly vulnerable students, access to internet for students, additional student instruction resources. To ensure the health and safety of students, teachers, and staff, the district considered cleaning and disinfection, community use of facilities, county board of health orders, diagnosis and confidentiality, hand washing and related hygiene products, telework, school closure orders, stay at home orders, symptom monitoring and isolation, travel quarantines, visitors, volunteers, vulnerable individuals, masks and personal protective equipment, and physical distancing.

North Harlem School District # 6 has remained in compliance with guidance and best practices provided by federal, state, or local health officials. Our school district has continued to adapt and adjust our policies as new and updated guidance and best practices have become available.

North Harlem School District # 6 will continue to follow the policies while engaging in a semiannual reevaluation process to

continue to ensure the health, safety, and wellbeing of our students, teachers, staff, and community through 2024.