

Velva Public Schools
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Velva Public Schools

Continuity of Services Plan

2021-2022 School Year

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Administration

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Implementation Team

The administration and school board will be responsible for the preparation, implementation, and review of our Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan. The superintendent of schools, Mr. Dave Schoch, has been identified as the coordinator of this team and will assign roles and responsibilities as necessary to the members of the team. Any modifications or amendments to this plan will require the final authorization from the school board of Velva Public Schools (VCPS).

Overview, Review, and Availability of Plan

This plan has been developed to meet the requirements that have been established by the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (ND DPI) following the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act. The purpose of the ARP is to help safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impacts of COVID-19 on the nation's students.

VPS will continue to review this plan, as required, at least every six months and will include opportunities for public input. The plan will continue to be made available to the public on the district website at <http://www.velva.k12.nd.us/> and in hard copy upon request at the district office at 101 4th St., Velva, ND 58790.

Health & Safety

The health and safety of our students and staff is the top priority. The health and safety procedures in this plan have been developed in consultation with local health officials.

COVID-19 spreads when people are in relatively close proximity, through respiratory droplets generated through coughing, sneezing, or talking to an infected person. The most effective measures to mitigate exposure include: masks/face coverings, physical distancing, handwashing, and cleaning frequently touched surfaces.

Wellness

- Students staff who are sick should not attend school.
- Parents or caregivers will be asked to monitor children for signs of infectious illness.
- Any individual with a fever of 100.4 degrees or greater should not be present in school.

Cleaning & Disinfecting

- Staff will perform routine cleaning and disinfecting throughout the day.
- Nonirritating disinfectants will be used to avoid triggering breathing issues of students and staff.

Hand Hygiene

Handwashing with soap & water or hand sanitizer will be used when arriving at school, before and after eating, after using the bathroom and other times when it is the best interest of the students and staff.

Face Coverings

Face coverings may be worn, but not required, in schools and on school property. The decision to wear a face covering will rest with the student and/or their individual parents/guardians. Any changes to the rule will be communicated with stakeholders as soon as possible.

Protecting Vulnerable Populations of Students & Staff

We will consider the special health and education needs of students that are considered high-risk due to pre-existing conditions that make them more vulnerable to severe illness due to COVID-19. These processes will be followed:

- Students with current plans (IEP, 504, Health Plan, etc.) will be reviewed and updated to decrease the risk for exposure to COVID-19.
- Empowering students/families and staff to self-identify high-risk for severe illness due to COVID-19 and consider requests for alternative learning plans or work re-assignments.

Contact Tracing, Diagnostic Screening & Testing, Vaccinations

Contact tracing, vaccinations, diagnostic screening and diagnostic testing requirements will follow state and federal health guidelines.

Educating Students in Any and All Environments

Velva Public Schools has planned and prepared for the continued in person learning plan during the 2021- 2022 school year. Throughout the school year, the learning plan may change at any time and students may be required to transition from one learning plan to another. The school year, at this time, will begin on August 25, 2021, utilizing Plan A.

Plan A- In-Person Learning Without Restrictions

Students return to school and all restrictions lifted

Plan B- In-Person Learning with Restrictions

Students return to school following the safety requirements and modifications to accommodate health and safety requirements.

Examples of Restrictions

- No field trips, large-group gatherings, assemblies, etc.
- Utilizing alternative school spaces to accommodate physical distancing guidelines
- Reducing the mixing of student groups (i.e. students restricted to grade level groups)

Plan C- Remote Learning

Student learning will be delivered using online resources away from the school campus.

Mental Health

Velva Public Schools will continue to prioritize the mental health needs of our students and staff during the 2021-2022 school year. Following the implementation of resources and services during the past school year, the Velva Public School Board will continue to ensure that school-based student behavioral health counseling will be available for all students

School Meals

Meals will continue to be served at schools, free of charge for all students, throughout the 2021-2022 school year. Students will be charged \$0.75 for seconds.

Transportation

Velva Public Schools will continue provide rural transportation services for students within our school district. As necessary, proper health and safety guidelines will be followed for any student riding a school bus.

Communication

We believe that communication between students, staff, parents, families, and community members are essential to the overall success of our school district. The ongoing collaboration among stakeholders of our school district will help strengthen student educational opportunities, experiences, and outcomes. The following methods of communication will be utilized by VCPS during the 2021-2022 school year:

Our methods of communication will include:

- Elementary Folder Notes
- School/District Email Listservs
- District Website
- Social-Media- Facebook
- Digital Applications- Remind App, Google Classroom
- Swift Reach Phone Notification System

Special Education

Velva Public Schools will work in conjunction and collaboration with Souris Valley Special Education Unit to ensure that educational decisions for students with Individual Education Plans (IEPs) will be made on an individual basis and in compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and ND Department of Instruction Office of Special Education guidelines. The learning environment, services, and accommodations for students with disabilities will be determined through the student's IEP team, including student's parent or guardian, school administration, and staff. The team will work together to develop plans that will ensure equitable and effective access to provide FAPE for students with special needs in all learning environments.

Special education case managers will be the contact people for communication between each IEP student's parents/guardians and required team members, and will monitor the continuation of services and accommodations, whether they are provided virtually, in-person, or a combination model. The school district's Restart Plan will focus on procedures for delivering education within the district, which will also apply to holding IEP team meetings and completing required special education procedures, while maintaining student and staff health and safety, according to the North Dakota K-12 Smart Restart guidelines.

Resources

- [ND Department of Public Instruction](#)
- [ND Department of Health](#)
- [Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [American Academy of Pediatrics](#)