

**COVID-19 Mitigation Plan**

The following policy establishes actions that will be taken by the district to provide a safe learning and working environment during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, and shall supersede any conflicting language in existing district policies or administrative regulations until the Governing Board determines that the need for this policy no longer exists. The Board acknowledges that, due to the evolving nature of the pandemic, federal, state, and local orders impacting district operations are subject to change without notice. In the event that any federal or state law and/or order or local order may conflict with this policy, the law or order shall govern.

The Board may also adopt resolutions or take other actions as needed to respond to such orders or provide further direction during the pandemic.

To limit the impact of the pandemic on the education of district students, the district shall implement learning recovery, social-emotional support, and other measures and strategies designed to keep students learning and engaged in the instructional program.

**COVID-19 Safety Plan**

The Superintendent or designee shall establish, implement, and maintain a COVID-19 safety plan that complies with any mandatory public health guidance of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), the COVID-19 prevention program ("CPP") consistent with the regulations of the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health, any orders of state or local health authorities, and any other applicable law and/or health order(s). The Superintendent or designee shall ensure, at a minimum, that the COVID-19 safety plan complies with all mandatory guidance and gives priority to recommended practices that are identified as being particularly effective at COVID-19 mitigation. The Superintendent or designee shall regularly review public health guidance to ensure that the district's COVID-19 mitigation strategies are current with public health mandates or recommendations.

The district's COVID-19 safety plan shall be posted on the district's web site.

To promote transparency and facilitate decision-making regarding COVID-19 mitigation strategies, the Superintendent or designee shall report to the Board on a regular basis regarding the following:

1. Level of community transmission of COVID-19
2. COVID-19 vaccination coverage in the community and among students and staff
3. Any local COVID-19 outbreaks or increasing trends
4. Changes to local, state, and/or federal public health guidance, orders, and laws
5. Any revisions to the district's COVID-19 safety plan

**Reporting to the Public Health Department**

Upon learning that a school employee or student who has tested positive for COVID-19 was present on campus while infectious, the Superintendent or designee shall immediately, and in

**COVID-19 Mitigation Plan** (continued)

no case later than 24 hours after learning of the positive case, notify the local health officer or the local health officer's representative about the positive case. The notification shall be made even if the individual who tested positive has not provided prior consent to the disclosure of personally identifiable information and shall include all of the following information, if known: (Education Code 32090)

1. Identifying information of the individual who tested positive, including full name, address, telephone number, and date of birth
2. The date of the positive test, the school(s) at which the individual was present, and the date the individual was last onsite at the school(s)
3. The name, address, and telephone number of the person making the report

If a school has two or more outbreaks of COVID-19 and is subject to a safety review by CDPH pursuant to Education Code 32090, the Superintendent or designee shall cooperate fully with the review.

**Stakeholder Engagement and Community Relations**

The district shall solicit input from stakeholders on how to best support students following the learning disruptions of the pandemic through appropriate methods, which may include surveys, community and family meetings, and other methods identified by the Superintendent or designee.

The Superintendent or designee shall collaborate with local health authorities to ensure that parents/guardians are provided with the information needed to ensure that public health guidance is observed in the home as well as in school, such as information about isolation and quarantine requirements, face mask requirements, symptom checks prior to school attendance, and who to contact when students have symptoms and/or were exposed.

The Superintendent or designee shall use a variety of methods to regularly communicate with students, parents/guardians, and the community regarding community transmission levels, district operations, school schedules, and steps the district is taking to promote the health and safety of students. In addition, the members of the Board have a responsibility as community leaders to communicate matters of public interest in a manner that is consistent with Board policies and bylaws regarding public statements.

The district shall continue to collaborate with local health officials and agencies, community organizations, and other stakeholders to ensure that district operations reflect current recommendations and best practices for COVID-19 mitigation strategies. The Superintendent or designee shall keep informed about resources and services available in the community to assist students and families in need.

**COVID-19 Mitigation Plan** (continued)**Learning Recovery and Social-Emotional Support**

The Superintendent or designee shall develop a plan for assessing students' current academic levels early in the school year to ensure that each student is provided with appropriate opportunities for learning recovery based on need. The plan may include:

1. Use of interim or diagnostic assessments
2. Review of available data from assessments within the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress
3. Review of attendance data from the 2020-2021 school year
4. Review of prior year grades
5. Discussion of student needs and strengths with parents/guardians and former teachers

The Superintendent or designee shall develop and implement a learning recovery program that, at a minimum, provides supplemental instruction and support for social emotional well-being, and to the maximum extent permissible meals and snacks, to eligible students. (Education Code 43522)

**Supplemental Instruction and Support**

The district shall provide students with evidence-based supports and interventions in a tiered framework that bases universal, targeted, and intensive supports on students' needs for academic, social-emotional, and other integrated student supports through a program of engaging learning experiences in a positive school climate. (Education Code 43522)

Targeted and intensive supports may include: (Education Code 43522)

1. Extending instructional learning time based on student learning needs including through summer school or intersessional instructional programs
2. Tutoring or other one-on-one or small group learning supports provided by certificated or classified staff
3. Learning recovery programs and materials designed to accelerate student academic proficiency, English language proficiency, or both
4. Integrated student supports to address other barriers to learning, such as:
  - a. The provision of health, counseling, or mental health services
  - b. Access to school meal programs

**COVID-19 Mitigation Plan** (continued)

- c. Access to before and after school programs
  - d. Programs to address student trauma and social-emotional learning
  - e. Referrals for support for family or student needs
5. Community learning hubs that provide students with access to technology, high-speed internet, and other academic supports
  6. Supports for credit deficient students to complete graduation or grade promotion requirements and to increase or improve students' college eligibility
  7. Additional academic services for students, such as diagnostic, progress monitoring, and benchmark assessments of student learning
  8. Other interventions identified by the Superintendent or designee

To ensure schoolwide implementation of the district's tiered framework of supports, the Superintendent or designee shall plan staff development that includes: (Education Code 43522)

1. Accelerated learning strategies and effective techniques for closing learning gaps, including training in facilitating quality learning opportunities for all students
2. Strategies, including trauma-informed practices, to engage students and families in addressing students' social- emotional health needs and academic needs

**Reengagement for Chronically Absent Students**

The Board recognizes that COVID-19 will continue to impact the attendance of students. The Superintendent or designee shall notify students and parents/guardians of expectations regarding school attendance. Such notification shall direct any student who contracts the virus or is subject to a quarantine order to stay home in accordance with state and local health orders.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure continuity of instruction for students who may be under a quarantine order to stay home, by offering such students independent study or other instructional delivery channels that allows the student to continue to participate in the instructional program to the greatest extent possible.

**Nondiscrimination**

The Board prohibits discrimination based on actual or perceived medical condition or disability status. (Government Code 11135)

**COVID-19 Mitigation Plan** (continued)

Individual students and staff shall not be identified as being COVID-positive, nor shall students be shamed, treated differently, or denied access to a free and appropriate public education because of their COVID-19 status or medical condition. Staff shall not disclose confidential or privileged information, including the medical history or health information of students and staff except as allowed by law. (Education Code 49450)

The Superintendent or designee shall investigate any reports of harassment, intimidation, and bullying targeted at any student based on their medical condition or COVID status, exposure, or high-risk status.

*State References*

*California Family Rights Act -  
<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/abM0slshHCKrMbGboplusCdDiIag==>  
5 CCR 202 Exclusion of students with a contagious disease  
5 CCR 306 Explanation of absence  
5 CCR 420-421 Record of verification of absence due to illness and other causes  
Ed. Code 44978 Sick leave, certificated employees  
Ed. Code 45191 Personal illness and injury leave, classified employees  
Ed. Code 48205 Excused absences  
Ed. Code 48213 Prior parent notification of exclusion; exemption  
Ed. Code 48240 Supervisors of attendance  
Ed. Code 49451 Physical examinations: parent's refusal to consent  
Gov. Code 11135 Nondiscrimination in programs or activities funded by state  
Gov. Code 12945.1-12945.2 California Family Rights Act  
H&S Code 120230 Exclusion of persons from school when residence is in isolation or quarantine  
Lab. Code 245-249 Healthy Workplaces, Healthy Families Act of 2014*

*Federal References*

*29 CFR 825.100-825.702 Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993  
29 USC 2601 Paid sick leave  
29 USC 2601-2654 Family Care and Medical Leave Act  
29 USC 2620 Public health emergency leave  
42 USC 1760 Note National School Lunch program waivers addressing COVID-19*

*Management Resources References*

*California Department of Education Publication FAQs for 2019 Novel Coronavirus  
California Department of Education Publication FAQs on Grading and Graduation Requirements  
California Department of Public Health Publication CDPH Guidance for the Prevention of COVID-19  
Transmission for California Department of Public Health Publication School Guidance on Novel  
Coronavirus or COVID-19, March 7, 2020*

Policy  
adopted: April 5, 2022

**VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
Visalia, California