***Glenns Ferry School District #192***

***American Rescue Plan: Safe Return to School 2023-24***

*Introduction:*

In the summer of 2020, the Glenns Ferry School District #192 convened the Re-open Committee to create a return to school plan for the 2020-2021 school year. The committee was made up of school district staff members being Teachers, Administrators, the School Nurse, Tech Director, Transportation Director, and the Food Service Director. The plan was created with the work from this committee by gathering input from staff members in the area of the schools they worked in. They also gathered input from community members through conversation.

In addition, a community survey was sent out as well as posted to the district website and was utilized to gain additional feedback. The finalized plan was revised throughout the year based on the changing recommendations of the CDC and CDH and input from school board members, community members, and staff of GFSD.

Based on feedback, changing recommendations of the CDC, as well as the low number of COVID-19 cases in our schools and community, the plan below outlines the updated protocols for the beginning of the 2023-24 school year. As is required by law, this plan will be reviewed at least every six (6) months. This review will include an opportunity for stakeholder (community, staff, student, etc.) consultation and input.

*HEALTH AND SAFETY STRATEGIES*

Face Coverings: Properly fitting face coverings are recommended and are optional for all staff, students, and visitors (CDC recommendation) when indoors and in crowded settings, when physical distancing cannot be maintained.

PPE: Each school has access to disposable masks available in the office for use by staff, students, and patrons electing to utilize a face covering. It is the recommendation of the CDC that a properly fitting mask be utilized in school by all individuals when indoors and in crowded settings, when physical distancing cannot be maintained.

Hygiene: Hand sanitizer will be made readily available throughout the school. Each classroom and office is supplied with dispensers for hand sanitizer. Posters communicating the importance of hygiene (handwashing and respiratory etiquette) will be displayed and communicated.

Social Distancing: Staff will maximize social distancing within classrooms and other building spaces (gym, cafeteria, auditoriums, etc.) to the greatest extent possible. CDC recommends maintaining 3 feet of physical distance between students.

Symptomatic students/staff: Any student or staff member displaying symptoms of COVID-19 may be excluded from school and school related activities. Symptomatic individuals may return early with a negative COVID-19 test and no longer have symptoms of COVID.

COVID Positive/Presumed Positive: Students and staff who are COVID-19 positive/presumed positive will be excluded from school and all school related activities until a doctor approves for them to return.

COVID-19 Exposure: Contact tracing will be done by CDH and will identify students and staff who are considered exposed to COVID-19. Those identified as exposed will be contacted by CDH and provided with information explaining the CDC recommendations regarding quarantining and monitoring for symptoms.

COVID-19 Testing: GFSD will continue to use results of tests from health care facilities. If a more efficient manner of testing becomes available through the school, such as the saliva-based tests then those tests will be utilized in order to make a return to school for students and staff possible sooner.

School Cleaning: Extra attention will be given to the cleaning of buildings with products approved to kill the COVID-19 virus. Students and staff will clean desks and other high touch surfaces throughout the day and the HVAC system will be upgraded to improve air quality/ventilation.

Communications Plan: Parents/guardians will no longer be notified of known exposures to COVID-19. New guidelines and recommendations may be shared with students, staff, and parents through the use of our mass communication system, signage within buildings, use of district social media, and other means of communication to stakeholders if extreme illness warrants the sharing of this information for the health benefit of our students, staff and community.

Immunization: The COVID-19 vaccine is not required or tracked by GFSD. Parents/guardians and staff will be made aware of opportunities for immunization against COVID-19. Onsite clinics may also be utilized. GFSD will continue to work with Central District Health to communicate updates and recommendations regarding COVID-19 vaccinations.

*Continuity of Services:*

In-Person Option: GFSD will maintain face-to-face instruction to the greatest extent possible utilizing the health and safety strategies outlined above designed to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Schools will operate educational services in a regular fashion whenever feasible. This includes maintaining open campuses for in-person learning four days a week as outlined in the GFSD school year calendar, except in instances of emergencies.

Remote Option: GFSD Will not offer a remote option for the 2022-23 school year

Special Education: IEP teams will ensure student needs are met. Special education teachers and general education teachers will partner to ensure all IEP components are met. Unique circumstances resulting from COVID-19 will be addressed in partnership with parents in order to meet the needs of the student. These unique circumstances will be communicated with all impacted employees including those involved in transporting students.

Digital Access: All students will have access to a device to take home to complete work remotely when excluded.

Student/Family Support: The School Counselor will be available to students who need assistance with social, emotional, and/or mental health issues. The School Counselor will provide individual and group sessions for students as needed. The School Counselor will make available a variety of community resources for parents in support of their child(ren). The School Counselor will also work with staff on schoolwide programs designed to assist students. These programs may include peer support programs, such as Sources of Strength, referral for counseling services both on and off campus, and social emotional wellness education programs.

Project AWARE: The School Counselor will work with the Mental Health Counselor that has been contracted through the Project AWARE Grant. The School Counselor and the Mental Health Counselor will work collaboratively in getting students and families set up with counseling services through the Project AWARE Mental Health Counselor or through other outside agencies if needed. Through the Project AWARE Grant we will be able to also provide presentations and training to families and community members in relation to mental health awareness and support.

Staff Support: The Employee Assistance Program will be utilized to assist any staff member who needs assistance with social, emotional, and/or mental health. In addition, staff will be notified of programs and other opportunities designed to assist staff with individual needs during difficult times. Through the Project AWARE Grant we have been connected to Insight Counseling Agency. Insight Counseling has stepped up and has agreed to provide support to our staff as needed.

Plan Review:

Plan Review date: May 8, 2024

This plan will be reviewed and revised at least every six (6) months and may include a process for stakeholder input through the committee and or surveys if the health situation at the time warrants further input. Timing of the review will be related to the health conditions within Glenns Ferry Schools.