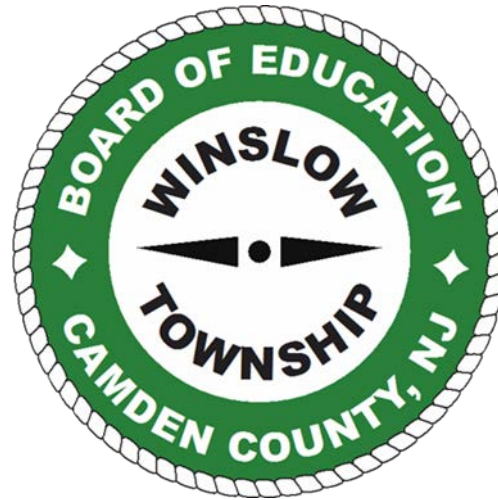


Winslow Township Board of Education

40 Cooper Folly Road, Atco, New Jersey 08004

Safe Return Plan

2023-2024 School Year



Preparing Our Students for Tomorrow.....Today!

H. Major Poteat, Ed.D., Superintendent

LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

LEA Name: Winslow Township School District (5820)

Date (mm/dd/yyyy): 06/24/2021

Date Revised (mm/dd/yyyy): 08/25/2021, 10/04/2021, 10/13/2021
12/21/2021, 01/21/2022, 03/02/2022,
09/06/2022

1. Maintaining Health and Safety

For each mitigation strategy listed below (A–H), please describe how the LEA will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff and the extent to which it has adopted policies, and a description of any such policies, on each of the following safety recommendations established by the CDC.

A. Universal and correct wearing of masks (Revised)

1. As of March 7, 2022, the State’s mandate requiring in-school universal masking will expire. Therefore, the wearing of mask will be optional in the Winslow Township School District and on school buses.
2. The district will follow the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) guidelines for wearing masks during periods of elevated community transmission. The district will evaluate guidance documents as updates are made to adjust district policies and procedures.
3. The district will utilize the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) resources on proper mask wearing and staff will reinforce proper mask wearing at the building level under special circumstances. ([NJ DOH Guidelines](#))
4. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be provided to staff and students when necessary. Staff and students may use their own PPE if desired.

B. Physical distancing (e.g., including use of cohorts/podding)

1. **Classrooms:** Physical distancing will be in accordance with the CDC guidelines at the time of school reopening (September 2021). Staff and student furniture will be adjusted according to the current social distancing recommendations.
2. **Cafeteria (Lunch):** Physical distancing will be in accordance with the guidelines set forth at the time of reopening (September 2021). Tables will be adjusted accordingly to accommodate for distancing. In certain circumstances, distancing will be accomplished by adding additional lunch periods, if needed, and/or utilizing additional large spaces.
3. **Transportation:** Physical distancing will be encouraged where possible. Windows will be opened to improve ventilation (weather permitting). Buses will be cleaned daily between routes. **All students are required to wear a mask before boarding a school bus.**
4. The district will review CDC recommendations and updates and make adjustments accordingly.

C. Vaccination Requirements

1. All PreK-12 school personnel are required to be fully vaccinated by October 18, 2021.
2. All unvaccinated personnel must undergo regular testing at a minimum of once to twice each week beginning October 18, 2021.

D. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

1. Hand sanitizing stations have been installed in hallways, entrances/exits, lunch areas, restrooms and in all PreK-6th grade classrooms. Teachers will also have bottles of hand sanitizers in the classrooms.
2. CDC recommendations on proper hand washing will be posted throughout the schools.

E. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

1. Facilities Cleaning Practices

- a. ***Classrooms*** – Classrooms will be cleaned daily in accordance with internal checklists. High contact areas such as, but not limited to, door handles and push plates, light switches, desk and chairs, shelving, handrails, buttons, telephones, etc. will be wiped down with approved disinfectant.
- b. ***Nurses Suites and Isolation Rooms*** – Nursing suites and isolations rooms will be cleaned daily in accordance with deep cleaning procedures.
- c. ***Cafeterias*** – Cafeterias will be cleaned daily in accordance with deep cleaning procedures. Every cafeteria will be thoroughly disinfected between group use utilizing district approved disinfectant. High touch points such as, but not limited to, lunch tables and chairs, door handles and push plates, light switches, food distribution areas, register areas, etc. will be disinfected after every group use.
- d. ***Restrooms*** – Restrooms will be cleaned and disinfected twice during the operating day and once again after school closes for the day.
- e. ***High-traffic Areas*** – Main offices, lobbies, vestibules, common area high touch points will be disinfected mid-morning and mid-afternoon. Water fountains will be turned on in September 2021. Students may bring bottled water if they desire.
- f. ***Playgrounds*** – Playgrounds will be disinfected at the end of each day. Students will have access to hand sanitizer stations on their way to the playground and on their return to the building.
- g. ***Deep Cleaning Practices*** – Deep cleaning will occur nightly and will include utilizing a district approved disinfectant. All classrooms, hallways, restrooms, large group areas, cafeterias, nurses' suites, etc. will be cleaned and disinfected. Additional outside air will be introduced where possible by opening doors, windows, and HVAC dampers. High contact areas such as, but not limited to, door handles and push plates, light switches, desk and chairs, shelving, handrails, buttons, telephones, etc. will be wiped down with approved disinfectant.

- h. **Monitoring and Quality Control** – Night custodial supervisor will inspect a required number of schools at night. Inspection sheets will be completed nightly and reviewed daily. Daily inspection sheets will include the name of the school, area, initials, and time of inspection. Head Custodians will be responsible for inspecting all areas of the building prior to the start of the school day, make corrections as necessary, and report all issues to the General Manager of Facilities.
- i. **Disinfectants** - Buildings will be spot checked by Custodial Supervisors and checklist will be maintained by the General Manager of Facilities.
- j. **Sanitizers** – Primary and secondary sanitizers have been identified to ensure adequate inventory levels can be maintained. All sanitizers contain a minim of at least 60% alcohol. Sanitizer stations will be located in high traffic areas such as hallway corridors, entrances and exits, and cafeterias. Hand sanitizer will be available in each classroom for staff and students to utilize.
- k. School personnel and vendors charged with cleaning schools and buses will be required to utilize approved materials and processes designated by the DOE and the General Manager of Facilities.
- l. A binder with all materials, checklists and processes has been developed and is available in the office of the General Manager of Facilities.
- m. A daily schedule of cleaning, methodologies, cleaning checklist, product lists, and related documentation will be maintained by the General Manager of Facilities.
- n. All classrooms, school buses, cafeterias, gymnasiums, locker rooms, etc. will be cleaned daily utilizing FDA and EPA approved products and high touch areas (door handles, handrails, light switches, keyboards, bathrooms, playground equipment, etc.) will be cleaned more regularly throughout the day.
- o. Staff and students are encouraged to partner with school cleaning personnel and utilize school provided and personal FDA and EPA approved products to clean individual bus seats, desks and chairs, restrooms/sink knobs, etc.
- p. The district will use traditional cleaning methods along with misters to sanitize the schools and district equipment/materials.
- q. Due to COVID-19 additional cleaning periods, materials and equipment will be utilized to sanitize high traffic, high touch and areas identified due to a potential contact or positive case as per the guidelines from the CDC and or Camden County Department of Health.

2. HVAC

- a. **Air Exchange** – Outside air dampers will be opened, when possible, to increase air changes per hour and introduce additional outside air. Air flushes will be performed in all locations a minimum of one week prior to the start of school. Buildings have been checked to ensure positive pressure and occupied spaces will purge air routinely.
- b. **Routine Maintenance** – Routine daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, and annual maintenance will be performed in accordance with checklists released by the General Manager of Facilities.
 - i. **Filter Changes** – Filters have been verified that they are installed appropriately before the start of school. All filters are dated and initialized with install dates. MERV-8 and MERV-13 filters will be used in all Rooftop, Air handlers, and classroom units. Filter evaluations and changes will be made every 3 months in accordance with industry and district practices.
 - ii. **Coil Cleanings** – Coils have been cleaned with EPA approved disinfectant. Coils will be evaluated twice per season pursuant to ASHRAE checklists.
- c. **Controls** – Modifications to district control systems have been made to add additional CO2 sensors to purge air when levels increase above ASHRAE recommended set points. Outside air damper schedules are being added to accommodate building level schedules in large group areas such as the cafeterias, auditorium, instrumental areas, etc. Unoccupied and occupied set points have been reviewed and adjusted accordingly.
- d. **Training**
 - i. Staff will be trained on manufacturer’s directions for use of disinfectants utilized during cleaning processes.
 - ii. Staff will be trained on proper hand washing and PPE practices as prescribed by the CDC and other infection control precautions.
 - iii. Contracted custodians will be trained in enhanced cleaning practices by the contractor (Aramark).
- e. **Inventory Management** – Inventory will be reviewed regularly by Head Custodians, Night Custodial Supervisor, and General Manager of Facilities. Primary disinfectants and secondary disinfectants have been identified to keep adequate levels of inventory.
- f. **Resources**
 - i. CDC-COVID-19 Resources
 - ii. CDC Reopening Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces, Workplaces, Businesses, Schools, and homes
 - iii. ASHRAE – Epidemic Task Force for Schools and Universities
 - iv. OSHA – COVID-19 Resources
 - v. EPA – COVID-19 Resources

F. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments

1. Upon notification that a student, staff member or parent has tested positive for COVID-19, the school district will coordinate with the Camden County Health Department to determine close contacts to whom they may have spread the virus. Quarantine persons will be based on NJDOH and CDC guidelines at the time.
2. The district will assist the Camden County Health Department in conducting contact tracing activities, including ongoing communication with the identified individual and/or their contacts.
3. The district will ensure adequate information and training is provided to the staff as necessary to enable staff to carry out responsibilities assigned to them.
4. Building Principals shall be designated by the Superintendent or designee and shall be responsible for providing notifications and carrying out other components that could help ensure notifications are carried out in a prompt and responsible manner.
5. The district will allow staff, students, and families to self-report symptoms and/or suspected exposure.
6. **Stay Home When Sick**

Educate staff, students, and their families about when they should stay home and when they should return to school. Students and staff should stay home if they:

- Have tested positive (viral test) for COVID-19.
- Are sick.
- While there is no statewide travel advisory or mandate in place at this time, schools are encouraged to have a policy for exclusion for students and staff that travel that is consistent with [CDC COVID-19 travel recommendations](#). For those traveling to/from New Jersey, domestic travel is defined as lasting 24 hours or longer to states or US territories other than those connected to New Jersey, such as Pennsylvania, New York, and Delaware.
 - a. [NJ travel recommendations](#)
 - b. [CDC international travel recommendations](#)
 - c. [CDC domestic travel recommendations](#)

Siblings of a student who tested positive for COVID-19, do not have to quarantine, however they should:

- Wear a mask for 10 days;
- Monitor for symptoms; and,
- If symptoms occur, should stay home at least five days and wear a mask on days 6 to 10 upon return to school.

Parental Symptom Screening

Parents/caregivers should be strongly encouraged to monitor their children for signs of illness every day as they are the front line for assessing illness in their children. Students who are sick should not attend school in-person.

Schools should strictly enforce exclusion criteria for both students and staff. Schools should consider providing parent education about the importance of monitoring symptoms and staying home while ill through school or district messaging. Using existing outreach systems to provide reminders to staff and families to check for symptoms before leaving for school.

Schools should provide clear and accessible directions to parents/caregivers and students for reporting symptoms and reasons for absences.

Response to Symptomatic Students and Staff

Schools should ensure that procedures are in place to identify and respond to a student or staff member who becomes ill with COVID-19 symptoms.

- Closely monitor daily reports of staff and student attendance/absence and identify when persons are out with COVID-19 symptoms.
- Designate an area or room away from others to isolate individuals who become ill with COVID19 symptoms while at school.
 - o Consider an area separate from the nurse's office so the nurse's office can be used for routine visits such as medication administration, injuries, and non-COVID-19 related visits.
 - o Ensure there is enough space for multiple people placed at least 6 feet apart.
 - o Ensure that hygiene supplies are available, including additional masks, facial tissues, and alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
 - o School nurses should use [Standard and Transmission-Based Precautions](#) based on the care and tasks required.
 - o Staff assigned to supervise students waiting to be picked up do not need to be healthcare personnel but should follow physical distancing guidelines.
 - o Follow guidance in Cleaning, Disinfection and Airflow section.

7. When illness occurs in the school setting

Children and staff with COVID-19 symptoms regardless of vaccination status should be separated away from others until they can be sent home.

- If a mask cannot be worn by the ill individual, other staff should be sure to wear a mask and follow maximum physical distancing guidelines (6 feet away).
- Ask ill student (or parent) and staff whether they have had potential exposure to COVID-19 meeting the definition of a close contact.
- Individuals should be sent home and referred to a healthcare provider. Persons with COVID-19 compatible symptoms should undergo COVID-19 testing regardless of vaccination status.
 - o If community transmission is low ill individuals without potential exposure to COVID-19 should use the NJDOH School Exclusion List to determine when they may return to school. No public health notification is needed UNLESS there is an unusual increase in the number of persons who are ill (over normal levels), which might indicate an outbreak.
 - o If ill students have potential COVID-19 exposure OR if community transmission is moderate or high, they should continue to be excluded according to the COVID-19 Exclusion Criteria.
- Schools should notify LHDs:
 - o When there is an increase in the number of students or staff with COVID-19 compatible symptoms and when there is a suspected or confirmed outbreak.
 - o When students or staff test positive for COVID-19 (when in-school testing is performed).
- Schools should be prepared to provide the following information when consulting with the LHD:
 - o Contact information for the ill persons.
 - o The date the ill person(s) developed symptoms, tested positive for COVID-19 (if known), and was last in the building.
 - o Types of interactions (close contacts, length of contact) the person(s) may have had with other persons in the building or in other locations.
 - o Vaccination status of the ill persons and the close contacts.
 - o Names, addresses, and telephone numbers for ill person's close contacts in the school;
 - o Any other information to assist with the determination of next steps.

Regardless of vaccination status, if a student or staff experiences COVID-compatible symptoms, they should [isolate themselves from others](#), be clinically evaluated for COVID-19, and tested for SARS-CoV-2.

8. Exclusion

Parents should not send students to school when sick. For school settings, NJDOH recommends that students with the following symptoms be promptly isolated from others and excluded from school:

- At least two of the following symptoms: fever (measure or subjective), chills, rigors (shivers), myalgia (muscle aches), headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion or runny nose; OR
- At least one of the following symptoms: new or worsening cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new olfactory disorder, new taste disorder.

For students with chronic illness, only new symptoms, or symptoms worse than baseline should be used to fulfill symptom-based exclusion criteria.

On January 4, 2022, CDC updated [COVID-19 isolation and quarantine recommendations](#) with shorter isolation (for asymptomatic infected and mildly ill people) and quarantine periods of 5 days to focus on the period when a person is most infectious (followed by continued masking for an additional 5 days). Individuals who are unable to wear a mask should be excluded until after at least 10 days and continue to isolate/quarantine.

COVID-19 exclusion (isolation) criteria for persons who have COVID-19 compatible symptoms or who test positive for COVID-19:

Individuals regardless of vaccination status, who test positive or individuals with COVID-19 symptoms or who have not been tested and do not have an alternative diagnosis from their healthcare provider should:

- Stay home for at least 5 full days after the onset of symptoms or if asymptomatic after the positive test (day of symptoms is day 0; if asymptomatic, day the test was performed is day 0).
- If they have no symptoms or symptoms are resolving after 5 days and are fever-free (without the use of fever-reducing medication) for 24 hours, they can leave their home and should:
 - o Wear a mask when around others at home and in public (indoors and outdoors) for an additional 5 days. For these additional 5 days, schools should have a plan to ensure adequate distance during those activities (i.e., eating) when mask wearing is not possible. Time without mask being worn should be kept to minimum possible.
 - o On days 6-10, limit participation in extracurricular activities to only those activities where masks can be worn consistently and correctly.

Masks should be worn in school on days 6-10. Those students who are unable or unwilling to mask should stay home for the full 10 days and not return to school until day 11.

Exception: During periods of low community transmission (green), ill individuals with COVID-19 compatible symptoms who are not tested and do not have a known COVID-19 exposure may follow NJDOH School Exclusion List to determine when they may return to school.

CDC recommends an isolation period of at least 10 and up to 20 days for people who were severely ill with COVID-19 and for people with weakened immune systems. See Overview of COVID-19 Isolation for K-12 Schools for additional details.

Individuals with an alternative diagnosis:

Evaluation by a health care provider may be necessary to differentiate between COVID-19 and alternative diagnoses. Clinical evaluation and/or testing for COVID-19 may be considered for ANY of the symptoms listed above, depending on suspicion of illness from a health care provider. Testing is strongly recommended, especially when there are multiple unlinked cases in the school and during periods of moderate and high levels of community transmission.

Individuals with COVID-19 compatible symptoms and no known exposure to a COVID-19 case in the last 5 days, regardless of vaccination status, may follow the [NJDOH School Exclusion List](#) to determine when they may return to school only if they have an alternative diagnosis (e.g., strep throat, influenza, worsening of chronic illness) supported by clinical evaluation.

Exception: During periods of low community transmission (green), ill individuals with COVID-19 compatible symptoms who are not tested and do not have a known COVID-19 exposure may follow [NJDOH School Exclusion List](#) to determine when they may return to school.

The COVID-19 Exclusion Table below can be used to determine the need for and duration of school exclusion. In order to facilitate rapid diagnosis and limit unnecessary school exclusion, schools may consider implementing school-based diagnostic testing for students and staff.

Link: [NJ Department of Health \(NJ DOH\): COVID-19 Public Health Recommendations for Local Health Departments for K-12 Schools](#) (Updated 08/29/22)

G. Diagnostic and screening testing

1. The school district shall screen employees upon arrival to a school building or work location for covid-19 symptoms and a history of exposure.
 - a. Health checks will be conducted safely and respectfully, and in accordance with any applicable privacy laws and regulations.
 - b. Results will be documented when signs/symptoms of COVID-19 are observed.
 - c. The screening protocol will take into account employees with disabilities and accommodations that may be needed in the screening process for those employees.
 - d. Employees with symptoms related to COVID-19 will be safely and respectfully isolated from others.
 - e. If the school district becomes aware that an individual who has spent time in a school district facility tests positive for COVID-19, district officials will immediately notify local health officials, staff, and families of a confirmed case while maintaining confidentiality.

H. Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible

1. Staff Vaccinations – In coordination with Rowan University and the CCDH, an optional vaccination opportunity was made available to all staff members (March 9, 2021 to March 20, 2021).
2. Student Vaccinations – In coordination with the CCDH, optional vaccination clinics were held on May 20, 2021, June 10, 2021, August 2, 2021, and August 23, 2021 for all students 12 years old and older.

I. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies

1. The district special education department, cabinet, principals, district physician, school nurses, staff, and parents have engaged in a process to meet the health and safety needs of students with IEPs, 504 plans, nursing services plans, and specific requests due to COVID-19.
2. The Director of Special Education/Child Study Teams will meet routinely with parents to review concerns related to COVID-19 and special education.
3. Case Managers will identify students prone to anxiety and/or school refusal and develop plans for September reentry, including visitations and meetings prior to the first day of school.
4. The district will provide mental health professionals to work with students and families who have emergent needs related to COVID-19. This will include two (2) full-time district staff and contracted services providers.
5. Students who need assistance with masking and/or physical redirection or prompting will be supported by the Child Study Team, behaviorist and other resources as warranted.
6. Safe Return Plans from private and other Local Education Agencies that service our students will be collected and reviewed.

2. Ensuring Continuity of Services

A. Describe how the LEA will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address students' academic needs and students' and staff's social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services. (1000-character limit)

1. **Professional Development** – The district has scheduled several days of professional development opportunities that focus on the health and wellness of our staff and identification of support for our students. (i.e. Wellness Seminar, K-12 Framework and Practice for Rebuilding Connections with students, SEL, and Trauma Informed Training)

2. **Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and Mental Health**
 - a. Each building's I&RS Team will meet routinely to review students/families to identify areas of need and/or support.
 - b. Dedicated, full-time mental health professional and counselors will work with students and families who have emergent needs.
 - i. Secondary-level buildings will have a drop-in period for students to find support with this person.
 - c. School counselors will review students' progress, attendance, and discipline routinely.
 - d. School counselor will deliver SEL curricular lessons to the classroom.
 - e. Coordination by building administration of school counselors, CST to discuss student trending needs.
 - f. CST members will support current caseloads but may be made available to support other classified students and staff.
 - g. Following Tier Two strategies, forms will be available for students, parents, staff to complete if a student needs assistance.
 - h. Students who have emergent needs will be addressed by district support services and referrals for outside services.
 - i. Students who were full-remote during the 2020-2021 school year will participate in building orientation activities.
3. **Food Services** – The district will be operating full-day schedules during the 2021-2022 school year which will include breakfast and lunch. The district participates in the National School Lunch Program and have applied for a waiver for the 2021-2022 school year which will allow all students to receive meals free of charge. In the event a school closure is necessary, the district will provide meals to students similar to the 2020-2021 school year.
4. **Remote Accessibility and Technology** – Teachers have access to a 1-to-1 laptop that they can use in school and at home. All students will have access to a Chromebook while in school and will be permitted to take those devices home, if a school closure is necessary. In the event there is a COVID-19 related school closure:
 - a. Students will be able to continue their academic work using school-provided or personal devices and services at home. (A school device will only be provided if the student has returned or paid in full for a damaged device).
 - b. Teachers will utilize Google Suite as the primary instructional platform.
 - c. Other staff members who are not typically provided a 1-to-1 device may request one from their school's principal for temporary at-home use.
 - d. Technical support will be provided by phone, email, or video conference. In-person repairs and support are anticipated to continue via school drop-off and by appointment.

3. Public Comment

A. Describe how the LEA sought public comment on its plan, and how it took those public comment into account in the development of its plan. Note, the ARP requires that LEAs seek public comment for each 60-day revision to the plan. (1000-character limit)

1. **June 9, 2021** – Superintendent of Schools presented a brief overview of its "Safe Return Plans" to the community at a regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting. Public comment was sought at that time on the presentation and will be considered throughout the development of the plan.
2. **June 11, 2021** – After the release of the plan template on June 11, 2021, Superintendent of Schools will compile information into the template.

3. **June 23, 2021** – Superintendent of Schools will submit the plan to the Board of Education for approval. Public comment on the plan will be taken again at that time.
4. **July 2021** – Superintendent of Schools will monitor changing guidance and update the community accordingly.
5. **August 11 & 25, 2021** – Superintendent of Schools will present to the Board of Education any changes necessary to the plan based on changing guidance throughout July and August 2021.
6. **August 30, 2021** – Superintendent will host “Real Talk with the Superintendent” with the community, to give parents and staff an opportunity to ask questions and address concerns about the opening of school and new procedures for the 2021-2022 school year.

B. Describe how the LEA ensured that the plan is in an understandable and uniform format; is to the extent practicable written in a language that parents can understand or, if not practicable to provide written translations to a parent with limited English proficiency, will be orally translated for such a parent; and upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA, will be provided in an alternative format accessible to that parent. (1000-character limit)

1. **Translation** – Translators will be available to assist with translating documents for parents that have limited English proficiency. Additionally, the district purchased Assistive Technology devices, that have been made available at each school site, that will assist with translation.
2. **Accessibility** – This document will be placed on the District’s website and Facebook page after being run through an accessibility check that will make it ADA compliant. The district website includes information for website accessibility including contact information for those experiencing problems as well as translation in several languages.

B. Describe how the LEA ensured that the plan is in an understandable and uniform format; is to the extent practicable written in a language that parents can understand or, if not practicable to provide written translations to a parent with limited English proficiency, will be orally translated for such a parent; and upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA, will be provided in an alternative format accessible to that parent. (1000-character limit)

1. The District will utilize the supervisors of technology, school technology technicians, computer teachers, and tech savvy teachers to provide training and assistance to staff.
2. Professional development opportunities will be offered during the school year. Additionally, dates have already been established for September 1 and 2, 2021, November 2, 2021, and February 18, 2022.