

Southeast Polk Community Schools

RTL Plan Update Summary 2021-2022



LEARN. LEAD. LIVE.
Success for college, career and civic life.
***Engage all students in learning a challenging curriculum delivered through
quality instruction***

Overview

The health and safety of Southeast Polk's students, staff, and families continues to be first and foremost in planning for the 2021-2022 school year. The Southeast Polk Community School District plans to operate under its normal in-person, traditional processes and procedures with extra precautions taken with health and safety in mind. The District will continue to follow all state and federal laws.

We are very excited to return to a more normal school environment for the '21-'22 school year, but we also understand that we are still operating in a pandemic. Some of the extra precautions due to this are listed below. These plans may change based on county, state, or federal guidance.

Masks

An Iowa law, [HF 847](#), enacted in May of 2021 prohibits school districts from requiring masks to be worn. **Therefore, in compliance with state law, Southeast Polk Schools will not require masks on district property.** Masks are encouraged however as an important tool in mitigating the spread of the virus ([current CDC guidance](#)) and will be available at all district buildings for those who wish to use them.

Stay Home If Not Feeling Well

Southeast Polk Community School District collaborates with the Polk County Health Department, Iowa Department of Public Health, and local healthcare providers to provide guidelines which define when a student is well enough to attend school. Click [here](#) for the Southeast Polk Illness Policy Procedure.

*****The general message to families, students, and staff is to stay home if you are not feeling well.**

Reporting

The Southeast Polk School District will follow the [guidance](#) of the Iowa Department of Public Health, the Polk County Health Department, and the Iowa Department of Education to respond to positive cases of COVID-19 and close contacts for students and staff. IDPH and PCHD are no longer conducting contact tracing. The District will collect data on the number of positive COVID-19 cases of students and staff and report this to the public weekly via website dashboard. For grades PK-5, parent notifications will be sent to the entire grade level when a positive case is confirmed. For grades 6th-12th, positive cases will be reported on the district dashboard.

Hand Washing

Students and staff are encouraged to wash hands with soap and water frequently. There will continue to be increased availability of hand sanitizer in all school facilities.

Meals

Regular meals will be provided for students at no charge again during the 2021-2022 school year. Students will return to eating breakfast and lunch in the school cafeterias with as much distancing as possible. Additional areas may be available at each individual school. Some buildings also have grab and go procedures.

Facilities Cleaning

Regular custodial cleaning practices focused on cleaning for health will be continued for this year at all district buildings. High touch areas will be cleaned and disinfected regularly throughout the day. The district upgraded the filtration systems in buildings last year. There will also be a continued effort to increase filtration and the circulation of outdoor air through the HVAC systems.

Teaching and Learning

We believe that the optimal setting for learning is in classrooms where students have opportunities to engage and interact with teachers and other students. For students who are medically fragile and/or have medical conditions that would prevent them from being in classrooms, Southeast Polk will have some options for families to consider. These will include homebound instruction, homeschooling and online learning through Edgenuity. We will work with families on an individual basis to create a plan that works best for impacted students. If your child has a medical condition and you would like to learn more about these options, please contact your building principal or the district curriculum office.

Transportation

Masks will be made available on all buses. ([current CDC guidance](#))

Visitors/Volunteers

Visitors and volunteers are greatly valued at our schools. At this time, visitors and volunteers will be allowed at all buildings. We will closely monitor community conditions and may adjust this as needed.

Events and Activities

Extracurricular activities will function under normal operating procedures. The district will continue to follow the guidance of the IHSAA and the IGHSAA.

Facilities Rental

Facilities are open to use by outside groups for the 2021-2022 school year. [Click here for additional information on facility rentals.](#)
