

Principle Academy Charter

A Polymath Managed School



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

Principle Academy Charter will follow State mandates regarding masks for students, staff members, visitors and attendees at school events. All students, staff, and visitors will be required to wear masks indoors in our facilities. Visual reminders are posted throughout the building and students receive daily safety lessons.

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

Principle Academy Charter will follow social distancing guidelines to the maximum extent possible. Classroom capacity will be limited to ensure at least 3 feet spacing between students. Physical barriers will be available in reception areas and employee workspaces. All student desks have plexiglass barriers and students are maintained a three feet distance. Hallway transition techniques demonstrate how students can maintain 3 feet in common areas.

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Staff and students have been trained on proper handwashing techniques. Handwashing strategies include washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing the nose, coughing, or sneezing. Hand sanitizer stations have been placed throughout the building including classrooms, hallways, bathrooms, and common areas.

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

Staff will disinfect frequently touched surfaces within the school at least daily or between use as much as possible. Use of shared objects will be limited or cleaned between use. PAC communicates regularly with its sending districts to ensure that their buses are following mask mandates and disinfection protocols.

PAC has upgraded the HVAC system to include pathogen killing technology. PAC has also installed air filtration units in each classroom.

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PAC will open its side doors during lunch and recess periods to allow cross ventilation of the building.

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

The PAC nurse is a trained contact tracer. Additionally, PAC is adding a trained office support staff member to work as a contact tracer. Our process has been developed in consultation with the local health department and with school nurses to identify the criteria an individual must meet in order to activate the board's contact tracing policy. Notification of individuals is coordinated with the local health department to inform staff, families and the public. We follow the New Jersey Department of Health Guidelines for quarantining which include: Close Contact with a positive case: Without testing - 10 days are required; return on Day 11, With testing - The testing must be done between day 5-7 after contact. Once results are in and the test is negative, families will be required to send the results to the school nurse. The student may return to school on Day 8, with a negative test result. The close contact must remain symptom free during this time.

- F. Diagnostic and screening testing

PAC will safely and respectfully screen students and employees for symptoms and history exposure to COVID-19. Students and staff with symptoms related to COVID-19 must be safely and respectfully isolated from others. If the district becomes aware that an individual who has spent time in a district facility tests positive for COVID-19, we will immediately notify local health officials, staff, and families of a confirmed case while maintaining confidentiality.

The policy for screening students and employees upon arrival for symptoms and history of exposure will include the following: A Health screening survey has been sent to all families and staff members prior to the start of school. Staff must visually check students for symptoms upon arrival (including temperature checks) and/or confirm with families that students are free of COVID-19 symptoms. Health check will be conducted safely and respectfully, and in accordance with any applicable privacy laws and regulations. Results must be documented when signs/symptoms of COVID-19 are observed. PAC keeps a DNA (Do Not Admit) list on an internal spreadsheet that tracks students and staff who are in and out of COVID protocol.

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

PAC has disseminated literature to families and staff regarding opportunities for vaccinations in the Atlantic County area.

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

PAC provides a continuum of special education and related services to eligible students, including out-of-district programs, in-district self-contained classes, resource in-class and pull-out replacement programs, general education programs with appropriate accommodations, related services, and home instruction. All programs and services are based upon individual student needs as determined by each student's individualized education plan (IEP).

PAC has an Intervention & Referral Services Team (I&RS) for the planning and delivery of intervention and referral services that are designed to assist students who are experiencing learning, behavior, or health difficulties and to assist staff who have difficulties in addressing students learning, behavior, or health needs.

PAC also has a significant cohort of ELL students. Their services are maintained according to their ELP as measure by their ACCESS test results or WIDA Screener results. The ESL Department provides necessary instruction in push-in and pull-out settings.

2. Ensuring Continuity of Services

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)

Our expectation for the 2021-2022 school year is for all students to return to in-person, full-day learning.

Our instructional program ensures all students receive the highest quality, equitable education. This is done through utilizing a variety of evidence-based practices designed to improve achievement and promote positive student outcomes. Utilizing a variety of

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assessment data, teams will continue to make data-driven decisions to support and accelerate student learning, when an opportunity gap is determined.

Feedback from various stakeholders suggests that COVID-19 will have significant psychological and emotional impacts on students. The district is planning professional development to safely transition the district with SEL strategies for staff and students. The district also has established procedures for identifying students in need of individualized mental health interventions.

3. Public Comment

- A. Describe how the LEA sought public comment on its plan, and how it took those public comments 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)

The plan was presented at the August 11, 2021 Board of Education meeting and shared with the community on August 12, 2021. Public comment regarding the plan will be taken under advisement and reviewed with our district health officials.

- 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)

In addition to sharing the plan as a document (in translatable form) with families, the plan was also presented at an open public meeting and posted on the district website with access to multiple translations. Covid Dashboard 2021

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