



**PCOE**

GOLD IN EDUCATION

**Gayle Garbolino-Mojica**  
*County Superintendent of Schools*

# FRAMEWORK FOR PCOE STUDENT PROGRAMS

**2021-22 ACADEMIC YEAR**

**OCTOBER 22, 2021**

This plan is intended for student programs operated directly by the Placer County Office of Education including regional special education, court and community schools as well as Pathways Charter. The plan will be modified as public health guidelines are updated.

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**Please note:** This document will be updated as we receive guidance from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and input from other stakeholders such as staff, students, parents and community members. Our ultimate goal is to maximize learning and success for all students through in-person instruction, while doing everything reasonably possible to ensure the health and safety of our students, staff and community.

## CONTEXT

The Placer County Office of Education (PCOE) operates unique programs serving a variety of students and families. Students are served in Regional Special Education classrooms located on comprehensive school sites, Regional Special Education classrooms located on isolated school sites, and PCOE educational programs located on PCOE school sites. Regional Special Education programs located on comprehensive school sites will follow the host district's opening framework/plan in regards to health and safety protocols.

As required by law, the Placer County Office of Education is following guidance from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the Emergency Temporary Standards from the Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board (Cal/OSHA) to limit the spread of COVID and safeguard public health. These actions along with additional community mitigation strategies are outlined in this framework for PCOE student programs for the 2021/2022 academic year.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Placer County Office of Education is committed to the following guiding principles:

1. **Health and Safety** - The health and safety of staff and students is the single highest priority.
2. **Procedures and Protocols** - Specific safety protocols will be implemented and aligned with those issued from CDPH and Cal/OSHA.
3. **Academic Success** - In-class instruction provides an effective learning environment for students to meet learning objectives and to access instructional support from caring adults.
4. **Social Emotional Support** – Relationships and in-person connectivity are a critical component of social development for students.

### Health and Safety Protocols:

#### 1. Masks

- a. Masks are optional outdoors for all in K-12 school settings.
- b. K-12 students are required to mask indoors, with exemptions per [CDPH face mask guidance](#). Adults in K-12 school settings are required to mask when sharing indoor spaces with students.
- c. Persons exempted from wearing a face covering due to a medical condition, must wear a non-restrictive alternative, such as a face shield with a drape on the bottom edge, as long as their condition permits it.
- d. Schools must develop and implement local protocols to provide a face covering to students who inadvertently fail to bring a face covering to school to prevent unnecessary exclusions.
- e. Consistent with guidance from the 2020-21 school year, schools must develop and implement local protocols to enforce the mask requirements. Additionally, schools should offer alternative educational opportunities for students who are excluded from campus because they will not wear a face covering. Note: Public schools should be aware of the requirements in AB 130 to offer independent study programs for the 2021-22 school year.
- f. In limited situations where a face covering cannot be used for pedagogical or developmental reasons, (e.g., communicating or assisting young children or those with special needs) a face shield with a drape (per [CDPH guidelines](#)) can be used instead of a face covering while in the classroom as long as the wearer maintains physical distance from others. Staff must return to wearing a face covering outside of the classroom.

#### 2. Physical Distancing

- a. Recent evidence indicates that in-person instruction can occur safely without minimum physical distancing requirements when other mitigation strategies (e.g., masking) are implemented. This is consistent with guidance issued from CDPH.

### **Cleaning:**

- a. In general, cleaning once a day is usually enough to sufficiently remove potential virus that may be on surfaces. Disinfecting (using disinfectants on the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency COVID-19](#) list) removes any remaining germs on surfaces, which further reduces any risk of spreading infection.
- b. If a facility has had a sick person with COVID-19 within the last 24 hours, clean AND disinfect the spaces occupied by that person during that time.

## **DAILY LOGISTICS**

### **Snacks and Lunches:**

- a. Maximize physical distance as much as possible while eating (especially indoors). Using additional spaces outside of the cafeteria for mealtime seating such as classrooms can help facilitate distancing. Arrange for eating outdoors as much as feasible.
- b. Clean frequently touched surfaces. Surfaces that come in contact with food should be washed, rinsed, and sanitized before and after meals.
- c. Given very low risk of transmission from surfaces and shared objects, there is no need to limit food service approaches to single use items and packaged meals

### **Staff Training:**

- a. An emphasis will be placed on layering community mitigation strategies such as health self-assessments before reporting to work, frequent hand washing and wearing face coverings.

### **Health & Safety Checks:**

- b. Follow the strategy for “Staying Home when Sick” and “Getting Tested” from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#).
- c. Getting tested for COVID-19 when symptoms are [consistent with COVID-19](#) will help with rapid contact tracing and prevent possible spread at schools.
- d. Advise staff members and students with symptoms of COVID-19 infection not to return for in-person instruction until they have met CDPH criteria to return to school for those with symptoms:
  - i. At least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; and
  - ii. Other symptoms have improved; and

- iii. They have a negative test for SARS-CoV-2, OR a healthcare provider has provided documentation that the symptoms are typical of their underlying chronic condition (e.g., allergies or asthma) OR a healthcare provider has confirmed an alternative named diagnosis (e.g., Streptococcal pharyngitis, Coxsackie virus), OR at least 10 days have passed since symptom onset.

### **Signs of Illness During the School Day:**

Students and staff will be monitored for signs of illness throughout the day including:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

A student or staff member who exhibits symptoms of COVID-19 which cannot be explained by an underlying chronic condition documented by a healthcare provider (e.g., allergies or asthma), will be sent home immediately.

***Parents/guardians are required to and must agree to come pick up their child without delay when called.***

### **PCOE Regional Programs:**

All parents will need to follow their district of residence transportation policies.

### **School Visitors:**

School visitors and parent volunteers will be required to provide proof of vaccination or negative test for COVID-19 every week.

## KEY RESOURCES

For Students, Families and School Communities:

1. [CDPH COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, 2021-22 School Year](#)
2. [CDPH Student Vaccination Requirement](#)
3. [CDPH Requirement for Universal Masking Indoors for K-12 Schools](#)
4. [Placer County COVID Response Scenarios for School Nurses and Educational Leaders, 2021-22 School Year](#)
5. [California Safe Schools for All Website](#)
6. [Placer County Coronavirus Webpage](#)
7. [Placer County Office of Education Crisis Response Webpage](#)
8. PCOE Childcare Referrals for Essential Workers: [childcare@placercoe.org](mailto:childcare@placercoe.org)
9. PCOE Framework for Returning to School - Spanish Translation

For PCOE Staff

1. [CDPH Public Health Order: Vaccine Verification for Workers in Schools](#)
2. [Cal/OSHA Emergency Temporary Standards](#)

## CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions about this overview document, staffing and logistics, please contact your school principal or program coordinator. You may also email [PCOEprograms@placercoe.org](mailto:PCOEprograms@placercoe.org).