



GOAL DIGITAL ACADEMY

SAFE RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION AND CONTINUITY OF SERVICES

1. How will the LEA maintain the health and safety of students, educators and other staff?

GOAL Digital Academy will continue to follow and/or consult the health and safety guidelines set forth by the Governor and Richland Public Health. Please check the RPH website for the most current information: <https://richlandhealth.org/>

2. Extent to which LEA has adopted policies and description of such policies on each of the prevention and mitigation strategies recommended by the CDC.

a. Masks

Policy 9.42 was written to address Protective Facial Coverings during Pandemic/Epidemic Events. As per the June 2, 2021 rescinding of state health orders, masks will no longer be required, however, mask wearing will be encouraged.

b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing.

The district will follow all state statutes and /or Richland Public Health protocols which pertain to immunization and other means for controlling casual-contact communicable disease spread through normal interaction in the school setting.

c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Handwashing and personal hygiene are important measures for use to prevent illness and communicable disease. Handwashing with soap and warm water for a minimum of twenty (20) seconds, paying close attention to the surfaces between the fingers and on the back of the hands, is best for removing dirt and germs. The proper use of hand sanitizers is also useful in controlling the spread of germs. Students and staff should wash their hands with soap and water:

- *after using the restroom;*
- *before and after eating;*
- *if hands are visibly soiled;*
- *upon encounter with chemicals or other items, such as soil, art room, career/tech facility or other activity that may soil hands;*
- *upon encounter with chemicals during cleaning processes;*
- *before and after food preparation activities in family science or other integrated class;*
- *upon encounter with bodily fluids (e.g. blood, nasal discharge, mucus from coughing, etc);*
- *after sneezing or coughing. When soap and water are not available and hands are not visibly soiled, waterless disposable hand wipes or gel sanitizers may be used in place of handwashing, however, not all sanitizers are effective. Proper education in handwashing and hand hygiene shall be provided and good handwashing habits shall be encouraged.*

d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities

The District has an environmental health and safety program that is positive, proactive, integrates responsibilities within the District, and promotes and incorporates the following: Procedures related to District employee health and safety issues that include, but are not limited to, provision of work areas free from recognized hazards and OSHA-related programs that are required by Federal and State laws, such as, employee safety and health training and training in hazard recognition, and defining employer and employee responsibilities and expectations related to health and safety. In addition, administrative expectations will continue by making sure all GOAL staff are provided with all supplies needed including disinfectant and paper towels and/or wipes; sanitized classrooms afterschool, disinfected offices and restrooms.

e. Improving ventilation

Classrooms without air-conditioning will have windows open, as appropriate for the weather or season. HVAC in buildings with air-conditioning will be serviced regularly and the level of filtration maximized. Water fountains have been modified to fill water bottles.

f. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine

GOAL will collaborate with local county public health to the extent allowable by privacy laws, to confidentially provide information about district individuals diagnosed with or exposed to COVID-19. Quarantining is not part of state health orders, so the district is not impacted by the rescinding of state orders. Close contacts are currently required to quarantine for a period of 14 days per Richland Public Health. If a student has been fully vaccinated (2 doses) for 14 days, with documentation, no quarantine will be required. Parents will be asked to report positive cases to schools to facilitate contact tracing and ensure communication and planning in schools. Staff, teachers, families, and emergency contacts or legal guardians will be notified immediately of any case of COVID-19 while maintaining confidentiality in accordance with FERPA, HIPAA and ADA.

g. Diagnostic and screening testing

GOAL Digital Academy will not conduct COVID-19 diagnostic screening nor testing but will encourage anyone who asks to visit Richland Public Health for testing and then isolate until they have met the criteria for release; 10 days have passed since symptom onset; at least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without medication; and other symptoms have improved.

h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies
Students with disabilities are encouraged to return to in-person learning through a blended model at GOAL to facilitate essential instruction in the school setting. Accommodations as prescribed in the IEP will be followed.

i. Coordination with State and Local health officials

GOAL Digital Academy will follow protocols as prescribed by state and local authorities.

3. How will LEA ensure continuity of students' academic needs

The district has returned to a blended & online learning in FY21 and will continue that format as of August 2021. Students are to utilize the GOAL Learning Labs which allow for blended instruction, where instruction is delivered in a combination of time in the building and time online in a location where the students have some element of control over time, place, path or pace of learning. Academic needs will be identified through the continued implementation of the universal screener iReady for reading and math in grades K-7 and STARS Assessment for grades 8-12. The district will also use district benchmark tests, report cards, interim reports, graduation rate, student attendance data and teacher-based team

recommendations for identifying students' academic needs. Further information about the Extended Learning Plan can be found on the district website.

4. **Students' and staff social, emotional, mental health, food services**
GOAL Digital Academy provides social-emotional and mental health service options for staff and students. Information regarding local food banks and other agencies has been distributed.
5. **Every six months, with public input, review and revise plan for safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services**
GOAL Digital Academy's ARP ESSER and Continuity of Services Plan will be posted on the district website. Updates will occur in January and June each year with input from stakeholders from surveys.

ADDRESSING ACADEMIC IMPACT OF LOST INSTRUCTIONAL TIME

Not less than 20% of ARP ESSER allocation will be to address the academic impact of lost instructional time

a. Summer Learning

The district will provide summer instruction to close learning gaps due to COVID disruptions from the FY21 school year during Summer FY21, FY22 & FY23. The focus will also be on students needing to recover graduation credits who, during remote learning, did not progress as expected. 1:1 Chromebooks have been, and will continue to be purchased for students, and laptops for teachers will continue to supplement desktops in each classroom. Online curriculum and online assessments will maintain an uninterrupted use of curriculum and assessments for GOAL Digital Academy students. Online resources are being provided to supplement or replace outdated textbooks.

Summer School/ Extended School Year – Summer 2021

Elementary and Middle School Options

1-8: AIM course. This course will offer individualized reading and math instruction to students in the areas that they have identified learning gaps in. This class will also differentiate for students who could use additional challenges with material as the program will also develop pathways that will stretch a student's academic level by providing an increase in rigor. This course is already one students participate in throughout the school year and extending it into the summer will continue to allow students to close gaps and extend their learning. The students will complete 45 minutes of math and reading instruction per week. Students who complete 45 minutes of iReady instruction weekly show an average of 46% gains in reading and 38% in math. Students who are Economically Disadvantaged, a major subgroup at GOAL Digital Academy, show an average increase of 35% in reading and 42% in math. Our students' scores in math and reading are an identified area of need.

Engagement incentives: Estimates are based off of 100 students participating in the program.

5 iReady lessons passed: \$5 Gift card? **Cost:** \$500

10 iReady lessons passed: \$10 Gift Card? **Cost:** \$1000

15 iReady lessons passed: \$15 Gift Card & Goal gear? **Cost:** Summer Shirt - \$700

20 iReady lessons passed: \$20 Gift card? **Cost:** \$2000

Rewards earned will be given out at the end of Summer pool party? Pool Party with food, shirt and rewards. Transportation provided to one location? Or hold at multiple sites?

Cost: Internet Connectivity for 100 students, software, incentives, engagement activity (pool party & food), aim coordinator \$2,000 for summer program (and development of all summer activities) = approximately = \$18,500

Book Clubs:

We will offer book clubs for our elementary and middle school aged students. All students will be supplied with the book, journaling supplies and additional resources to allow them to engage with the novel study. The students will read assigned sections of the book and meet virtually weekly with the novel study teacher to have grownup discussions, answer guided questions and make connections to the text. Novel studies build background and expose students to new experiences and events. Novel studies will also increase authentic vocabulary and communication and dialogue skills. This is something our students will benefit greatly from given the isolation many of them have experienced this past year. Novel studies also will help students develop social and emotional skills. Studies have shown that students reflecting and discussing events and challenges that literary characters go through can help them develop essential social skills, like empathy. Students can learn coping skills and strategies they can apply to their own lives and this emotional and social support is an area of great need for our students. The books have been chosen based off of grade level interest and development to encourage and promote participation and engagement from the students. Students will also receive an additional book they can read outside of the book clubs and talks all of which are in the same series or genre of the book club novel.

Grade 1-2: Book: Mercy Watson to the Rescue **Cost:** \$6.99

Additional Book: Mercy Watson Fights Crime **Cost:** \$5.68

Teacher Resource: \$7.99

Grade 3-4: Book: The Lemonade War **Cost:** \$4.39

Additional Book: The Lemonade Crime **Cost:** \$5.99

Teacher Resource: \$6.00

Grade 5-6: Book: Wait Til Helen Comes: A Ghost Story **Cost:** \$5.95

Additional Book: Old Willis Place **Cost:** \$6.89

Teacher Resource: \$8.00

Grades 7-8:(Girls) Book: One for the Murphys **Cost:** \$8.99

Additional Book: Shouting at the rain **Cost:** \$7.99

Teacher Resource: \$8.50

Grades 7-8: (Boys) Book: The Crossover **Cost:** \$7.99

Additional Book: Booked **Cost:** \$4.79

Teacher Resource: \$6.00

High School Book: The Perks of Being a Wallflower or Just Listen? Some older content involved. Make sure the teacher is comfortable with these topics and discussions.

****Teacher's responsibilities:** Read book. Develop discussion questions and journaling prompts (most resources will have this already developed). Incorporate reading standards into discussions and meetings. Host a weekly zoom meeting to go over that week's assigned reading. More to be determined. Between a 3-4 hour time commitment per week depending on grade level and length of book. Teachers will conduct the book club for 4 weeks.

Additional supplies for each student: Journaling materials, bag for all of their supplies to stay in and bookmark. **Cost:** \$5-7 each?

Cost: Internet Connectivity for 100 youth, Chrome book loss or damaged, bags, books, and staff cost = \$18,500

Summer School Credit Recovery Option: Grades 8-12

Cost:? 150 students, Curriculum cost (new CR has to be purchased) \$25,000, connectivity - \$8100, chromebook damaged or loss (40) @ \$300 each = \$12,000, Teacher costs = \$4500.00 (2 teachers) - Total cost = \$50,000

MAINTENANCE OF EQUITY FOR HIGH-POVERTY SCHOOLS

GOAL Digital Academy's FY21 demographics: 71% Low income; 27% Students with Disabilities; 82% White non-Hispanic, 6% Black, 8% Multiracial, 4% Hispanic, 40% Chronic Absenteeism. Through the use of ESSER and Wellness funds, the district is able to increase the number of Chromebooks to a 1:1 distribution so that every student has access. Students receive a hotspot for internet access. Online courseware will be used for credit recovery. Learning opportunities through iReady personalized Learning Program will aid in K-8 math & reading, enrichment opportunities and assessments for third grade, universal screening and gifted screening/identification in math & reading. The district will implement the following approaches to address achievement gaps:

- *Emphasis on data-based decision making to address achievement gaps*
- *Year round Credit Recovery*
- *Small group tutoring*
- *iReady personalized Learning for Reading & Math*
- *Grade and/or content TBT collaboration*
- *Increase in Special Education staffing*
- *Utilization of the MTSS/RTI process*
- *Creation of AIM courses for grades K-8 to catch up Reading & Math*
- *Summer Enrichment Programs*
- *Year-round family partnership programming*