

School Reopening Plan



2020-2021

Whole learning for the whole child.

MCS Mission Statement

Academics, Arts, Excellence

MCS Vision

Moab Charter School is dedicated to providing individualized education through small differentiated classes. The Utah Core Curricula guides our curriculum development, and our instructional methodologies are founded on scientifically researched methods, which address a diversity of learning styles. Every child's unique abilities are nurtured and developed through a dynamic, innovative educational experience integrating fundamental academics with science, technology, the arts, and a global perspective.

Purpose Statement

Moab Charter School will communicate all requirements of the USBE for safe school reopening to teaching and learning for the 2020-2021 school year.

Goals

The goal of this reopening plan is to safely reopen MCS in the light of COVID-19. Due to the state mandated soft closure during the 2019-2020 school year, we take this opportunity to inform our stakeholders of our plans wholeheartedly.

It is the goal of MCS to engage 100% of our students in equitable high-quality learning opportunities during the 2020-2021 school year.

Budget

See MCS 2020-2021 General Operating Budget

MCS Board Approval

This plan was reviewed by MCS staff and school board prior to presentation at the July 21, 2020 school board meeting. The MCS director also sought input from stakeholders prior to submission. The MCS School Board approved this plan at their regularly scheduled board meeting on July 21, 2020.

USBE Required Action Steps/Plan

Repopulating Schools

Communication and Training

- Upon MCS board approval, MCS staff and stakeholders will receive access to a digital copy of the MCS Reopening Plan. Training for staff will occur via email communication and in-person during our back to school days.
 - All stakeholders will receive access to a digital copy of the MCS Reopening Plan upon board approval. Students/families will also receive information prior to the start of the school year, should any changes be deemed necessary.
 - MCS Reopening Plan will be posted on the MCS Website and Social Media sites. Copies in Spanish will also be available on our Website. Hard copies will be made available by request.
- Contact: MCS Director, Carrie Ann Smith [(435)259-2277 or carrieann@moabcharterschool.org], the main point of contact for questions and specific concerns. Additionally, MCS School Board Chair, Jen Patterson (jen@moabcharterschool.org) will be available as a secondary point of contact.

Accommodating Individual Circumstances

- Anyone who has been identified as high risk for severe illness due to COVID-19 will be allowed to work with greater distance from their peers. Should a parent have specific requests for accommodations, they may contact the MCS Director to create an individual accommodation plan.
- Staff members who are identified as high risk for severe illness due to COVID-19 will work with the MCS Director to create an individual accommodation plan.
- Students with special healthcare needs will be addressed individually. Should this be via 504 plan, IEP or other healthcare plan, they will all involve the MCS Director as well as the classroom teacher and Special Education teacher as needed. The information will be shared with all MCS staff so as to keep everyone available to support and implement the accommodations.

Enhanced Environment Hygiene & Safety

- Students, staff, and visitors will either wash hands or use hand sanitizer upon entering any classroom/building on MCS campus.
 - Campus visitors must be prearranged and will check in at the main office (as per normal MCS operations). The classroom teacher will notify the main office of any expected volunteers/visitors a minimum of 24 hours prior to the arranged time. Volunteers are required to follow MCS staff protocols for assuring hygiene and safety of all MCS students and staff.

- Faculty, staff, and students will wear face coverings (masks, face shields, or the like) when physical distancing (minimum of 6ft) is not feasible.
- Hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, soap and water, or similar disinfectant will be available to staff/students/visitors in controlled environments to ensure safe use.

School Schedules

- MCS student drop off is between 7:50 and 8:15 am. The large gate will be open to accommodate the “funnel” effect our small entrance gate creates.
- Whole school dismissal is at 3:15 pm Monday through Thursday and 1:00 pm on Fridays. Again, the large gate will be open to allow greater space for the passing of students.
- All MCS educational services will be provided at each phase/level of reopening.

Implementation of Mitigation Tactics in School Settings

Classrooms

- MCS will cap classes at 18 students per grade for the 2020-2021 school year. This will allow for two MCS staff members to be present in the classroom while adhering to the health department’s guidelines of groups of 20 or less.
- MCS staff will receive training, based on the most recent USBE and local Health Department information at the time of the training, on implementing strategies to identify and mitigate risk in a classroom setting at the outset of the school year and throughout the year as new information is received from the USBE or local Health Department.
- MCS will utilize MCS staff for purposes of substitute teachers. No outside substitutes will be used during the 2020-2021 school year.

Transitions

- MCS has only one “hallway” located in the main office where staff members access the restrooms. Students do not regularly use this area of the school.
- High traffic areas at MCS include:
 - School entrance fence/gate.
 - Student bathrooms.
 - Main office.
 - Art/music classroom.
 - Cafeteria.
- The large gate will be open at drop-off and pick-up for greater ease of student traffic flow.
- The cafeteria entrance will be clearly marked with entrance and exit signs. Staff will support the enforcement of the correct use of doors.
- The cafeteria will have floor markings to assure physical distancing.

- Cafeteria tables will have markings for student seats to assure physical distancing.
- Eating outside will be encouraged in designated eating areas.

Entry/Exit Points

- MCS entrance gate will utilize the large gate door during the 2020-2021 COVID-19 protocol term to minimize congestion.
- MCS will not allow nonessential visitors to campus.
 - Volunteers will be required to have prior arranged times with the classroom teachers who will notify the main office a minimum of 24 hours prior to the arranged time.
 - All programming will be on a prearranged basis only.
- Visitors and volunteers and non-regular staff will be required to undergo a temperature check upon entering MCS campus and will be required to wear a face covering.
- Drop-off and pick-up at MCS will remain similar to non-COVID times.
 - Drop-off is between 7:45 and 8:15 am. First bell is at 8:15. Tardy bell is at 8:20 am. All students entering after 8:20 am will enter through the main office.
 - Pick-up is outside at MCS at 3:15 pm Monday - Thursday and at 1:00 pm on Fridays. MCS staff will utilize the large gate at our entrance to minimize congestion.
 - Parents will be reminded to maintain a 6ft distance from other families while waiting for their children at pick-up.
- All changes to any of the aforementioned procedures will be communicated to stakeholders upon change. Both the classroom teachers and Director are expected to share the information.

Transportation

- MCS does not regularly transport students.
- Should a field trip require GCSB bus transportation, MCS students and staff will wear face coverings while on the bus. They will also wash hands prior to entering the bus and use spaced seating to minimize close contact.
- All GCSB bus protocols will be followed by MCS students and staff.

Restrooms

- MCS will post signage in all bathrooms on proper hand hygiene.
- MCS staff will have access to PPE for all cleaning and on-campus needs.
- MCS staff will receive training for proper cleaning protocols for COVID-19 as provided by our local health department and the CDC when applicable.
- During school hours cleaning will be done by MCS staff.

Cafeterias

- The MCS cafeteria will have marked entrance and exit doors. It will have marked standing spaces for students while waiting in line for meal service. Additionally, students will continue to wait outside prior to service in spaced lines to support physical distancing.
- MCS does not allow for self-service food. MCS staff will wear appropriate PPE while serving meals in the MCS cafeteria.
- Students will have access to hand washing and/or hand sanitizer before and after meal service. They will be directed to wash their hands prior to and after meals.
- MCS staff will clean high-touch surfaces in the cafeteria prior to, during, and after meal service.
- Microwaves for student use will not be available during the 2020-2021 school year.
- MCS drinking fountains will be for container use only. Cups will be provided or students may bring a water bottle from home.

Large Group Gatherings

- MCS holds Morning Circle daily in the courtyard of MCS. With physical distancing, this space will include the entire grass area so we may adhere to the physical distancing and large gatherings protocols.
- Assemblies will be arranged on an individual basis so groups are less than 50 people. MCS will hold as many gatherings outdoors as possible.
- MCS will consult with the local health department for up-to-date protocols and requirements.

Unique Courses with Higher Risk of Spread

- Unique courses at MCS that may require greater support to mitigate risks include our art and music classes.
 - MCS art and music staff will be provided with time between classes to clean high-touch surfaces like doors, tables, and chairs. Careful planning for use of shared equipment will take place so that tools and equipment can be properly cleaned between uses.

Recess and Playgrounds

- MCS will monitor recess and playground equipment for health and safety. We will implement a playground equipment rotation to assure cleanliness. MCS will consult with the local health department as needed regarding our MCS playground cleanliness and safety.

Special Education, Related Services, or School Counseling

- MCS will provide face shields and/or auxiliary aids for one-on-one close contact to ensure students with disabilities have equal access to learning opportunities.
- MCS will work with individuals to offer reasonable accommodations for those who are unable to wear face coverings in settings where it is required for other students.

Monitoring for Incidences

Preparation Phase

- MCS will follow the local Health Department and USBE guidance on training all school staff on the school's protocol for symptom monitoring.

Symptom Monitoring

- MCS stakeholders will be given up-to-date information on symptom checking and asked to conduct checks prior to arriving at MCS for the school day.
- MCS will assist families with access to thermometers, or other items, as needed to fulfill appropriate symptom checking requirements as needed.
- MCS staff documents daily student attendance. MCS will telephone any student's parent/guardian who has not arrived at school by 9:30 am.
- All MCS staff and students will follow the "If you feel sick; stay home" model for school attendance.
- Anyone who has displayed symptoms will be required to be cleared, in writing, by a medical provider prior to returning to MCS.
 - Students will be expected to attend school through distance learning and provide a written doctor's note excusing their absence.
 - MCS will not track trimester perfect attendance for the 2020-2021 school year. MCS will maintain daily attendance records.

Containing Potential Outbreaks

Preparation Phase

- MCS will use the most recent local Health Department and USBE information to stay abreast of protocols for containing potential outbreaks.
- MCS will consult with the local health department regarding procedures for tracing a positive COVID-19 case by an employee, student, visitor, or those who have come into contact with an individual testing positive.

Quarantine/Isolation Protocol

- The designated MCS quarantine room will be what we call the “Chill Room.” This room may host one student at a time, due to size. Should another room be necessary we will use the Counselor and/or Director’s offices. These rooms will be disinfected before and after the potentially infected student occupies the room for the duration of the school day or until parental pick-up.
- MCS will communicate health and safety issues transparently, while protecting the privacy of students and families.

Temporarily Reclosing (if necessary)

Preparation Phase

- MCS will follow the local Health Department and USBE directives for temporarily reclosing schools if necessary.
- Should a confirmed case be known at MCS, consultation and coordination with the local Health Department on responding to the confirmed cases will occur to be followed by the coordination of temporary closure of the school.
- In the event of an outbreak, MCS will contact the local health department in order to trigger the pre-established plan which may include: class dismissal, school dismissal, longevity of dismissal based on community spread, cleaning/sanitization, communications, contact tracing, etc.

Transition Management Preparation

- MCS Director will notify staff via email regarding any changes to our in-person plan. MCS Director will notify stakeholders via email and social media as soon as possible, in the event of a temporary reclosure of school.
- MCS has reviewed their original Continuity of Education Plan that was implemented during the soft closure of 2020. Changes are noted above in color-related coding. Additionally, the use of a streamlined platform for lesson delivery will be utilized.
- MCS will again check out their Chromebooks to students on an as needed basis to support access to learning should distance learning occur.
- MCS will cancel all field trips and in-class presentations should we enter the Orange or Red phases for the duration of that phase.