



INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) Make a copy of this Google Doc
- 2) Complete all cells highlighted in blue
- 3) Rename the Doc to match the title of your proposal
- 4) Submit your copy of the completed Doc to superintendent@csdecatur.net

Proposal to Return to In-Person Activity

Submitted by:	Benjamin Knaebel	Date:	9/15/2020
Title:	Coordinator of School Psychology & 504	School:	Wilson
Brief title this proposal can be referred to as (try to keep to 5 words or less):			
Psychoeducational Face-to-Face Evaluations			
Brief description of what is being proposed (try to keep to under 5 sentences):			
<p>At this time, we are proposing a plan to resume in-person testing with several precautions consistent with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Georgia Department of Public Health (Georgia DPH), National Association of School Psychologists (NASP), Georgia Association of School Psychologist (GASP), and American Psychological Association (APA) guidance.</p> <p>This includes in-person testing across 3 different testing sites in the district. In-person testing will include PPE usage along with health screenings/ temperature checks for COVID -19 symptoms. Appointments will be made with families prioritized by incomplete testing and the order of referrals since the March 13th school closure date. Each testing session will last no longer than 3 hours. If testing is not complete the child will be asked to come in to finish the following day. Testing will occur on Thursdays and Fridays.</p>			
When do you propose beginning this activity in person, why do you propose that date, and what will the impact be if in-person activity is delayed until after that date?			
This activity will begin ASAP once the relevant staff have been trained and appropriate measures have been taken at the testing sites to ensure that safety protocols are thoroughly followed. The earliest date for evaluations to begin will be September 25th.			
Describe the population of people who will be returning to in-person activities (students, staff, age levels, grades,		Approximately how many people in each of those groups will be impacted by this proposal (students, staff, volunteers,	

programs, teams, etc.):	etc.):
<p>Students from grades Prek to High School age will be asked to attend in-person evaluations. The personnel needed for this proposal includes School Psychologists, Nurses and in some cases Speech/ Language Therapists. ESS leadership may also need to be present to assist with preparation.</p>	<p>Students will only be tested one at a time. Staff could be in groups of up to 3 or 4 during the 3 hour administration window (Psychologist, Nurse, Supervisor, Speech Therapist)</p>
<p>Describe the <u>benefits</u> of returning to in-person for this activity and the <u>risks</u> of <u>NOT</u> returning to in-person:</p>	<p>Describe the <u>risks</u> of returning to in-person for this activity and the <u>benefits</u> of <u>NOT</u> returning to in-person:</p>
<p>The benefits to returning to in-person assessment include finding and providing a mandated free appropriate public education (FAPE) for students that are suspected of having a disability. If children that are in need of special education services are not identified and provided these services they may not meaningfully benefit from the educational setting. The district also runs the risk of violating IDEA federal mandates as well as discrimination protections as outlined under Section 504 of the ADA. This could leave the district vulnerable to due process violations as well as non-compliance remediation and monitoring from the State Department of Education.</p>	<p>The risks include exposure to the COVID-19 virus. Other risks include completing evaluations under conditions that do not meet the standardization procedures that evaluation measures are designed to be implemented. Children may also exhibit difficulties establishing rapport due to the PPE and health safety precautions the department must take. These challenges could impact the results of the comprehensive evaluation as well as the decisions that these results will help to inform e.g. special education eligibility.</p>
<p>Describe in detail the protocols, equipment, and other actions that will be implemented to protect the health and safety of the persons involved in this activity:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forehead thermometer for check in - Child will not be let into building until health screening is completed - Parent will not accompany child into the building and will pick child up after evaluation has been completed - Masks or face shield required for evaluator - Masks required for student - Disinfectant wipes and sprays for room and testing materials - Plexiglass shield during testing for coughing and sneezing - Gloves - Paper towels and tissues - Masks with clear opening (if needed based on the type of assessment) 	

- Students will be tested one at a time with only one psychologist per testing site
- Parents will have the option to not test in person- if they agree to in-person testing health screenings will happen during a meeting 24-48 hours before assessment as well as the day of the assessment
- Staff is expected to maintain social distancing guidelines and remain 6ft apart when able
- Evaluation rooms have been selected for proximity to restrooms and exits to limit outside person contact throughout the building.

Describe in detail how the above protocols, equipment, and other actions will be monitored to ensure compliance and fidelity of implementation, including who will be responsible for each aspect of monitoring:

School Psychologists will be trained in the proper utilization and disposal of PPE equipment. They will also be trained in social distancing guidelines as well as proper cleaning of materials by the Coordinator of School Psychology. Pre-Screening health checks and temperature checks will be completed by nurses appointed and trained by the Lead School Nurse. Cleaning of all rooms used for evaluations will be completed by local custodial staff through the monitoring of the local principal/ administrator at the testing site. The Coordinator of School Psychology will implement this plan along with the guidance of the Executive Director of Equity and Student Support.

Will this activity be voluntary, compulsory, or socially compulsory? If the answers vary by participant (such as students vs. staff), answer separately for each category of people.

What will happen for those normally involved in this activity if they choose not to participate when it returns to in-person? (Answer separately for each category of people if applicable.)

Parents are being asked if they agree to in-person testing. If parents indicate that they agree to in-person testing we will move forward. This activity will not be voluntary for the staff required to complete the evaluation.

If parents agree not to present their child for testing, we have two options. We can wait until in-person instruction resumes and finish the testing then, which impacts the timelines that we are required to follow for evaluations. The other option would be to complete the evaluation without in-person testing, which impacts our responsibility to complete a comprehensive evaluation. This could later leave us vulnerable to IEE requests and other due process consequences.

If Psychologists or Nurses choose not to participate we will need to consider the reason why and implement an appropriate response.

Describe in detail any interactions this activity will have with others (such as other teams/clubs within the district, other teams/clubs outside the district, etc.), the risks such interactions would introduce, and how those risks will be mitigated.

The risk from this activity is mostly contained to other people that may be in the building during the evaluation period. The risks will also be specific to the psychologist, nurses and speech/ language therapists that may be working with the student.

What other information, not already provided above, needs to be shared with the team evaluating this proposal?

If this evaluation proposal gets approved there will be over 50 students to evaluate. We have contract psychologists as vendors ready to assist; however, we will need to consider any other factors that bringing in non-CSD contracted personnel will have. Will language need to be added to their contracts about liability and safety procedures? Is this even a possibility?

Proposal Review

Reviewed by CSD COVID Response Team:

K. Beam, C. Burnett, D. Dude, M. Fehrman, L. Huddleston, E. Melton, S. Moore, S. Perez, R. Thomas

Status:

Approved
 Denied

Date:

YYYY-MM-DD