

ARP ESSER III PLAN

NARRATIVE

Gem City Career Prep HS is a Drop Out Recovery Prevention (DORP) school. As such, many extra supports and innovative strategies are used every day and every year to assist students who need to recover credits or other requirements so they can graduate. Gem City Career Prep HS already includes the following:

- Full school year and summer programming
- Online curriculum that can be accessed 24/7
- Flexible scheduling for students so they can engage school while juggling key responsibilities such as employment, childcare, or family responsibilities.
- Personalized Learning plans that help students focus on targeted credit recovery
- Rolling Enrollment that allows students to re-engage their schooling any day of the school year
- Service to students ages 15-21, allowing older students to complete their diploma
- Personalized Graduation Pathway plans that support students achieving graduation in the most efficient and beneficial manner.
- Fully licensed teachers providing instruction via small groups, personal tutoring, and/or traditional, live-taught classes.
- On and off-line learning supports and curriculum such as ALEKS, Fusion Reading, and standards-aligned, teacher designed assignments and interventions
- Career-Based Intervention curriculum and instruction
- SEL supports with community partners to address behavioral health & wellness that also addresses barriers to success

Priorities for FY22 for Gem City Career Prep HS include:

- 1) Providing a safe environment for students, staff, and families to fully re-engage school in person, and on site.
- 2) Providing and ensuring continuity of social/emotional support to students, families, and staff as we return to in-person/on-site learning and attendance.
- 3) Providing and ensuring continuity of new career-based learning that provides students with industry recognized credentials and/or career exploration to help them develop their future employment skills
- 4) Providing an alternative pathway to graduation using career credentials that align to the 12 -point pathway graduation option
- 5) Providing and ensuring continuity of access to acquiring a quality, mastery-based diploma that can be achieved at the student's pace.
- 6) Providing staff, tools, technology, or resources to support the above.

Priority One: Providing a Safe Return to full-time, on-site education. Gem City has the following guidance, practices, and policies in place.

HEALTH GUIDANCE STANDARDS

Gem City Career Prep HS has a policy that states the school will follow legal and health guidance provided by the Governor, the Center for Disease Control, and our local health department. Ultimately, what level of safety protocols employed will reflect our local health guidelines as outbreaks can be regional and regionally mitigated.

Protocols may include the following:

Assumption of healthy status. Staff and students will be advised to self-monitor for symptoms and not attend school should there be any respiratory symptoms.

Personal choice regarding safety behaviors. Staff and students will be invited to employ safety measures including the following: wearing masks, frequent hand sanitizing, and social distancing (3 ft) according to their preference. The school will supply face masks and sanitizer and will allow for social distancing to the degree that is practicable by spacing furniture and scheduling students minimally into learning spaces as is practicable. Similarly, those who do not wish to wear face masks or hand sanitize will not be required to do so. All persons will be asked to respect the wishes of others regarding social distancing of 3 ft.

Facilities maintenance. Gem City Career Prep HS maintenance and cleaning protocols will continue to observe cleaning standards and/or practices recommended through CDC or local health department guidance to ensure a safe learning environment for students and staff.

Contact Tracing & Corroboration with local health departments. Gem City Career Prep HS will continue to follow all contact tracing protocols required by my local boards of health, sponsors, and school management expectations. Practices may include quarantining persons based on guidance from authorities.

Diagnostic testing or screening. Gem City Career Prep HS has COVID screening tests which will be available to students, families, and staff at no charge when concerning symptoms suggest the test might be helpful in determining next steps. These will be available on demand and we will regularly remind parents and staff they are available to assist families.

Providing vaccinations to our community members. We will cooperate with boards of health, ESC's, and local vaccine providers to either host voluntary vaccinations or promote nearby vaccination sites as available. All staff have been offered vaccinations. Gem City has not participated in student vaccinations at this point.

Accommodations for children with disabilities. We will follow all guidelines for ensuring any unique safety needs of students or staff with documented disabilities as is practicable on site.

Accommodations requiring adjustments in placement or instruction have been and will be developed and honored based on documented medical and/or individual education plans. Accommodations needed by students to ensure their safety or to reduce barriers to learning were put in place. These accommodations will be reevaluated regularly and as Covid-19 conditions change in order to continue to meet the student individual needs and allowing the student to learn in the least restrictive environment.

Priority Two: Providing and ensuring continuity of social/emotional support to students, families, and staff as we return to in-person/on-site learning and attendance.

Gem City Career Prep HS currently employs a Family Advocate whose primary purpose is to identify and remove barriers to successfully achieving an education leading to a diploma. Family advocates evaluate student orientation data, meet with all students individually to acquire additional understanding of strengths and needs, and connect students with appropriate needed supports by designing in-school programs or connecting students with services provided by our community partners and agencies. We are committed to continuing to provide the services of our Family Advocate. Additionally, we have partnered with local mental health, non-profit, and other community service agencies to provide supports to our students and families who may need housing, food, transportation, mental health services or other things in order to support their educational training. Our free breakfast and lunch programs will continue as before. These partnerships will continue in FY22.

Priority Three: Providing and ensuring continuity of new career-based learning that provides students with industry recognized credentials and/or career exploration to help them develop their future employment skills.

Gem City Career Prep HS is part of a Career Prep High School network that has developed a career-based intervention program of instruction that addresses employability skills within our instructional model, as stand-alone coursework, and within our career education courses. Our stated mission is to provide not only a high school diploma but also career related coursework that leads to meaningful career employment upon graduation. Our student experience includes data collection around student career interests and capacities as well as their academic record analysis. During FY22 we will not only continue to provide career exploration and employability instruction but also increase student career achievement by providing additional industry recognized credential education in person and online to help students increase their employment opportunities upon graduation.

Priority Four: Providing an alternative pathway to graduation using career credentials that align to the 12 -point pathway graduation option

Gem City will provide a 12-point credential alternative graduation pathway beginning FY 22 that allows a student to graduate (per the Permanent Graduation Requirements) in lieu of satisfying the State testing requirement. Providing this alternative not only prepares them for strong entry into employment but can ease the stress some may have around State testing. The school will ensure continuity of services and support for students in career training by maintaining

strong relationships with any training providers and working closely with them to enable students to complete all training, employing online training sessions where possible, and providing technology supports to students who need them should a remote setting be required.

Priority Five: Providing and ensuring continuity of access to acquiring a quality, mastery-based diploma that can be achieved at the student's pace.

Gem City Career Prep HS will ensure continuity of instruction to students by providing multiple ways to access their education should on-site attendance be less frequent. If the State permits remote settings, our school will accommodate remote learning with the completion of a documentation process indicating why onsite attendance is not possible for an appointed period of time. Otherwise, Gem City Career Prep HS will provide onsite instruction, online instruction, teacher instruction through zoom, workbook options, and small group or focused tutoring as needed to ensure students receive the instruction they need.

Currently Gem City also has policies in place that address truancy, excused absences, and automatic withdrawal as a result of Covid-19. The policies state:

Truancy: Before filing truancy the school will consider – If the student has been offered academic supports such as tutoring, small-group instruction or other personalized supports; if the student has access to working technology and consistent high-speed internet; if the school has trained the student and family on how to access and use remote education platforms and other technology; if the school ensured remote education platforms are streamlined and easy for the student and family to access and navigate; and if the school has provided alternative options for remote education if a student does not have access to technology or high-speed internet.

Excused Absences: Absences related to Covid-19 may be considered excused absences. If determined to be excused, these absences will not count towards absence or truancy issues.

Automatic Withdrawal: The school administrator has discretion to determine when a student is marked with an excused or unexcused absence and should take into account the excused absence allowance for Covid-19 related absences when making a determination as to the applicability of the 72-hour rule. If the school make the decision to withdraw a student, the school will contact the resident district

Engaging Stakeholders

Gem City stakeholder engagement schedule is as follows:

May 26 – Network leadership meeting on ARP ESSER III Priorities for Plan

June 3, 2021 – Network Academic team plan review; Network principal leadership team plan review for input.

June 4 - Website Posting for Community Engagement

Week of June 7 – Input solicited from Sponsor & Board of Education Stakeholders

Week of June 7 – Input solicited from parents and community partners

Plan Review & Revision

In addition to reviewing or revising our plan based on new guidance from federal, state, or local agencies, our school will review our ARP ESSER Plan:

Week of September 13, 2021

Week of January 24, 2021

Week of April 11, 2021