



Return to School Plan Campus Programs

Final Plan – July 2020

Introduction

On March 15, 2020, SC School for the Deaf and the Blind (SCSDB) closed campus for in-person learning due to the outbreak of COVID-19 and State Orders. Students engaged in remote learning for the remainder of the school year. As we consider the upcoming school year, we realize we continue to face challenges as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic, and we anticipate public health restrictions may continue to fluctuate across South Carolina. Therefore, SCSDB must plan to be flexible and responsive to the conditions across counties in our State, and will plan for instruction to be delivered in a face-to-face manner as well as a remote model. SCSDB's plan will focus on in-person learning opportunities to the fullest extent possible, while also taking any needed steps to keep our students and staff members safe.

Through parent and teacher surveys, SCSDB obtained input to help guide the development of plans to serve the needs of both students and staff, while still prioritizing the health and safety of all. During remote learning, many of our students struggled with accessibility stemming from their unique learning and sensory needs. Additionally, many related services including Occupational and Physical Therapy, Orientation and Mobility services, and speech therapy had limited success through the virtual model.

In order to most effectively provide appropriate instruction for our students, SCSDB will re-open school with an in-person model. We have implemented robust cleaning protocols, social distancing practices, and health screenings to promote a safe return for students and staff. SCSDB teachers will return to school on August 10, and classes will resume on August 17.

During the first few weeks of school, teachers will introduce students to a virtual learning platform and will teach students how to access and navigate this system in the event that SCSDB must transition to a distance learning model. SCSDB will operate a distance learning model during the weeks between Thanksgiving and Winter break (November 30 – December 18). Students will not return to campus for these three weeks; instead, they will attend virtual classes. SCSDB will be working with families who need internet access.

We realize that some families may not be ready to have their students return to in-person instruction. Please let your child's principal know as soon as possible so that we can assist you with enrolling in your local school district. Outreach services are available to help support students in local districts.

Re-Opening Model

All students will resume in-person classes on August 17. Precautions will be implemented to help reduce the risk of exposure to COVID-19. These precautions include:

- Hand sanitizer for students and staff
- Cleaning and sanitization of classrooms and high-touch surfaces each day
- Additional deep cleaning protocols
- Signage in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate how to stop the spread of COVID-19
- Screening protocol for visitors
- Protocol for students/staff who feel ill/experience symptoms when at school
- Plan for traffic flow/patterns to avoid bottlenecks and limit unnecessary congregations of students/staff
- Water bottle filling stations or water bottles utilized in lieu of water fountains
- All persons will be required to maintain 6 feet physical distancing
- Staff and student face coverings strongly encouraged and recommended
- Symptom screenings
- Handwashing and hygiene protocols
- Size limitations for group gatherings
- School closures and/or other measures in response to suspected and confirmed COVID-19 cases based on guidance from SCDHEC
- Bus capacity at 50% and additional deep cleaning protocols
- Social distancing and safety precautions for residential program

SCSDB will incorporate modifications to scheduling and instructional practices that mitigate continued risks related to COVID-19. These modifications will include:

Classroom Size and Arrangement

- Classrooms will follow 6ft social distancing
- Partner and group activities that require close proximity will be eliminated
- Single direction/single person seating

Minimize Student Transitions

To the greatest extent possible, we will seek to minimize student transitions during the day. This may result in schedule shifts which could include:

- Staggered class dismissals
- Staggered lunch schedule
- Redesigning student arrival and dismissal
- Scheduled restroom breaks
- Eliminating large group gatherings (assemblies, pep rallies, etc.)
- Eliminating student transitions beyond campus (field trips, etc.)

Planning for Potential Isolation Periods

Based on current health guidance in our state, it is possible that SCSDB students and staff could be required to leave campus to isolate and/or quarantine due to potential exposure to COVID-19. The need for isolation periods could result in changes to SCSDB's schedule and learning model.

Remote Learning Model

During the first few weeks of school, teachers will introduce students to a virtual learning platform and will teach students how to access and navigate this system in the event that SCSDB must transition to a distance learning model. SCSDB will operate a distance learning model during the weeks between Thanksgiving and Winter break (November 30 – December 18). Students will not return to campus for these three weeks; instead, they will attend virtual classes. SCSDB will be working with families who need internet access.

Individual remote learning plans will be responsive to learning and accessibility needs.

In the event that SCSDB is required to close campus, the remote learning model will be implemented immediately and will continue until campus reopens.

Remote Learning Delivery Model

In order to achieve quality virtual delivery, teachers will report to their classrooms to conduct virtual classes during the regular school day (while following CDC guidelines). The goal for virtual learning will be to mimic an in-person learning environment as closely as possible, with regular interaction and instruction between teachers and students.

Students will be expected to actively participate in class each day and complete all assignments. The teacher will take attendance for each class.

Transport of School Materials

SCSDB will deliver/pick-up instructional materials and resources to/from families, as needed.

Technology Assistance

Devices will continue to be provided to students. SCSDB will work with students to ensure access to remote learning. SCSDB is sensitive to the fact that not all students have access to internet in their residence or local area. Our Instructional Technology department is actively seeking solutions to ensure access for instruction.

SAMPLE

SCSDB Virtual Classroom 2020-2021 (Implemented during Thanksgiving – Winter Break and/or if campus must close due to health conditions)

Due to increased health issues, it may be necessary to close school for a period of time. During these closures, face-to-face instruction will move to a Virtual Classroom environment as described below.

PK-6th Grades	All weekly assignments posted by 8:00am Monday
Related Services provided throughout the day	
8:30 Morning Meeting	
8:45 - 10:30 ELA - Literacy Block	
10:30 - 10:45 Brain Breaks	
10:45 - 12:00 Math - Math	
12:00 Break, Lunch	
12:45 - 1:15 Science and/or Social Studies	
1:15 - 3:30 Teachers will use afternoon sessions to schedule small group or individual group sessions and Special Education resource support Related Services meet with students Related Arts/PE/Guidance/Social-Emotional Learning	

7th-12th Grades	All weekly assignments posted by 8:00am Monday
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students in grades 7-12 will meet according to individual class schedules each day, just as they do during face-to-face instruction. Students will be expected to actively participate in class each day and complete all assignments. The teacher will take attendance for each class. This will include live virtual meetings, demonstrations, projects, and assessments in order to provide rigorous instruction for all students.• Students will earn grades just as if they were in face-to-face instruction.• Students will continue to receive Special Education resource support, Related Services, Electives/Guidance/Social-Emotional Learning as scheduled throughout the day.	

CSA	All weekly assignments posted by 8:00am Monday
Related Services provided throughout the day	
8:30 Morning Meeting	
8:45 - 10:30 ELA - Literacy Block	
10:30 - 10:45 Brain Breaks	
10:45 - 12:00 Math - Math	
12:00 Break, Lunch	
12:45 - 1:15 Science and/or Social Studies	
1:15 - 3:30 Teachers will use afternoon sessions to schedule small group or individual group sessions and Special Education resource support Related Services meet with students Related Arts/PE/Guidance/Social-Emotional Learning AAC Classes	