

SSD Safe Return to In-Person Learning Plan



Special School District (SSD) is dedicated to the safety of our students and staff. SSD will continue to monitor guidelines and recommendations from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) relating to safety protocols and instructional delivery. This guidance is subject to change.

Masking:

As of July 27, 2022, SSD Schools, Sites, Programs and Buildings will be mask optional. Students, families, staff, and visitors are welcome to wear a mask if they so choose. Students in the VSP, CBVI or other off-site programs will follow the guidelines of their site or location.

Respiratory Etiquette:

SSD will maintain adequate supplies of soap and hand sanitizer for all District buildings. Staff will teach and encourage students to cover coughs with their elbow and sneezes with a tissue.

Transportation:

High touch surfaces will be wiped down daily. There are no restrictions when loading and unloading buses.

Contact Tracing Process and Quarantine:

Effective June 1, 2022, the District will no longer contact trace or quarantine students, staff or visitors. However, during periods of high levels of community transmission as determined by [CDC Guidelines](#), the superintendent may require schools, sites and programs to implement contact tracing and follow [CDC Quarantine Guidelines](#) until community transmission levels decrease. In the event a student is quarantined, an instruction plan will be implemented for each impacted student. The plan will vary based upon a variety of factors, including grade level and course structure.

Health Screenings:

Students and staff will self-assess before coming to school or work. If COVID symptoms are present, stay home. If students develop symptoms at school, nurses will follow established protocols when sending a student home. Families will be contacted to pick-up students if symptoms are present. Students displaying COVID symptoms will be placed in an isolation room and monitored by staff.

Vaccinations:

The Special School District has and will continue to promote vaccination opportunities to educators, staff, and students who are eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. If staff or families have questions regarding vaccinations, they should contact their healthcare provider.

Assignments During Student Quarantine:

If a student is required to quarantine at the direction of the school, medical provider, or health department, the school will provide the student with school work and missed assignments in a timely manner, upon request by the family or student. The school work will be asynchronous. If the student has to be absent for an extended period of time (generally, more than 10 consecutive school days), the team may consider medical homebound.

Meals:

Schools have safety guidelines that allow them to eat in the classroom or in the cafeteria. School leaders at each building will decide whether students will eat in the classroom or in the cafeteria, based on what they feel is most reasonable for their school.

Field Trips and Community-Based Instruction (CBI):

There are no restrictions on field trips or community-based instruction (CBI). Students and staff attending off-campus events will follow the safety precautions of the site.

Cleaning:

- Established cleaning protocols are in place.
- Hand sanitizer and cleaning supplies will be available in every classroom and common spaces. Additionally, SSD will promote proper handwashing and hygiene.

Visitors:

Visitors and volunteers are permitted. All visitors are required to sign-in, abide by the guidelines in this plan while on campus, and follow the student and staff health screening process.

Group Events:

Group events, including staff meetings, trainings, and family engagement activities, may occur with approval from administration.

Protocols for Off-Site Students and Staff:

Students and staff who are located at community sites will follow the sites' safety protocols.

Continuity of Services:

All children with disabilities receiving services outlined in an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 plan will continue to receive a robust education and all protocols to ensure the reception of their current level of education will remain in place.

SSD has been providing 5-days per week, in-person instruction since January of 2021. During the 2022-23 school year, should there be any interruptions of in-person learning, the District will provide for academic needs for students in the following ways:

- All students served in SSD schools and programs will be provided a District Chromebook or other device, if they do not have access to a device.
- The District will provide internet access as needed through HotSpot devices at no cost to students or families.
- Instruction will be facilitated through classroom management systems, such as Google Classroom.
- All students and teachers will have off-site access to any needed software or supplemental software packages.

SSD will provide for the social, emotional, and mental health needs of students and staff during in-person learning or in the following manner if there is an interruption to in-person learning:

- District staff, including social workers and school counselors, will continue to engage with students and families on as needed basis to ensure student needs are met.
- Teachers and paraprofessionals will refer students who appear disengaged or need additional support to the school counselors for further follow up on a daily basis. School counselors will work with administration to identify a plan for the student.
- SSD will continue to provide social, emotional, and mental health support for staff through the Employee Assistance Program (EAP).

Periodic Revision & Review

Modifications to this plan will be made in a timely and reasonable manner, when necessary. The plan must be reviewed and, if needed, revised at least every six months, in accordance with Federal Guidelines. Feedback will be gathered from stakeholders through a variety of means, that may include letters, email, social media, and public Board of Education meetings, throughout the school year. Any updates will be communicated to the community through the District websites. Additional information may be sent out to specific stakeholders.