

New! FAQ's for District Re-Opening



Where can I find a copy of SV's Health and Safety Plan?

[Click here to read the Health and Safety Plan.](#)

Is this the final plan? Has it been approved by the Board of School Directors?

- The Saucon Valley School Board approved the Health and Safety Plan on Tuesday, July 28, 2020. Our plans for the 2020-2021 school year are subject to change and will be continually evaluated and updated based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Pennsylvania Department of Health, Pennsylvania Department of Education, and local health providers.

Who contributed to the Health and Safety Plan?

- Administrators, School Board Members, Principals, Assistant Principals, parents, teachers and staff, and community members who work in health care.

What learning options will SVSD be offering for the 2020-2021 School year?

- SVSD will offer families two unique choices regarding learning opportunities for students. These options will include:
 - Traditional Instruction: Learning at School
 - Live classroom instruction with the teacher and other students in the same room.
 - Remote Instruction: Learning at Home - SVSD Curriculum
 - Remote Learning with access to the same lessons and instruction provided in the live classroom setting. Instruction will follow the same pace, will allow for opportunities to collaborate with classroom teachers and learn with students who are in the face-to-face classroom.

What is remote learning?

- Remote is linked to your child's homeroom teacher/classroom teachers through Schoology and students follow the teacher's daily content as if they were in the classroom. Instruction will be "synchronous" at the same time daily as normally scheduled during the school day. Synchronous learning means the student will log on virtually to the class at the same time students in the classroom are participating

in the learning activities. Students will complete the same work as students attending the class face-to-face each day.

As a family, do we have to choose the same option for each of our children?

- No, you do not have to choose the same option. Your children are each unique and may require different types of support, academic challenges and accommodations.

Has the District considered delaying the start date for school?

- At this time, the Saucon Valley School District plans to follow the approved 2020-2021 School Calendar with classes beginning the week of August 24.

What does the first week of school look like for students?

- To promote a smooth transition to the return to school following the summer break, as well as acclimating our students to the routines of school under our Health and Safety Plan, Saucon Valley School District will have a special schedule for the opening days of school:
 - August 24th: Grades 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 12 and Kindergarten families in Mrs. Arena, Mrs. Borger Mrs. Dilenno's classrooms
 - August 25th: Grades 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11 and Kindergarten families in Mrs. Harvey, Mrs. Soulliard, Ms. Snyder's classrooms
 - August 26th: All grades and remote learners report.

What items should my child bring to school?

- Plan to send your child to school with a mask, a water bottle, and a book bag. It is suggested that you have multiple face coverings for your child to avoid daily laundering. Please practice wearing face coverings with your child so they become comfortable wearing a mask. We also recommend putting your child's first and last name on their mask in permanent marker.

Will students be allowed to carry their backpacks to classes?

- Yes, students will be able to carry their backpacks to class.

Will students and staff need to wear masks?

- Students and staff will be required to wear face coverings at all times, including on the school bus. "Mask breaks" will be scheduled, however, students will not be permitted to remove face coverings in classrooms outside of those breaks.
- In the event a mask needs to be replaced at school, each school has masks available to ensure compliance with this requirement.
- Children two years and older are required to wear a face covering unless they have a medical or mental health condition or disability, documented in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or IDEA, that precludes the wearing of a face

covering in school. Accommodations for such students should be made in partnership with the student's health care provider, school nurse, and IEP/504 team. Parents seeking accommodations should contact their school counselor who can provide additional information on the necessary documentation required.

Will there be consequences for students who refuse to wear a mask or repeatedly remove their face coverings after redirection?

- The District will work hard to educate all students on the importance of face coverings and the necessity to wear them for the health and safety of our schools and our broader community. Parents will also be notified of the expectations. However, once sufficient education and redirection have occurred, students who refuse to wear face coverings will not be admitted into the school building and appropriate disciplinary actions will be taken for those who habitually remove their face covering.
- Children with a medical or mental health condition or disability, documented in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or IDEA, that precludes the wearing of a face covering in school will be exempted from this requirement. Accommodations for such students should be made in partnership with the student's health care provider, school nurse, and IEP/504 team. Parents seeking accommodations should contact their school counselor who can provide additional information on the necessary documentation required.

Will my child have to wear his or her face covering all day?

- Yes. Face coverings will be worn by all students and staff members at all times, except during specific "mask breaks" as scheduled or when they are eating or drinking.

Will there be students in classrooms who are not wearing face coverings?

- Yes. Students with medical conditions documented in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or IDEA, that precludes the wearing of a face covering in school will be permitted in the school building without a mask.

Will there be certain times of the day where students are given a "mask break"?

- Mask breaks will only occur when students are six feet apart at lunch or when students are outside (or in an indoor area well beyond six feet such as the gymnasium) and six feet apart.

How often might an instructional model change once in place?

- The operational model might need to change immediately should known COVID-19 cases occur in our district or if guidelines or requirements change at the county,

state or federal level. If operating at a more restrictive model than required and moving to a less-restrictive model, we will give families as much advance notice as possible.

Will families have the option of changing their child's placement from in-person instruction to remote or vice versa at any point during the year?

- We ask that families consider their options carefully and commit to the chosen option for 9 weeks (one grading period). If the selected option becomes problematic for a student at any time, families may contact their school counselor to discuss the possibility of switching to a different option.

Will students have to take standardized tests such as PSSAs and Keystones?

- The standardized testing requirement is a mandate from the Federal government that is enacted in each state. At this time, the Federal government has not changed this requirement, therefore, states are currently obligated to conduct standardized testing.

How will my child's IEP and/or 504 services and accommodations be met?

- IEP - During on-campus instruction, service providers will follow the District's health and safety protocols in the Special Education environment while implementing each student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Upon returning to school, case managers will address student-specific needs arising from the transition back into school buildings while considering whether or not a student has experienced a regression of skills and/or lack of progress. If regression and/or a lack of progress is present, the IEP team will identify opportunities for recovery, including additional, new, or different services and accommodations. If the District is required to transition to full online learning, case managers will schedule a parent/teacher conference to discuss the contents of the IEP and create this individualized continuity of learning plan for students in an online environment.
- 504 Plans - The SVSD School Counseling Department will ensure student support through Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 while students are receiving on-campus instruction. If the family selects remote learning or the District transitions to online learning, the School Counseling Department will reach out to families to address individual student needs based on the changes to the instructional delivery.

Will the IEP need to be re-written each time that they move from one scenario to another?

- IEP teams will need to consider Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) in each instructional delivery model. In most cases, this will be done through the IEP revision process between the child's family and case manager.

What if my student receives special education services and I do not want them to return to school for face to face instruction?

- Contact the special education office to discuss.
- An IEP meeting will be scheduled to discuss options for learning

What if my child has a compromised immune system and/or is at high risk for contracting COVID-19?

- SVSD has offered options in an effort to meet all of our student and family needs. Families can choose the best option that they feel the most comfortable with.
- It might also be best if you discussed the available options with your primary care physician so that an informed decision can be made.

If a student/staff member has a confirmed case of COVID-19 will families be notified?

- In the case of a positive test and quarantine, affected families will be notified as well as all families district wide while also protecting the privacy of the affected person.

What protocols will be used on district buses?

- Masks: The PA Department of Health guidelines allow for exemptions; therefore, there may be some students who will not be wearing a mask on the bus.
- Load buses from back to front
- Unload buses from front to back
- Assigned seats based on order of pick-up
- Siblings sit together, when possible
- Bus windows will be open, when possible
- Busses will be sanitized twice daily

Will courtesy stops that were previously provided still be made by district transportation?

- No. Due to our need to efficiently utilize our transportation fleet while adhering to social distancing guidelines, we will not be providing courtesy stops.
 - The following courtesy stops are ones that we will no longer service:
 - Elementary:
 - Magnolia Rd & Cherry St
 - 69 Main St (Christian Learning Center)
 - Durham Rd & Depot St (across from Pool)

- 3rd Ave & Easton Rd
- Middle/High School:
 - Depot St & Milton St (Side of Pool)

During COVID-19 reopening phases (Green/Yellow/Red) all attendance policies will remain in place.

- Traditional Instruction: Learning at School
 - Period-by-period attendance will be taken as per a normal school day.
- Remote Instruction: Learning at Home - SVSD Curriculum
 - Period-by-period attendance will be taken each time the class meets.

During COVID-19 reopening phases (Green/Yellow/Red) do all truancy laws remain in place?

- Yes. Parents/guardians must continue to write excuse notes for when their child is ill and will not be either attending school in person or logging in remotely.
 - Parents may legally write notes covering 10 absences for the approved reasons
 - Notes must be either turned in or emailed to their child's school within 3 days. If the excuse note is not turned in within 3 days, the absence will be marked unlawful.
 - After 3 unlawful absences, a SAIP meeting is required by law to be held.

Will visitors be permitted to enter any of the school buildings?

- Only essential visitors who provide service to the students will be permitted.
- Upon entering the building any visitor will have their temperature taken by a handheld thermometer.
- If their temperature is 100.4 or higher, the visitor will not be permitted to enter the building.