



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS - JULY 20, 2020 - 1st EDITION

1. Instructional Models

Q: Will we know which teachers are participating in the remote learning model vs. the onsite learning model?

A: Once families have selected a learning model, teaching staff will be determined for each model.

Q: Are specific teachers being allocated to the online option or are teachers expected to cover both options for their class?

A: The intent is to have a designated teacher for each *onsite* classroom of students and a separate teacher for each *online* classroom of students. In the event an onsite classroom/school needs to:

- Pivot to full online learning, the teacher will transition with his/her onsite class/cohort.
- Be in a more restrictive grouping of students - i.e. an A/B model, the same teacher will be responsible for both A and B cohorts of students.

Q: Will online classes have some live interactive lessons or simply check-ins with recorded lessons?

A: All online classes will have *daily* live interactive lessons, in addition to check-ins.

Q: Will there be a pickup day for books or learning material packets for online learners?

A: Yes, designated times and days will be established for picking up and dropping off materials, while adhering to safety guidelines.

Q: Are you planning a full school day at school/online or a few hours?

A: Both the online and onsite scholars instructional models are structured to provide five hours of teaching and learning experiences for staff and students. This includes a combination of daily live instruction (synchronous), prerecorded instruction (asynchronous), and independent work.

Q: Will grade levels in the remote learning model span the district or will they be site-specific?

A: The Online Scholars learning model will have students from across the district in these designated classes. Based on enrollment numbers, students from each school will be clustered to the extent possible.

Q: How will STREAM lessons be offered for both options?

A: Regardless of whether a student is in an onsite or online model, STREAM lessons will occur in a virtual or physical environment.

Q: When I commit to a model, may our family change our mind?

A: SBSB recognizes that this is a very important and personal decision for families. Staffing each model to maximize health and safety requirements as well as balancing classes and building classroom communities is an involved process. SBSB desires a year-long commitment; however, staff is considering how to provide a mid-year revisiting option. Unique circumstances will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

Q. Given the need for physical distancing and limited classroom space, will the onsite model be for five days a week or will it be along the lines of a hybrid model?

A. Current health guidelines from the CDPH, the SDHHS, and the Board-adopted Safe Reopening of Schools plan will determine the actual onsite model recommendations. Staff will be making a recommendation to the Board of Education on July 23 that includes a phased in approach to reopening schools.

Q. How will the online learning platform differ from the previous quarter? Will academic activities mirror the onsite model?

A. A daily structured schedule consisting of approximately five hours of teaching and learning will occur. This will consist of daily live instruction (synchronous), pre-recorded lessons (asynchronous), independent work, and scheduled breaks. In addition, daily attendance will be taken and students will engage in formal assessment and feedback.

Q. How will IEP-related services and 504 accommodations be supported in an online model?

A. If you select the Online Scholars Model, a special education provider will contact you prior to the start of the 2020-21 school year to discuss how your child's IEP will be implemented on an individualized basis.

B. If you select the Onsite Scholars Model, and a pivot to an A/B schedule or online model is required, a special education provider will contact you to discuss how your child's IEP will be implemented on an individualized basis.

Q. When will we know model options?

A. Staff will be providing a Reopening Schools update to the Board of Education on July 23 at which time a recommendation for the onsite model will be made.

2. Health and Safety Precautions (Face Coverings, Physical Distancing, Hygiene, etc.)

Q: What are the protocols surrounding children wearing masks? Will they be required upon entering/exiting school? Throughout the school day?

A. Per the recommendation of staff, students at all schools will be required to wear face coverings (masks) at all times except when eating and drinking. Exemptions may include persons with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a face covering.

Q: Will hand sanitizer be available? Will masks be provided?

A: Yes, hand sanitizer and face coverings will be provided for staff and students. Students and staff may provide their own face coverings as long as they meet health standards.

Q. If mask wearing and physical distancing are not enforced once schools reopen, will we have the option to move our children to the online learning platform?

A: All staff will be diligent in reminding and redirecting students to physically distance and wear face coverings. If students elect not to wear face coverings or physically distance, families will need to commit to the *Online Scholars* model. Changes to instructional models will be addressed based on unique circumstances and on a case-by-case basis.

Q: What if a child falls down and skins their knee on the playground, for example? Can a teacher or staff member comfort them? Hug them?

A. The social-emotional well-being of our children also remains a top priority as we implement safety precautions. If a child needs comfort, the staff member, maintaining healthy hygiene (e.g., wearing a face covering) will comfort the child. Only in extenuating circumstances will staff make physical contact with a student. The student and staff member will then ensure that they wash their hands after close contact.

Q. What measures will be taken to ensure physical distancing?

A. Staff will be trained and students will be educated on the benefits of physical distancing. In addition, all spaces where students and staff work and learn will have furniture spaced, floor signage, and posters to reinforce physical distancing.

Q. How will the District ensure that break/snack time is safe for children and staff (i.e. enforcement of physical distancing)?

A: Staff will be trained and students will be educated on the benefits of physical distancing. In addition, all spaces where students and staff work and learn will have furniture spaced, floor signage, and posters to reinforce physical distancing. Students will remain within their cohort during their break/snack time, and maintain physical distancing while playing and eating snack and/or lunch.

3. Health Screenings

Q. Given the fact that most children are asymptomatic or have only mild illness, will this be sufficient to ensure that it is safe for students to enter the school premises?

SBSD recognizes that some children are asymptomatic or present with mild symptoms. SBSD is following the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and San Diego Health and Human Services Agency guidelines for maintaining the health and safety of staff and students while on school campuses. Staff and students participate in active health screenings on a daily basis, wear face coverings at all times, maintain physical distancing, implement hand washing protocols throughout the school day, and limit sharing. In addition, campuses are cleaned/disinfected multiple times a day.

Q. If a vaccine is made available, will it be mandatory for students prior to attending school?

A. Once a vaccine is available, there will most likely be requirements associated which are unknown at this time.

Q. Will students and teachers be tested for COVID-19 to attend school?

A: At this time, COVID-19 testing is limited to individuals who are actively exhibiting symptoms and it is currently unlikely school districts can require overall testing of all students. In the event testing becomes more widely available, this is something we would explore. As of July 17, 2020, Governor Newsom announced testing for all staff. We are awaiting further direction on this new requirement. In the event testing becomes more widely available, this is something we would explore for students.

4. Notification of Suspected or Positive COVID-19 Infection

Q: Will the child(ren) of parents who have tested positive for COVID-19 be required to stay home for a 14-day quarantine period, regardless of their initial test results, and will the District transition that student to the online learning platform during this time?

A: SBSB will inform families the need to communicate immediately with the school if any household member has tested positive or is waiting for pending test results. Any student of the household will be required to quarantine for 14 days starting the first day of the household member's symptoms. The student may return to school on the 15th day if no symptoms developed within the 14-day period. In the event the student of the family member develops symptoms, the family is to notify the school immediately. The student will then need to isolate at home for 10 days, and be fever-free for 3 days (without fever reducing medication), and have a doctor's release in order to be readmitted back to school. Please see **Instructional Continuity During Quarantine or Absences** section for the response to the second part of this question.

Q. What will be the process for informing staff and students of when a parent tests positive?

A: Once notified, SBSB will collaborate with the San Diego Health and Human Services Agency. While following HIPPA regulations, SBSB is unable to disclose specific health information of a student or his/her family.

Q. If a student or staff member tests positive for the virus or becomes ill with suspected COVID-19 infection but with pending test results, what will be the process for the District to inform parents and staff? How will this be performed in a timely manner? Will the school close in this scenario or will this decision be deferred to the San Diego Department of Public Health?

A. Per the San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, if a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, families within the classroom (cohort) will be notified by the preferred communication method selected via the ParentSquare system as their child/teacher will need to quarantine for 14 days. Working in conjunction with the San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, any quarantines beyond the direct close contact will be decided.

5. Continuity of Learning During Quarantine or Illness

Q: What happens to classes (online & offline) if a teacher contracts COVID-19?

A: In the event a teacher is ill or contracts COVID-19, SBSB will utilize a pool of available substitute teachers to temporarily fill in during the absence. Substitute teachers are being trained in our online platforms to help ensure a seamless transition if the regular teacher falls ill.

Q. If the school is forced to close because of an outbreak/ cluster of cases or even one confirmed or suspected case, will those students who are participating in onsite model be able to seamlessly transition to remote learning?

A. Professional learning for all staff to support the use of digital tools and teaching in an online environment will be provided. At the start of the year, regardless if a student is enrolled in an online or onsite model, students will learn how to navigate digital platforms and utilize strategies to interact in an online environment. The goal is to minimize instructional disruption, and maximize continuous learning.

6. Logistics

Q: Will siblings be grouped together?

A: Our goal is to maximize scheduling for our families whenever possible. This means we will do our best to consider A/B schedules, sister schools (SV/SKY and CC/SP and SH/SP) as well as staggered arrival and dismissal schedules.

Q. Health guidance will change over the coming months, how will the district adapt?

A. As part of the Safe Reopening Schools COVID-19 plan, each site, as well as the District, will monitor weekly changes in health orders impacting school reopening. The Onsite Scholars model has been designed to pivot based upon updated health orders.

Q: May I drop-off, pick-up all of my kids at the same time if there is a staggered schedule?

A: Students will need to arrive at school within their designated schedule. In order to participate in the active symptom and temperature screening, there will not be the ability for students to be dropped off and wait on the playground as done in years past.

Q: If the COVID-19 situation changes (by say January/February) is the district planning for potentially allowing more kids initially opting for online to return to school? Is the district open to being flexible if it's clear all kids can safely return?

A: SBSD recognizes that this is a very important and personal decision for families. Staffing each model to maximize health and safety requirements as well as balancing classes and building classroom communities is an involved process. SBSD desires a year-long commitment; however, staff is considering how to provide a mid-year revisiting option. Unique circumstances will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

Q. Is there going to be recess?

A. Yes. Students will have recess with their class/cohort group on a staggered schedule to support 6' physical distancing.

Q. Is there going to be lunchtime? Food Service? Will kids be able to sit together?

A. Yes. Students will have lunch and sit with their class/cohort group on a staggered schedule to support 6' physical distancing. Child Nutrition Services will still provide meal service; however, lunches will be individually packaged and served in a disposable bag. Students will also be allowed to bring food from home in a disposable bag (per health orders, all items brought must be disposable).

Q. Will there be an open house to meet the teacher and see the room?

A. SBSD is planning a modified Mini-Open House for Friday, August 21. The format has yet to be decided.

Q. Will the playground be open?

A. Yes, during school hours. Students will have designated areas to play on the playground with their class/cohort group on a staggered schedule in order to support physical distancing during recess and lunch. Playgrounds will not be open before or after school.

Q. Will students have a choice to be with friends at lunch and in the classroom?

A. Students will remain with their class/cohort throughout the day in class and during recess and lunch. There will not be the ability to interact with students in other classes/cohorts.