

Sharon Springs Central --- Reopening Plan Update, Friday, 8/14

As previously stated, SSCS will strive to allow as much in-person learning as possible, while contending with social distancing guidelines – 6 feet of separation. Class schedules that minimize travel and cross grade exposure have been developed. Teachers are preparing parallel or synchronized classroom instruction (real time) from Kindergarten through 12th grade. Daily attendance and participation is required for both means of instruction. More information and additional details will be disseminated during the weeks ahead.
Upcoming Events; ;

Tuesday, August 18th at 7pm-Virtual Parent Session

- [Zoom](#)
- Password: SSCSstrong

■ **Tuesday, August 25th at 7pm-Virtual Parent Session**

- [Zoom](#)
- Password: SSCSstrong

■ **Thursday, August 27th at 7pm-Virtual Parent Session**

- [Zoom](#)
- Password: SSCSstrong

■ **Wednesday, September 9th:**

- This will serve as an "Orientation Day" for remote learners
- This will serve as a "meet the teacher" for parents and students in grades K - 2.

■ **Thursday, September 10th:**

■ The first day of classes for everyone

Health Checks

The district has developed resources to educate parents/guardians and staff members regarding the careful observation of symptoms of COVID-19 and health screening measures that must be conducted each morning before coming to school. The resources include the requirement for any student or staff member with a fever of 100°F or greater and/or symptoms of possible COVID-19 virus infection to not come to school. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [list of Coronavirus symptoms](#) was used to develop these resources.

Each morning, parents will be asked to take their child's temperature daily and complete and online attestation. Thermometers will be available through the SSCS Sharing and Caring fund by accessing this link (). The online parental attestation will be accessible using a mobile device or computer. Paper copies will be available upon request.

In addition, SSCS will limit entry into the building when opening to the front and new front entrance. Randomized temperature checks for the incoming students will be performed at both points. This may vary day to day from every student, to some other combination. A randomized approach will ensure that all students are treated in an equal manner and no student is "singled out." The screening data will not be kept for any purpose other than determining if the screened student is running a fever or not running a fever. Should a student be found with a temperature of 100°F or greater, a staff member will bring the student to the isolation area in the auditorium atrium to visit with the School Nurse Betsy Jones and/or to await parent/ guardian pickup.

Management of Ill Persons, Contact Tracing and Monitoring

The district will require any student, faculty or staff members who develop COVID-19 symptoms during the school day to report to the nurse's office. If there are several students waiting to see the school nurse, students must wait at least 6 feet apart. Should the Nurse feel that parental pick up is necessary, the student will wait with a staff member in the auditorium atrium.

In a suspected case of Covid 19, the district will immediately notify the Schoharie County Department of Health for guidance.

Dr. Amy E. Gildemeister, Ph.D.

Director of Public Health

Schoharie County Dept. of Health

P.O. Box 667, 284 Main St.

Schoharie, NY 12157

518-295-8365 (O) 518-295-8786 (Fax)

COVID-19 Testing

In the event that a large-scale testing is required at the school, the district will work with the following community providers:

Bassett Healthcare Network

Schoharie County Department of Health

Contact Tracing

The district will notify the state and local health department immediately upon being informed of any positive COVID-19 diagnostic test result by an individual within school facilities or on school grounds, including students, faculty, staff, and visitors of the district.

To assist the local health department with tracing the transmission of COVID-19, the district has developed and maintained a plan to trace all contacts of exposed individuals in accordance with protocols, training, and tools provided through the New York State Contact Tracing Program.

Districts may assist with contact tracing by:

1. Keeping accurate attendance records of students and staff members;
2. Ensuring student schedules are up to date;
3. Keeping a log of any visitor which includes date and time, and where in the school they visited;

4. Assisting the local health departments in tracing all contacts of the individual in accordance with the protocol, training, and tools provided through the NYS Contact Tracing Program.

Confidentiality must be maintained as required by federal and state laws and regulations. School staff should not try to determine who is to be excluded from school based on contact without guidance and direction from the local health department.

Return to School after Illness

The district has established protocols and procedures, in consultation with the local health department(s), about the requirements for determining when individuals, particularly students, who screened positive for COVID-19 symptoms can return to the in-person learning environment at school. This protocol may include:

1. Documentation from a health care provider following evaluation;
2. Negative COVID-19 diagnostic test result;
3. Symptom resolution, or if COVID-19 positive, release from isolation.

The district will refer to DOH's ["Interim Guidance for Public and Private Employees Returning to Work Following COVID-19 Infection or Exposure"](#) regarding protocols and policies for faculty and staff seeking to return to work after a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 or after the faculty or staff member had close or proximate contact with a person with COVID-19.

The district requires that individuals who were exposed to the COVID-19 virus complete quarantine and have not developed symptoms before returning to in-person learning. The discharge of an individual from quarantine and return to school will be conducted in coordination with the local health department.

Reopening Framework For Sharon Springs Central School: **Revised: 8/14/20**

Maximizing Opportunities for In-Person and Hybrid Learning

The mission of Sharon Springs Central School, a community oriented district, is to educate all students to become healthy, hardworking, honest and respectable citizens, who will value lifelong learning and contribute to a global society.

The vision of the Sharon Springs Central School is to provide a supportive and creative learning environment, which challenges our students to achieve excellence as a way of life.

Essential Goals

Health and Safety For All

*For all to maintain appropriate social distance of 6 feet or greater.

*For Face Coverings to be worn all times, especially in places that individuals cannot maintain appropriate social distancing. It is strongly recommended at all times, except for meals and instruction with appropriate social distancing. Acceptable face coverings include but are not limited to cloth-based face coverings (e.g., homemade sewn, quick cut), and surgical masks that cover both the mouth and nose.

*For all to sign an agreement, including parents, students and staff, to acknowledge an understanding that face masks must be worn throughout the day and appropriate social distance maintained without violating personal space.

Equity

*For all students to have access to a personalized computing device.

*For those students, K-12 engaged in hybrid or remote learning, a Verizon Data plan will be provided to ensure internet connectivity.

[Flexibility - 3 PLANS For Reopening...](#)

Scenario One: Full Return with Enhanced Health and Safety

- All students return to school five days per week in the conventional manner.
- Return to school is modified by enhanced health and safety protocols as directed by public health, including social distancing protocols in place, as well as a requirement of wearing a mask when social distancing is not possible (i.e., busses, hallways, small group instruction, etc.).

Scenario Two: Adaptive In-Person/ Hybrid Model

- Combination of face-to-face and distance learning to reduce class sizes.
- Greater expectations regarding the use of one-to-one devices to execute effective digitally-mediated synchronous learning via the district's use of its learning management systems (ClassDoJo K-4 and Schoology 5 - 12) combined with coordinated use of teleconferencing via Zoom. Considerations for equity, safety and privacy will continue to be a priority as these resources and methods of instructions are deployed.
- Maximizing student instructional time by providing robust, standards-aligned instruction that is student-centered and flexible in delivery.
- Student attendance will be prioritized and communicated regularly to all stakeholders within a system to provide parent/student options/flexibility. In-school instruction will be prioritized for the students that need it the most (our youngest students, low-income students, special education students, English Language Learners, and those with limited access to technology/ cellular dead spots **and students that did not engage with virtual learning in the spring**).

Scenario Three: Full Distance Learning/ Remote Learning

- Should schools be closed due to COVID-19, school would continue to deliver instruction through distance learning
- All educators plan with a blended learning model (synchronized and asynchronous) in mind.

- All teachers establish virtual learning environments via use of Zoom, Schoology, Remindme, Class Dojo and/or Google Classroom.

Introduction

On Monday, July 13, 2020 Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced that school districts in New York can follow plans to reopen for in-person schooling in September if COVID-19 infection rates stay at 5% or lower in a given region.

Determinations will be made by region about opening and closing schools as the COVID-19 pandemic continues. If a region is in Phase 4 and has a daily infection rate of 5% or lower over a 14-day average, schools in that region could hold in-person instruction. If daily infection rates exceed 9% over a seven-day average, however, schools in that region would not reopen. Similarly, should a region see such an average after reopening, schools in that region would also be directed to close.

While districts have been instructed to prioritize efforts to return all students to in-person instruction, the district is also planning for remote/distance learning as well as for a hybrid model that combines in-person instruction and remote learning. Parents will always have the choice to remain in the remote learning model. **During the first week in August, parents and guardians will be required to complete a commitment survey for the 2020-2021 school year which will indicate their decision to have their child participate in person at SSCS, participate with their class via synchronized learning off site, or have their child attend school through the virtual Capital Region BOCES online program.**

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdPDfTRalotXpoXIGMDYhDkqaYxAi-f7VeAc81V8ugxIZBA3g/viewform>

The plan outlined here is for the reopening of schools in the Sharon Springs Central School for the 2020-21 School Year, following the building closure related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

SSCS is a small rural district with students in grades K-12 attending the one building campus, www.sharonsprings.org.

The health and safety of our students, our staff and their families is our top priority. We want students and employees to feel comfortable and safe returning to school campuses. Our reopening plan incorporates recommendations and guidance from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](https://www.cdc.gov/), the [New York State Department of Health \(NYSDOH\)](https://www.health.ny.gov/) and the [New York State Education Department \(NYSED\)](https://www.nysed.gov/).

It is possible that we may need to alternate between in-person and remote learning throughout the year due to recommendations and guidance from our partnering agencies, and stay-at-home orders from the Governor. The level of infection, the spread of the virus and

response to the disease in our community will be at the forefront of our decision making as we move to open our schools.

Superintendent, Patterson Green will serve as the district's COVID-19 Coordinator. **School Nurse, Betsy Jones** will work closely with our local health department and will be responsible for direct oversight of students and staff members suspected of being infected. She will serve as a central contact for schools and stakeholders, families, staff and other school community members and will ensure the district is in compliance and following the best practices per state and federal guidelines, **while working in conjunction with Building Principal, Thomas Yorke, Business Manager, Anthony DiPace and others in the building.**

Additional input and feedback can be given directly to the Superintendent, Mr. Green (pgreen@sharonsprings.org) or the Principal, Mr. Yorke (tyorke@sharonsprings.org) or on the phone at (518) 284-2266.

Content Outline

- Communication/Family and Community Engagement
- Health & Safety
 - Health checks
 - Social distancing, face coverings & PPE
 - Infection control strategies
 - Management of ill persons, contact tracing and monitoring
 - Health hygiene
 - Cleaning and disinfecting
 - Vulnerable populations/accommodations
 - Visitors on campus
 - School safety drills
- Facilities
- Child Nutrition
 - Meals onsite
 - Meals offsite/remote
- Transportation
- Social Emotional Well-Being
- School Schedules
- School Activities
 - Extracurriculars
 - Childcare
- Attendance and Chronic Absenteeism
- Technology and Connectivity
- Teaching and Learning
 - In-person Instruction

- Remote/Hybrid Instruction
- Special Education
- Bilingual Education and World Languages
- Staff
 - Teacher and Principal Evaluation System
 - Certification, Incidental Teaching and Substitute Teaching

Communication/Family and Community Engagement

To help inform our reopening plan, the district has sought feedback and input from stakeholders, including administrators, faculty, staff, students, parents/guardians of students, local health department officials and health care providers, employee unions and community groups. Engagement efforts included virtual forums/meetings and one-on-one conversations.

SSCS remains committed to communicating all elements of this reopening plan to students, parents and guardians, staff and visitors. The plan is available to all stakeholders via the district website at www.sharonsprings.org and will be updated throughout the school year, as necessary, to respond to local circumstances. The link to the plan appears on the website homepage and every effort has been made to ensure that the plan is accessible to all individuals in accordance with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 Level A/AA. The plan can also be translated into other languages, via the G-Translate feature available on the district website.

As part of its planning for the reopening of schools and the new academic year, the district has developed a plan for communicating all necessary information to district staff, students, parents/guardians, visitors and education partners and vendors. The district will use its existing communication channels – including **the website, text messaging and front sign board**– as well as other appropriate signage and training opportunities to support the dissemination of consistent messaging regarding new protocols and procedures, expectations, requirements and options related to school operations throughout the pandemic.

The district is committed to establishing and maintaining regular channels of communication and has reviewed and determined which methods have proven to be the most effective in communications with our school community. The district will rely on **the webpage and text message system** to communicate news, requirements and updates related to reopening and in-person instruction, including social distancing requirements, proper wearing of face coverings

and proper hand and respiratory hygiene. The information that we will share will be based on state guidance and the **results of our meetings with key stakeholder groups.**

In support of remote learning, the district will make computer devices available to **all** students and teachers who need them. **SSCS began the 1:1 iPad initiative during the 2012-2013 school year and has now extended these devices K-6.** The district will provide students and their families with multiple ways to contact schools and teachers during remote learning, **including student email accounts, Schoology messaging, Class Dojo messaging, and secure text messaging (via KinVO) accounts. Additionally, teacher and administrative emails and phone numbers can be taken from the school web page, and the district will launch a robust communication system (KinVO) in the fall that will communicate to parents/guardians attendance/ “engagement” via an automated message system linked to our period-by-period attendance system. Messages will be sent to parents/guardians if a student in a remote setting is not engaged in the synchronous learning opportunities being provided or are not completing daily assignments.**

The district will use existing internal and external communications channels to notify staff, students and families/caregivers about in-person, remote and hybrid school schedules with as much advance notice as possible. **A text message will be sent to all parents notifying them that the draft hybrid schedules are now available on the school website.**

The district will follow its existing engagement and communication protocols with parents regarding the provision of special education services for their child. SSCS will continue with its traditional methods of phone calls and letters to ensure special education protocols. In addition, the district will make every effort to ensure that communication to parents/legal guardians is in their preferred language and mode of communication.

The district is committed to ensuring that all of its students and their families are taught and re-taught new expectations related to all public health policies and protocols. As part of this continuous training, the district will assess the best approach to communicating the information for each students' age group and will provide frequent opportunities for students to review these policies and protocols. This targeted education will help ensure that all students and their families know what is expected of them as they successfully return to the school setting. These trainings will cover:

- **Hand hygiene –Teachers and staff will teach and model appropriate hand sanitizing methods, along with appropriate signage in each bathroom as well as hand sanitizer available in each classroom.**
- **Proper face covering procedures (how to wear and remove) –Teachers and staff will instruct and model appropriate face covering protocol, and use training video to differentiate. In addition, appropriate signage will be placed throughout the building.**
- **Social distancing - Teachers and staff will instruct and model appropriate face covering protocol, and use training video to differentiate. In addition appropriate**

signage will be placed throughout the building. Student desks will be arranged with 6 foot separation, for a total of 10-12 per classroom. Other learning spaces will be utilized in the building including the gyms, auditorium and outside.

- **These safety measures will also be included in curriculum material and differentiated by our teachers K – 12, as well as reinforced by daily morning announcements.**
- 1. **Respiratory hygiene – The following measures and training methods will be used to promote respiratory hygiene:**
 - **Post signs at entrances asking all people entering our school with symptoms of respiratory infection to:**
 - **Cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing.**
 - **Use tissues and throw them away.**
 - **Wash hands (or use a hand sanitizer) every time you touch your mouth or nose.**
 - **Provide tissues and no-touch receptacles for their disposal.**
 - **Provide resources for performing hand hygiene in waiting areas.**
 - **Teachers and staff will model and instruct.**
- **Identifying symptoms – All school staff will receive instruction in the identification and handling of COVID 19 symptoms. They will complete a mandatory training during a staff development day or on their own via Schoology. Parents/guardians will notify the school if their child develops symptoms, by phoning the School Nurse at 518 284-2266, or ejones@sharonsprings.org. Additionally, parents will be notified about responsibility to screen their child each morning, including temperature check by the Back to School District Newsletter, separate mailing, and school website.**
- **The district will create and deploy signage throughout the district to address public health protections surrounding COVID-19. Signage will address protocols and recommendations in the following areas:**
 - **Proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE);**
 - **Acceptable face coverings and requirements related to their wear;**
 - **Hand washing;**
 - **Adherence to social distancing instructions;**

· Symptoms/prevention of COVID-19.

In addition to signage, the district will encourage all students, faculty, staff and visitors through verbal and written communication to adhere to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and DOH guidance regarding the use of PPE through **a back to school letter, text messages, website posts, start of year trainings, weekly bulletins and daily announcements.**

The district is committed to creating a learning environment that protects student and staff health, safety and privacy. Our district will operate under a standard procedure for addressing situations in which an individual has tested positive for COVID-19 or appears symptomatic.

Stakeholders in the school will be made aware of protocols and safety measures regarding containment through the back to school newsletter, signage and start of the year trainings.

In the event that a student or staff member is sick or symptomatic, notification to exposed individuals will occur pursuant to the state's contact tracing protocols as implemented by the local health department. The district will not notify the wider community unless specifically directed to do so by local health officials.

School Closures

The district is preparing for situations in which one or more school buildings need to close due to a significant number of students or staff testing positive for COVID-19 or a considerable regional increase in COVID-19 cases.

SSCS will continue to work in collaboration with local health officials to determine COVID-19 rates, and any applied metrics, parameters, or conditions, such as increased absenteeism or increased illness that would serve as early warning signs that positive COVID-19 cases may be increasing beyond an acceptable level.

The district may choose to modify operations in one or more schools prior to closing to help mitigate a rise in cases. The district will consult with Dr. Amy E. Gildemeister, Ph.D. Director of Public Health, Schoharie County Dept. of Health, P.O. Box 667, 284 Main St. Schoharie, NY 12157 518-295-8365 (O) 518-295-8786 (Fax) when making such decisions.

School building administrators will communicate with each other regularly and, if needed, will consider closing school if absentee rates impact the ability of the school to operate safely. Decisions to alter operations may be made after consulting with other Superintendents in the region, Dr. Amy Gildemeister, or other state and county officials. Building closure will be executed in a traditional manner with use of the school notification system, parent/guardian text message, robocalls, and/or a letter home.

Obviously, related local, county and state officials will be involved on an as needed basis.

Health & Safety

The health and safety of our students, our staff and their families is our top priority. We want students and employees to feel comfortable and safe returning to school campuses. Our reopening plan incorporates recommendations and guidance from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#), the [New York State Department of Health \(NYSDOH\)](#) and the [New York State Education Department \(NYSED\)](#).

The following protocols and procedures will be in **place at SSCS** for the 2020-21 school year should in-person schooling resume. Anyone with questions or concerns should contact our COVID-19 safety coordinator at pgreen@sharonsprings.org or 518 284-2266.

Health Checks

The district has developed resources to educate parents/guardians and staff members regarding the careful observation of symptoms of COVID-19 and health screening measures that must be conducted each morning before coming to school. The resources include the requirement for any student or staff member with a fever of 100°F or greater and/or symptoms of possible COVID-19 virus infection to not come to school. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [list of Coronavirus symptoms](#) was used to develop these resources.

SSCS will implement the following practices to conduct mandated health screening.

Each day will begin an electronic screening with questions related to COVID-19 exposure will be used for all individuals entering the building. Parents will complete for their children if necessary. This will be accessible using mobile devices, computers and paper copies will be available as a last resort at the secure front entrance (where strict sanitation procedures will be followed). (www.sharonsprings.org) Parents/guardians will be instructed in health screening requirements and temperature checks in the district newsletter and related back to school information.

(https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf_wYXZgcCEDUZH700s5S-NaHDAIq5LYXmzW8qkf262I5KIA/viewform)

In addition, SSCS will use two points of entry into the building when opening and will conduct randomized temperature checks for the incoming students. This may vary day to day from every student, every other student, or some other randomized sample to be determined. A randomized approach will ensure that all students are treated in an equal manner and no student is “singled out.” The screening data will not be kept for any purpose other than determining if the screened student is running a fever or not running a fever. Should a student be found with a temperature of 100°F or greater, a staff

member will bring the student to the isolation area in the auditorium atrium to visit with the School Nurse Betsy Jones and/or to await parent/ guardian pickup.

In-school temperature screening protocols:

- **School staff will provide student supervision and help maintain students to follow social distancing protocol while waiting their turn, both after parent drop off, and bus dismissal.**
- **Students will use a single point of entry.**
- **Staff will be trained to properly perform temperature screenings including correct usage of PPE.**

Social Distancing, Face Coverings & PPE

The district has developed a plan with policies and procedures for maintaining social distancing of all students, faculty, and staff when on school facilities, grounds and transportation.

The SSCS Social Distancing Guidelines will be posted throughout the building. Additionally, there will be directional arrows in hallways and staircases, along with maximum capacity signage for smaller spaces based on 6 ft. requirement.

If social distancing of 6 feet cannot be maintained, proper face coverings must be worn in common areas such as hallways or school buses. **For those medically unable to wear face coverings, due to documented medical exemptions, a face shield may substitute.**

Students, staff and visitors to our schools will be expected to wear face coverings indoors and outside, including on the school bus, when six-foot physical distancing is not possible. Students will be allowed to remove face coverings during meals, instruction, and for short breaks so long as they maintain appropriate social distance. Students who are unable to medically tolerate a face covering will not be required to wear one.

Because students and staff will need to be prepared to wear a face covering if another person unexpectedly cannot socially distance, they will be required to wear a face covering in all common areas (e.g., entrances and exits) and when traveling around the school.

Face coverings will be provided to students and staff, if needed, at no cost. Acceptable face coverings for COVID-19 include, but are not limited to, cloth-based coverings and surgical masks that cover both the mouth and nose.

An employee is allowed to wear their own acceptable face covering if they choose. Employees with healthcare provider documentation stating they are not medically able to tolerate face covering will not be required to do so.

Face coverings may be challenging for students (especially younger students) to wear in all-day settings such as school, so there may be periods of time when masks are not worn.

Face coverings should not be placed on:

- Children younger than 2 years old;
- Students where such covering would impair their health or mental health, or where such covering would present a challenge, distraction, or obstruction to education services and instruction;
- Anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious;
- Anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cloth face covering without assistance;

The district will instruct students, parents/guardians and staff, contractors and vendors on:

- The proper way to wear face coverings;
- Washing hands before putting on and after removing their face covering;
- Proper way to discard disposable face coverings;

The Schoharie County Department of Health will assist in providing additional trainings and materials on an as needed basis.

Infection Control Strategies

Student classes will be kept in groups or “pods” throughout the day, and not intermix with other classes (or at the high school level, be on a very limited basis). Pods will travel the building separately, and eat separately from one another. As the district intends to use the cafeteria, it will be disinfected before the next pod of students arrives. Additionally, alcohol-based hand rub dispensers and dividers at doors and other points of congregation will be utilized.

Facility Alterations and Acquisition

- **There will be some degree of alterations to the configuration of existing classrooms in order to accommodate the 6 foot of separation. Temporary and/or movable partitions may be utilized.**
- **Means of egress, fire alarm system, ventilation, and lighting will not be impacted by any of the changes.**

- **Our architectural firm of Teitsch, Kent, Fay were consulted in order to maximize and ensure proper separation and numbers. However, there has been no significant change that would need to be submitted to the OFP.**

Space Expansion

Again, SSCS will not implement any significant building modifications to increase square footage (No additions, leased space or use of tents or transportable classrooms). Outside learning spaces may be employed throughout the year as appropriate. This is inclusive of recess and gym, as well as other learning times as appropriate. In addition, space will be immediately set up adjacent to the cafeteria for outside socially distant dining on nice days.

Management of Ill Persons, Contact Tracing and Monitoring

The district requires students, faculty, or staff members who develop COVID-19 symptoms during the school day to report to the nurse's office. If there are several students waiting to see the school nurse, students must wait at least 6 feet apart. The district has designated areas to separate individuals with symptoms of COVID- 19 from others until they can go home or to a healthcare facility, depending on severity of illness. One area will be used to treat injuries, provide medications or nursing treatments, and the other area will be used for assessing and caring for ill students and staff. Both areas will be supervised by an adult and have easy access to a bathroom and sink with hand hygiene supplies.

SSCS will consider designating the auditorium atrium area for this purpose.

PPE requirements for school health office staff caring for sick individuals includes both standard and transmission-based precautions. In areas with moderate to substantial community transmission, eye protection (e.g., goggles or face shield) should be added. When caring for a suspect or confirmed individual with COVID-19, gloves, a gown, eye protection, and a fit-tested N-95 respirator will be used, if available. If an N-95 respirator is not available, a surgical face mask and face shield will be used.

School health office cleaning will occur after each use of cots, bathrooms, and health office equipment (e.g., blood pressure cuffs, otoscopes, stethoscopes). Health office equipment will be cleaned following manufacturer's directions.

Disposable items will be used as much as possible (e.g., disposable pillow protectors, disposable thermometers, disposable thermometer sheaths or probes, disposable otoscope specula).

Aerosol Generating Procedures

Respiratory treatments administered by nurses generally result in aerosolization of respiratory secretions. These aerosol generating procedures (AGPs) potentially put healthcare personnel and others at an increased risk for pathogen exposure and infection. The district requires the following PPE to be worn during AGPs: Gloves, N-95 or a surgical mask with face shield, eye protection and a gown. PPE will be used when: suctioning, administering nebulizer treatments, or using peak flow meters with students who have respiratory conditions.

Treatments such as nebulized medication treatments and oral or tracheostomy suctioning will be conducted in a room separate from others with nursing personnel wearing appropriate PPE. For nebulizer treatments, if developmentally appropriate, the nurse will leave the room and return when the nebulizer treatment is finished.

Cleaning of the room will occur between use and cleaning of the equipment should be done following manufacturer's instructions after each use.

If Students or Staff become Ill with Symptoms of COVID-19 at School

The district requires students or staff with a temperature, signs of illness, and/or a positive response to the questionnaire to be sent directly to a dedicated isolation area where students are supervised, prior to being picked up or otherwise sent home. Students will be supervised in the isolation area while awaiting transport home and will be separated by at least 6 feet. Students will be escorted from the isolation area to their parent/guardian. Students or staff will be referred to a healthcare provider and provided resources on COVID-19 testing.

SSCS will likely designate the auditorium atrium area for this purpose.

Return to School after Illness

The district has established protocols and procedures, in consultation with the local health department(s), about the requirements for determining when individuals, particularly students, who screened positive for COVID-19 symptoms can return to the in-person learning environment at school. This protocol may include:

1. Documentation from a health care provider following evaluation;
2. Negative COVID-19 diagnostic test result;
3. Symptom resolution, or if COVID-19 positive, release from isolation.

The district will refer to DOH's ["Interim Guidance for Public and Private Employees Returning to Work Following COVID-19 Infection or Exposure"](#) regarding protocols and policies for faculty and staff seeking to return to work after a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 or after the faculty or staff member had close or proximate contact with a person with COVID-19.

The district requires that individuals who were exposed to the COVID-19 virus complete quarantine and have not developed symptoms before returning to in-person learning. The

discharge of an individual from quarantine and return to school will be conducted in coordination with the local health department.

If Students or Staff Become Ill with Symptoms of COVID-19 at School

The district requires students or staff with a temperature, signs of illness, and/or a positive response to the questionnaire to be sent directly to a dedicated isolation area where students are supervised, prior to being picked up or otherwise sent home. Students will be supervised in the isolation area while awaiting transport home and will be separated by at least 6 feet. Students will be escorted from the isolation area to their parent/guardian. Students or staff will be referred to a healthcare provider and provided resources on

COVID-19 Testing

In the event that a large-scale testing is required at the school, the district will work with the following community providers:

Bassett Healthcare Network

Schoharie County Department of Health

Contact Tracing

The district will notify the state and local health department immediately upon being informed of any positive COVID-19 diagnostic test result by an individual within school facilities or on school grounds, including students, faculty, staff, and visitors of the district.

To assist the local health department with tracing the transmission of COVID-19, the district has developed and maintained a plan to trace all contacts of exposed individuals in accordance with protocols, training, and tools provided through the New York State Contact Tracing Program.

Districts may assist with contact tracing by:

1. Keeping accurate attendance records of students and staff members;
2. Ensuring student schedules are up to date;
3. Keeping a log of any visitor which includes date and time, and where in the school they visited;
4. Assisting the local health departments in tracing all contacts of the individual in accordance with the protocol, training, and tools provided through the NYS Contact Tracing Program.

Confidentiality must be maintained as required by federal and state laws and regulations. School staff should not try to determine who is to be excluded from school based on contact without guidance and direction from the local health department.

School Closures

SSCS may choose to modify operations in one or more grade levels prior to closing to help mitigate a rise in cases. The district will consult the Schoharie Department of Health and other schools in the county when making such decisions. School building administrators will communicate with each other regularly and, if needed, will consider closing school if absentee rates impact the ability of the school to operate safely.

- **Schools will close if the regional infection rate rises over 9% after Aug. 1. Schools will close if the 7-day rolling average of the infection rate is above 9%.**
- **Schools in regions in Phase 4 can reopen if the daily infection rate remains below 5 percent using a 14-day average, unless otherwise directed from the LOCAL (insert county) health department.**
- **If the infection rate rises about 9%, schools must wait until the 14-day average is below 5%**
- **Once schools open at Phase IV below 5% for a 14-day rolling average, schools can remain open even if the rate continues to rise about 5% until it reaches 9% for the 7-day average.**
- **School will be notified by: Dr. Amy E. Gildemeister, Ph.D. Director of Public Health on the situation.**

Health Hygiene

The district will emphasize healthy hygiene practices for students and staff by providing initial and refresher education in hand and respiratory hygiene, along with providing adequate supplies and time for frequent hand hygiene. Signs will be posted throughout the school (e.g., entrances, restrooms, cafeteria, classrooms, administrative offices, auditorium, custodial staff areas) and regular messaging will be shared with the school community. Signage will be used to remind individuals to:

1. Stay home if they feel sick.
2. Cover their nose and mouth with an acceptable face covering when unable to maintain social distance from others or in accordance with any stricter policy implemented by the school.
3. Properly store and, when necessary, discard PPE.
4. Adhere to social distancing instructions.
5. Report symptoms of, or exposure to, COVID-19.
6. Follow hand hygiene, and cleaning and disinfection guidelines.
7. Follow respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette.

Hand Hygiene

Students and staff must carry out the following hand hygiene practices.

- Wash hands routinely with soap (any kind) and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Dry hands completely after washing. Use paper towels to dry hands if available instead of a hand dryer if they are available.
- If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that is at least 60% alcohol. Hand sanitizer should be rubbed on the hands until it is completely absorbed. DO NOT dry hands if sanitizer is used.

Hand washing should occur:

- Before and after eating (e.g. snacks and lunch).
- After going to the restroom or after assisting a student with toileting.
- After using a tissue.
- Before and after using shared materials.
- Before and after putting on or taking off face masks.
- After coming in from the outdoors.
- Anytime hands are visibly soiled.

Respiratory Hygiene

The COVID-19 virus spreads from person to person in droplets produced by coughs and sneezes. Therefore, the district will emphasize the importance of respiratory hygiene.

Students and staff must carry out the following respiratory hygiene practices.

- Cover a cough or sneeze using a tissue. If a tissue is used, it should be thrown away immediately.
- If you don't have a tissue when sneezing or coughing, sneeze into your elbow.
- Wash your hands after sneezing or coughing.
- Face coverings are protective. Wearing a face covering will keep the respiratory droplets and aerosols from being widely dispersed into the air.

Cleaning and disinfecting

The district will ensure adherence to hygiene and cleaning and disinfection requirements as advised by the CDC and DOH, including "Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfection of Public and Private Facilities for COVID-19," and the "STOP THE SPREAD" poster, as applicable. Cleaning

and disinfection logs will be maintained that include the date, time, and scope of cleaning and disinfection.

Examples of facility types where cleaning and disinfection frequency will be distinguished include

- Bathrooms
- Athletic rooms, locker rooms
- Health offices, isolation rooms
- Administrative offices (main office, reception area)
- Frequently touched surfaces in common areas (door handles, elevator buttons, copy machine keypads, etc.)
- Cafeterias/Kitchens
- Computer labs
- Science labs
- Classrooms
- Maintenance offices and work areas
- Bus Garage
- Buses, school vehicles
- Library
- Large meeting areas (auditoriums, gymnasiums, music rooms)
- Playgrounds (cleaning only)
- Outdoor seating areas (plastic or metal)

Students, faculty, and staff will be trained on proper hand and respiratory hygiene, and such information will be provided to parents and/or legal guardians on ways to reinforce this at home.

The district will provide and maintain hand hygiene stations around the school, as follows:

- For handwashing: soap, running warm water, and disposable paper towels.
- For hand sanitizing: an alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol for areas where handwashing facilities may not be available or practical.
- Accommodations for students who cannot use hand sanitizer will be made.

Regular cleaning and disinfection of the facilities will occur, including more frequent cleaning and disinfection for high-risk and frequently touched surfaces. This will include desks and cafeteria tables, which should be cleaned and disinfected between each individual's use. Cleaning and disinfection will be rigorous and ongoing and will occur at least daily, or more frequently as needed.

The district will ensure regular cleaning and disinfection of restrooms. Restrooms should be cleaned and disinfected more often depending on frequency of use.

Vulnerable Populations/Accommodations

We recognize that some students and staff members are at an increased risk for severe COVID-19 illness, live with a person who is at an increased risk, or simply do not feel comfortable returning to an in-person educational environment. It is our goal that these individuals are able to safely participate in educational activities if possible.

Visitors on Campus

No outside visitors or volunteers will be allowed on school campuses, except for the safety and well-being of students. Parents/guardians will report to the new secure front entrance and not go beyond the front office unless it is for the safety or well-being of their child. Essential visitors to facilities will be required to wear face coverings and will be restricted in their access to our school buildings. Visitors must follow all safety protocols as listed above.

School Safety Drills

The district will conduct fire (evacuation) drills and lockdown drills as required by education law and regulation and the fire code without, exceptions. Schools must continue to conduct mandatory fire and lockdown drills according to the existing statutory schedule. Drills will be conducted in a manner that maintains social distancing at exits and gathering points outside the building, while still preparing students to respond in emergencies.

In order to achieve social distancing during school safety drills, SSCS may modify safety drill protocols in several ways including but not limited to:

- **Conducting drills on a “staggered” schedule, where classrooms evacuate separately rather than all at once, and appropriate distance is kept between students to the evacuation site.**
- **Conducting lockdown drills in classroom settings while maintaining social distancing/using masks.**
- **Conducting lockdown drills on a “staggered” schedule with smaller numbers of students present to maintain social distancing**
- **Conducting lockdown drill in classroom without “hiding”/ “sheltering” while still providing an overview of how to shelter or hide in the classroom.**

If schools reopen with a “hybrid” in-person model, such as one where students attend school on alternate days in order to reduce the occupancy of the school building, schools must be certain that all students are receiving instruction in emergency procedures and participating in drills while they are in attendance in-person.

Regardless of the modification used when conducting a drill, students should be instructed that if it was an actual emergency that required evacuation or lockdown, the most imminent concern is to get to safety; maintaining social distancing in an actual emergency that requires evacuation or lockdown may not be possible and should not be the first priority.

Facilities

In order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 infection in the district, facilities operations will be geared toward meeting social distancing requirements and cleaning frequently touched spaces regularly. In carrying out projects or tasks supporting infection control, requirements will be met for changes associated with building spaces.

The function, position and operation of stairs and corridor doors, which have closers with automatic hold opens (and are automatically released by the fire alarm system), will remain unchanged.

The district plans to meet the deadline for submission of Building Condition Survey or Visual Inspections on time. In addition, lead in water sampling will be carried out upon the reopening of school under conditions consistent with when the building is “normally occupied.”

Upon reopening, the district plans to increase ventilation, to the greatest extent possible. Water systems will be flushed in buildings that have been unoccupied.

Plumbing Facilities and Fixtures

1. The district will ensure that restroom fixtures (toilets, sinks, etc...) are available in adequate number to students and staff.
2. Drinking fountains shall be available in each building at required ratios (1:100 students). To the degree possible, all drinking fountains shall be converted to water bottle fill stations or cups will be provided. In addition, students and staff will be encouraged to bring in personal water bottles from home to avoid using drinking fountains.
3. To the degree possible, faucets and paper towel dispensers shall be modified or replaced to permit touch-free operation.

Ventilation: The district will maintain adequate, code-compliant ventilation (natural or mechanical) in all occupied classrooms and offices. In addition, the district will install higher efficiency filters, as applicable, to improve HVAC air filtration.

Child Nutrition

School meals will continue to be available to all students, including those attending school in-person and those learning remotely.

Meals Onsite

For student's onsite, meals will be provided while maintaining appropriate social distancing between students. Students do not need to wear face coverings when seated and eating so long as they are appropriately socially distanced.

The district will ensure social distancing between individuals while eating in the school cafeteria. Meals for students K-5 will be staggered so that only one class is eating at a time. The sharing of food and beverages (e.g., buffet style meals, snacks) is prohibited, unless individuals are members of the same household. Adequate space will be reserved for students, faculty, and staff to observe social distancing while eating meals.

For students 6-12, students will eat in the Old Gym, with K-5 eating by pod or cohort in the cafeteria.

Students with known food allergies or dietary restrictions shall be accommodated as needed to ensure their safety and well-being.

Kitchens, food preparation areas, food service areas, and cafeterias/classrooms will be cleaned and sanitized to the standards recommended by the Department of Health and/or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The district will comply fully with the state's Child Nutrition requirements.

Meals Offsite/Remote

Students learning remotely will have access to meals via one of two methods:

- 1. Grab-and-Go Meals consisting of a lunch and the next day's breakfast will be available daily from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. at each school.**
 - 2. Families receiving "backpack program" food may continue to pick up food twice each week. Schedules for the backpack program are available by contacting our Student Services office.**
-

Transportation

The district will conduct transportation activities that are consistent with state-issued public transit guidance and NYSED School Reopening guidelines. Students and school staff must wear acceptable face coverings at all times on school buses (e.g., entering, exiting, and seated) and should maintain appropriate social distancing to the extent practicable.

Students who are able will be required to wear masks and social distance on the bus to the extent practicable; however, students whose physical or mental health would be impaired are not required to wear a face covering, but must be appropriately socially distanced. Members of the same household may be seated within 6 feet of each other. Parents and legal guardians are encouraged to drop off or walk students to school to reduce density on buses.

All buses that are used every day by districts and contract carriers will be cleaned/ disinfected once a day. High contact spots will be wiped down after the morning (AM) and afternoon (PM) run depending upon the disinfection schedule.

School buses shall not be equipped with hand sanitizer due to its combustible composition and potential liability to the carrier or district. School bus drivers, monitors and attendants **must not carry personal bottles of hand sanitizer** with them on school buses.

Wheelchair school buses will configure wheelchair placement to ensure social distancing of 6 feet.

Whether school is in session remotely or otherwise, pupil transportation will be provided to nonpublic, parochial, private, charter schools or students whose Individualized Education Plans have placed them out of district whose schools are meeting in in-person sessions.

All students are entitled to transportation by the district to the extent required by law. Transportation departments do not have the ability or the right to deny transportation for children who are in foster care, homeless or attend private or charter schools. Parents who may have missed the due date to request out of district transportation due to a reasonable excuse may file a 310 appeal with the Commissioner of Education.

School Bus Staff

School bus drivers, monitors, attendants and mechanics are required perform a self-health assessment for symptoms of COVID-19 before arriving to work. If personnel are experiencing any of the symptoms of COVID-19, they will notify their employer as per the reporting policies and seek medical attention.

School bus drivers, monitors, attendants and mechanics must wear a face covering along with an optional face shield.

Transportation staff (drivers, monitors, attendants, mechanics and cleaners) will be trained and provided periodic refreshers on the proper use of personal protective equipment and the signs and symptoms of COVID-19.

Transportation departments/carriers will need to provide Personal Protective Equipment such as masks and gloves for drivers, monitors and attendants in buses as well as hand sanitizer for all staff in their transportation locations such as dispatch offices, employee lunch/break rooms and/or bus garages.

Drivers, monitors and attendants who must have direct physical contact with a child must wear gloves.

Routing: Due to social distancing constraints and routing complexities, the district is unable to accommodate requests for alternate drop-off and pick-up points. This includes requests that typically result in issuance of a “bus note.” In extenuating circumstances, the transportation office will work to accommodate students residing in more than one household.

Bus Loading and Unloading: When students board or exit the bus, they should follow social distancing protocols.

Bus Ventilation: When temperatures are above 45 degrees Fahrenheit, school buses should transport passengers with roof hatches or windows slightly opened to provide improved air flow.

Social Emotional Well-Being

We recognize that the social emotional well-being of our students and staff during these challenging times is critically important. The district has made available resources and referrals to address mental health, behavioral, and emotional needs of students, faculty, and staff when school reopens for in-person instructions. This has done this by:

SSCS will support children and adults so that they better understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.

We will review and update (as needed) district-wide and building-level comprehensive school counseling plans to meet current needs.

We will engage “school climate teams” to assess and support student and staff emotional health in each of our four buildings.

We will provide resources and referrals to address mental health, behavioral, and emotional support services and programs.

We will provide professional development opportunities for faculty and staff on how best to support students' social and emotional well-being.

School Schedules

SSCS is prepared to offer academic programs to students utilizing three different instructional models for the 2020 - 2021 school year: 100% onsite; a hybrid model (onsite and virtual); and 100% virtual/remote. In addition, 100% virtual/remote instruction will be offered to students and their families if it is determined that the student (or another household member) is medically vulnerable or is in a high-risk group for COVID-19 infection. In addition, the district will accommodate parent requests for virtual/remote instruction in the event a parent elects to keep a child/children home.

More information on academic schedules will be posted to each school's website by August 24.

School Activities

Physical Education and Instrumental and Vocal Music Programs:

We recognize that physical education and music programs are an important part of a student's overall education experience. We are still assessing the feasibility of providing physical education and performing arts instruction to students given enhanced social distancing requirements for those activities.

A distance of twelve feet in all directions is maintained between individuals while participating in activities requires projecting one's voice (singing), playing a wind instrument, or aerobic activity.

Extracurriculars

Onsite, in-person extracurricular activities are suspended until further notice in order to mitigate increased exposure risk to the COVID-19 infection.

Club and activity advisors are strongly encouraged to offer co-curricular and extracurricular activities virtually to students, to the extent practicable. Advisors should coordinate those activities through their building principal.

Competitive Athletics

Interscholastic athletics (modified and varsity sports) are suspended through September 21, 2020. This includes all team practices, scrimmages, and games/contests. We are awaiting additional guidance on competitive athletics from the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHAA).

Childcare

SSCS will continue to open for childcare before the start of school at 7:40am in the Old Gym. Social distancing and PPE will be enforced by school staff. At this point in time, SSCS expects funding for the After School Program to be cut, so the program will not begin until the district receives written notification that it will in fact receive state funding.

Attendance and Chronic Absenteeism

During all periods of instruction (onsite, hybrid, and remote), student attendance shall be recorded by teachers on each day that school is in session.

Teachers and counselors shall monitor student attendance to ensure participation and engagement and to watch for signs of chronic absenteeism.

Students exhibiting chronic absenteeism (defined as absences totaling 10% or more of schedule, eligible days of instruction) shall be referred to a school counselor and/or building principal so that a plan to improve school attendance can be developed and implemented.

Technology and Connectivity

SSCS will continue with the 1:1 iPad program with Verizon accounts for all students 6-12. The district will assess (via surveys) student access (K-5) to appropriate devices and broadband connectivity in their homes. Teachers also have personalized iPads with Verizon accounts to ensure connectivity.

Classroom teachers shall provide multiple ways for students to participate in learning and demonstrate progress and mastery of NYS learning standards in remote or blended models. Each student K-5 will be issued a personalized iPad that will be kept in school, but available for student learning needs during time of closure.

Students, faculty, staff, and families will receive orientation, training, and on-call technical assistance related to their use of required technology devices and applications.

Teaching and Learning

The school calendar typically includes one or more staff-only days before students arrive at school. Acknowledging the challenges that our teachers and staff have faced this spring delivering remote instruction under stressful circumstances, the district will focus these in-service days on providing support to staff in the areas of social-emotional health and technology integration.

These days will also be utilized for student orientation. This time will allow small groups of students to meet with their new teacher and begin to establish the relationship necessary for a successful school year.

As we enter the new school year, teachers will be encouraged **to spend time building relationships, supporting students with the transition back to school, and teaching social distancing etiquette at developmentally appropriate levels.**

When a remote or hybrid learning model is necessary, certain groups of students will be prioritized for in-person learning to the greatest extent possible. This includes, but is not limited to, special education students, English language learners, students who did not engage in remote learning during the spring of 2020, and students with technology or connectivity needs.

The SSCS prekindergarten program will operate under standards that meet or exceed the district's printed guidelines related to social distancing, personal protective equipment, cleaning and sanitation requirements, and other mitigation of COVID-19 transmission. The district shall ensure that community based partner organizations (Head Start) adhere to those standards, maintain a continuity of learning plan that includes onsite, hybrid, and remote models of instruction. In addition, the partners shall be required to submit a program safety plan to the district's Student Services office for review and approval prior to the commencement of programming and any time changes are made to the plan.

**For information relating to teaching and learning in BOCES special education and Career and Technical Education programs, please see the BOCES website:
www.capregboces.org**

We recognize that parents face a very difficult decision in electing for their children to return to school. Parents may, upon written request, elect for remote/virtual learning in lieu of onsite and hybrid models of instruction. Once making this election, the child/children must remain in remote/virtual instruction for 5 weeks prior to a return to school.

In-Person Instruction

Upon reopening, the number of students in each of our classrooms will be reduced to adhere to CDC guidance regarding proper social distancing. Class size will reflect the need to ensure that students' desks/seats are positioned no less than six feet apart.

Accommodating a six-foot radius around students will necessitate the identification of additional rooms and common-area spaces that can be converted into elementary classrooms.

Current staffing levels may be insufficient to accommodate the expanded number of classrooms needed to ensure social distancing. **In these instances, faculty may be assigned outside their certification areas and licensed teaching assistants may be assigned as the lead supervisor of a cohort/small group of students.**

All instruction will continue to be aligned to the New York State Learning Standards.

Our schools will minimize the movement of students. This potentially means having students eat lunch in their classroom instead of the cafeteria and eliminating assemblies, field trips and other large-group activities. Special-area subjects (e.g., art, music, physical education) may be pushed into the classroom. Whenever possible students will utilize outside space for physical education instruction. We will adhere to 12 feet between students when engaging in physical activity.

To the extent possible, students will remain in small cohorts or pods if/when leaving the classroom, such as for recess or any necessary transition, so as to reduce their exposure to additional students.

Elementary classes will be stationed in their primary classroom, with lunch by pod in the cafeteria and by pod at outdoor recess. At the secondary level, classes will be assigned a "BASE Room" and will leave the BASE room on a limited basis for electives that cannot be held in the base room. Core classroom teachers will report as need to the BASE room for the delivery of in-person instruction and synchronized instruction to students receiving at home. Students will leave the BASE Room for IEP scheduled Resource Rooms as well.

Remote/Hybrid Instruction

Given the possibility that communities may experience spikes in COVID-19 cases at any point during the school year, which may prompt short or long-term school closures, our district has developed a hybrid/blended learning model and schedule that can continue as is in a fully remote environment.

Instruction will not only focus on “core” subject areas to the exclusion of elective courses. Consideration has been given to prioritizing hands-on and lab-based activities while students are onsite in school buildings. All instruction will continue to be aligned to the New York State Learning Standards.

As noted previously, student schedules will remain the same whether instruction is in person or remote so that students do not encounter conflicts wherein synchronous lessons for different subjects are offered simultaneously.

Remote learning opportunities for secondary students will include a greater emphasis on synchronous instruction, with teachers finding ways to provide live instruction and lessons to students. While recording of live lessons is still essential for students unable to attend at a scheduled time, teachers will ensure that their students are directly engaged with them and their class peers in experiential learning on a regular basis.

To ensure high-quality remote learning experiences, we will standardize the use of a single online learning platform, and develop a common, coordinated set of guidelines for teachers to follow when using the platform with students. For K-5 this will be Class Dojo, and 6-12 Schoology.

Grading practices will follow a standards-based framework designed to provide direct feedback regarding students’ mastery of course content. We will use a five-scale grading rubric based on levels of competency/mastery, which can then be aligned to numeric bands (for GPA purposes).

Special Education

- 1. Students who are supported through our district’s special education program will receive instruction consistent with their individualized education plan (IEP). Instruction will be provided via onsite, hybrid, and (in some instances) remote instruction. All of the modifications and accommodations afforded to special education students via their IEP will be afforded to students regardless of whether their primary instructional model is onsite, hybrid, or remote.**
- 2. The district will ensure collaboration between committees on preschool special education/committees on special education and program providers representing the variety of settings where students are served to ensure there is an understanding of the provision of services consistent with the recommendations**

on/individualized education programs, plans for monitoring and communicating student progress and commitment to sharing resources.

3. Access to the necessary accommodations, modifications, supplementary aids and services, and technology (including assistive technology) to meet the unique disability-related needs of students shall be maintained and monitored, regardless of the method of instruction.
4. Related services (such as speech, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and counseling) shall be provided to students consistent with their IEP's. These services will be offered onsite, via a hybrid model, or remotely, as applicable.

Bilingual Education and World Languages

1. Students who are supported through our district's bilingual and/or world languages will receive instruction via onsite, hybrid, and (in some instances) remote instruction. All of the modifications and accommodations afforded to bilingual/world language students will be afforded to students regardless of whether their primary instructional model is onsite, hybrid, or remote.
2. The district must complete the English Language Learners (ELL's) identification process within 30 school days of the start of the school year for all students who enrolled during COVID-19 school closures in 2019-20, as well as all students who enroll during summer of 2020 and during the first 20 school days of the 2020-21 school year. After this 20-day flexibility period, identification of ELLs must resume for all students within required 10 school days of initial enrollment.
3. Required instructional units of study to all ELLs should be provided based on their most recently measured English language proficiency level during in-person or hybrid instruction.

Staff

Teacher and Principal Evaluation System

All teachers and principals will continue to be evaluated pursuant to the district's approved APPR plan.

Certification, Incidental Teaching and Substitute Teaching

All teachers will hold valid and appropriate certificates for teaching assignment, except where otherwise allowable under the Commissioner's regulations (e.g., incidental teaching) or education law.

Professional Development and Training

In order to support our faculty and staff, the district will provide professional development and training, as applicable, in prioritization of learning standards, online and remote teaching and learning, and social and emotional development.

COVID-19 Accommodations

To the extent permitted by law, the district shall accommodate assignment requests of faculty and staff who are at increased risk for COVID-19 transmission because of documented medical vulnerability or increased risk pools (this includes sharing a home with vulnerable/high risk individuals).

Key References

- [State Education Department Issues Guidance to Reopen New York State Schools](#) (July 16, 2020)
- [State Education Department Presents Framework of Guidance to Reopen New York State Schools](#) (July 13, 2020)
- [Interim Guidance for In-Person Instruction at Pre-K to Grade 12 Schools During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, NYS Department of Health](#) (July 13, 2020)

Additional References

- [Interim Guidance for Sports and Recreation During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency](#) (June 26, 2020)
- [Interim Guidance for Food Services during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.](#) (June 26, 2020)
- [Interim Guidance for Office-Based Work during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.](#) (June 26, 2020)
- [Interim Guidance for Public Transportation Activities during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.](#) (June 26, 2020)
- [New York State Department of Health Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [New York State Education Department Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [Occupational Safety and Health Administration COVID-19 Website](#)

Once finalized, reopening plans must be posted on the district's website. By July 31, 2020, districts will need to complete a survey through the Portal, providing NYSED with:

- *A link to the public website where each school plan has been publicly posted*
- *A set of mandatory assurances that the reopening plan includes all of the mandatory elements outlined in the NYSED guidance*

NOTE: Information submitted through the Portal will not include detailed narratives or descriptions of specific actions to be taken by a school or district as part of their reopening Plan; those details must be articulated in the materials that are publicly posted on the school/district website.

Also by July 31, 2020, districts must complete a short companion [Department of Health survey that includes a link to the publicly posted plan on the district/school website.](#)