

Frequently Asked Questions

Reopening Plan Questions

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, what is the plan for reopening Springfield City School District for the 2020-2021 school year? Will my child physically return to his/her assigned school this fall?

It is important to maximize all students' in-person interaction with their teachers and school staff in a safe manner, while still providing a virtual option to students who require it for health reasons or learning preference. Following guidance from the Ohio Department of Health, the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) the Clark County Combined Health District and other local experts, all students will return to school in the fall following a regular, full-time schedule with additional safety precautions in place, including physical distancing, additional cleaning procedures, and masks or face coverings for both staff and students.

The SCSD will continue to follow the guidance of the Clark County Combined Health District when determining any changes to this plan. If at any point Clark County shifts to a level four (purple) emergency status, according to the health department, there is a high likelihood that schools will be recommended to operate remotely (SCSD COVID-19 Condition Red).

For parents who do not wish for their child to return to school, we are offering the Springfield City OnCourse Virtual Learning Option. Registration for this 100% online curriculum for students in grades K-12 is open through July 31.

[Click here to read the complete plan for Springfield's responsible reopening, including alternative options, if deemed necessary.](#)

How did Springfield determine the reopening plan for the 2020/2021 school year?

District leaders have been working on a responsible reopening plan since April. Feedback from parents, students and staff was gathered via surveys following remote learning. Additionally, multiple administrative meetings and a Board of Education work session have been held to review logistics of how to bring our students back to school safely.

What factors would force Springfield to shift to another plan?

The District will continue to follow the guidance of the Clark County Combined Health District when determining any changes to our current plan.

Will in-person guidelines be the same for all grade levels?

Generally speaking, physical distancing and face covering requirements will be consistent between all grade levels. Specific building implementation plans may vary and principals will be sharing those details with families directly, when available.

In the SCSD COVID-19 Condition Orange, will there be considerations made to siblings when establishing schedules?

Yes. If the District has to shift to COVID-19 Condition Orange, the schools will make every effort to place siblings on the same schedule.

What will happen if schools are required to close again?

If schools are required to close, the District will move to COVID-19 Condition Red: 100% Remote Learning, a more robust remote learning experience where all students learn from home.

Curriculum & Instruction Questions**How are teachers and staff collaborating to ensure consistent curriculum & instruction via Google Classroom?**

Taking into consideration feedback from parents, students and staff, planning for the possibility of a return to remote learning began in May. The District has dedicated professional development time to a committee of SCSD teachers that represent all buildings, grade bands, and subject areas to help create a better online presence for our teachers. Members of our Teaching & Learning Department are working with this team of teachers to build out a more robust Google Classroom. In addition, teachers will participate in professional development (PD) sessions prior to the start of school.

How will classrooms look and how many students will be permitted in each classroom?

Under COVID-19 Condition Yellow, class sizes will average between eighteen (18) and twenty-five (25) students per class. Individual desks will be placed between three (3) and six (6) feet apart, and face coverings will be worn at all times, with set breaks when distances of six feet or more can be achieved. Every effort will be made to limit movement within the building.

Under COVID-19 Condition Orange, class sizes will average between fifteen (15) and eighteen (18) students per class. Individual desks will be placed six (6) feet apart, and face coverings will be worn at all times, with set breaks when distances of six (6) feet or more can be achieved. Every effort will be made to limit movement within the building.

Is Springfield still offering a preschool program?

Yes, the SCSD is still offering a preschool program. However, as a part of the Responsible RestartOhio plan by Governor DeWine and the Ohio Department of Health, SCSD Preschool will be limited to a 9:1 student-to-teacher ratio. As a result, the Clark Early Learning Center will operate on a half-day, in-person model only.

Will students be switching classes?

In COVID-19 Condition Yellow and Orange, every effort will be made to limit movement within the building. At the primary level, that means traveling to specials, the cafeteria, gifted classes etc., will be limited. At the secondary level, students will transition between each classroom on a daily basis and masks will be required. Options for students who travel to another building are being finalized.

How will gifted education look in Springfield?

The Student Services Department is currently working on the logistics of providing gifted education under each model.

How will special education look in each model?

Special education services will be provided as indicated on a student's IEP.

How will my child continue to receive instruction if he/she tests positive for COVID-19 or is the student required to quarantine?

Any student who tests positive for COVID-19 and/or has to quarantine will still be able to participate in school, just as if they would for any absence. Assignments will be available online through Google Classroom and our teachers will be available to answer questions. Students will stay connected to their current teachers and will be able to make progress, so that they can return to school on track when they are healthy.

Will there be a band camp this summer?

An SHS virtual band camp will be held July 29-31, August 3-7, and August 10-14. Student groups will be assigned and virtually attend a daily session from 9am - 12pm or 1pm - 4pm (alternating daily). Students will access detailed schedules on Google Classroom once they have signed up to participate and have completed Final Forms. Final Forms must be completed by Sunday, July 26. Musical Instruments and electronic devices can be picked up on July 27, 2pm - 6pm and July 28, 10am - 2pm.

Virtual Learning Questions**What if I prefer that my child continue with virtual learning next year?**

The Springfield Virtual Learning Option: OnCourse is available for families who wish to keep their child at home for at least the first full semester. This is a 100% online curriculum for students in grades K-12 (not available for preschool).

How will students enroll in OnCourse?

Registration will be open for the Springfield Virtual Learning Option through July 31.

Can high school students choose to take some classes online and some in person?

No. The Springfield Virtual Learning Option: OnCourse is a 100% online education.

Will OnCourse and remote learning continue concurrently if the District has to shift to COVID-19 Condition Red: 100% remote learning? Or will the two programs merge?

The two programs will operate independently. While teachers in each scenario may use some of the same resources and lessons, they are two separate models.

Remote Learning is for intermittent or temporary absences that are typically not the choice of the student, such as the closing of a building due to COVID-19. If remote learning is implemented during the 2020-2021 school year, it will be similar to the spring of 2020, but more robust given what teachers and administrators learned from that experience. Remote learning will be implemented if the schools are closed due to COVID-19 or a student is absent due to illness.

The Springfield Virtual Learning Option: OnCourse is a more permanent option chosen by students and families who do not want, or cannot have, in-person learning. This option is designed to be more independent and requires less direct instruction than the traditional classroom.

NEW: What school supplies and other items does my child need for OnCourse?

Students participating in OnCourse, the SCSD virtual education option, will need to find a place in the home that is comfortable for computer time, Google Meet calls, and includes adequate lighting to meet individual preferences. When setting up a functional home work area, you may wish to have a water bottle and earphones or earbuds available. As far as traditional supplies, you should not need many, but teachers will talk about supplies once connected for your first few classes. To be prepared, we encourage students to have paper, pencils, and crayons readily available.

Academic Calendar Questions

Will the academic calendar change at all? Will there be extended breaks?

The Springfield City Board of Education adopted a revised calendar that moved the start of school one week later to August 26. We do not anticipate any changes to the length of the school day or start and end times. However, should changes be needed, we will communicate directly with all of our families and give them as much advance notice as possible.

REVISED: When is the first day of school?

Regardless of the format in which students return to school, Springfield will still follow the [2020-2021 academic calendar](#), which includes these start dates:

Preschool First Day: TBD

Kindergarten screening: August 26-28

Kindergarten First Day Students' Last Name A-L: Tuesday, September 1

Kindergarten First Day Students' Last Name M-Z: Wednesday, September 2

August 26 - All students grade 9; Students with last names A-L grades 1-8

August 27 - All students grades 10-12; Students with last names M-Z grades 1-8

August 28 - All students grades 1-12

Is the District considering a year-round academic calendar?

No, SCSD is not considering a year-round academic calendar.

District Protocol Questions

REVISED: Will students and staff be required to wear face coverings?

Yes. On August 4, 2020, the Governor issued a health order requiring masks for all students in grades PK-12. Acceptable face coverings include masks and neck gaiters. Face shields may be approved for a student who is unable to wear a cloth face covering.

Are there any allowable exceptions to the requirement to wear face coverings?

Please contact your building principal to communicate any considerations for not wearing a mask or face covering. Exceptions may be made for health-related reasons and for students with disabilities.

Will any teachers wear masks that have clear coverings?

Dependent on the content and comprehension challenges associated with wearing a mask, we are exploring this option for select classes.

Will masks be provided to students who don't have one?

Yes. Masks will be available on buses and in schools for those students who have misplaced their mask or don't have one to wear.

REVISED: What constitutes an acceptable face covering?

Any face covering that is tight-fitting and covers the nose and mouth is acceptable. Administrative guidelines were approved by the Springfield Board of Education. The updated guidelines will be recommended for Board approval on August 13, 2020, and [can be found here](#).

How will the district enforce the use of a face covering?

Unless an exception is made by school administration, refusing to wear a face covering will be treated as a dress code violation. Administrators will handle each situation individually with the student and family.

What if a student refuses to wear a face covering?

As with any directive or requirement within the student code of conduct, if a student refuses to follow directives given by the administration, it will be considered insubordination.

Will temperature scans be required?

Families and staff should conduct a health assessment each morning before coming to school or getting on the bus. This includes taking your temperature. If you are sick, please call in the absence and stay home. Temperature scans will not be completed as a prerequisite to enter District school buildings.

What additional preventative tools and cleaning and sanitation processes will be introduced into the schools?

Hand sanitizer stations will be located in our buildings. Additionally, cleaning kits will be given to each teacher for sanitizing work spaces throughout the day.

How will Springfield adhere to physical distancing guidelines?

SCSD will adhere to six (6) feet of physical distancing when possible.

If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, how will the District respond and communicate with families?

When a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, the school principal will notify all families, similar to notification of other infectious diseases, such as whooping cough. The District will work with the Clark County Combined Health District to determine the exposure level on a high, medium or low scale. Based on their recommendation, the District will work with the health department to communicate quarantine expectations.

Will symptomatic students report to a different area than the traditional clinic where well students might visit regularly to obtain their medication, for example?

Yes. Each school will have a separate location for students who are presenting COVID-19 symptoms.

Should a student stay home if someone in their household tests positive for COVID-19?

Yes. Per the CDC and Clark County Combined Health District guidelines, any immediate family member in the same household of a person who tests positive for COVID-19 should quarantine for 14 days.

Should a student quarantine if he/she is returning from a trip outside of the United States?

Yes. The District would ask that anyone traveling out of the country quarantine for 14 days before returning to school.

Will visitors and volunteers be permitted in the buildings?

While we deeply appreciate the assistance of our visitors and volunteers, at this time, no outside guests will be permitted inside the buildings. Please understand that the more individuals we introduce into our

learning environments, the more risk we are introducing to our students and staff, so it is a small and short-term adjustment we are making for the health and well-being of everyone.

Food Service Questions

What changes might we expect for breakfast and lunch procedures?

We continue to work with our Food & Nutritional Services Department and our principals to finalize our procedures for breakfast and lunch. Specific guidelines for each building will be shared soon.

How will food allergies be handled, especially if students end up eating in their classrooms?

The safety and wellbeing of our students is of utmost concern. All allergy needs and concerns will be addressed in a manner consistent with the needs of each student. We continue to work with our Food & Nutritional Services Department and our principals to finalize our procedures for breakfast and lunch. Specific guidelines for each building will be shared soon.

Transportation Questions

What about Springfield's bus transportation service will change?

Currently, the guidelines allow two students per seat on the bus. This will allow for regular busing to continue for the 2020-2021 school year. Students will be required to wear a mask because they are less than six feet apart. Students with disabilities who currently have special transportation, will continue to have special transportation.

Will families be required to communicate their transportation plans to help maximize bus routes?

No. Because physical distancing is not required on our buses, our transportation department will continue to run their normal bus routes.

Will arrival and dismissal procedures look any different?

Our building principals are currently working through this plan.

How will parent pick-up and drop-off change?

Each school is working on their individual plan and will be communicating with parents directly.

Beyond the Classroom Questions

What changes might our youngest learners expect for specials and recess?

As we continue to move forward with COVID-19 Condition Yellow, all students returning to school with added safety precautions, we are planning to continue holding specials. Teacher teams are currently developing recommendations for the format of this offering, which will be communicated soon. Recess

will still occur, however it may look different as we follow state and local guidelines. Principal teams will develop recess guidelines that will be communicated soon.

What is the plan for athletics and other extracurricular activities?

We will continue to follow the guidelines of the Ohio High School Athletic Association regarding sports. At this time, most extracurricular activities will continue as long as physical distancing and other safety precautions are followed, but please consult with your school for specific details.

Will secondary students still use lockers?

Our principals will communicate directly with parents with regards to building specific questions such as lockers. At this time, we anticipate our students still using lockers.

What is the plan for assemblies and other large school gatherings?

Unless essential, assemblies and other large school gatherings will not take place at this time.

Will Springfield continue to offer after-school care through School Aged Child Care (SACC)?

The District will continue to offer after-school care through SACC. Specific details will be communicated soon.

Staffing Questions

Will teachers and staff be trained on new safety protocols and procedures related to COVID-19?

Yes, our teachers and staff will receive training on the new safety procedures we are implementing related to COVID-19.

How will the district handle the likely shortage of substitute teachers?

This is an ongoing problem for public schools in our area - not just during COVID-19. We will continue to work through this at the building level.

Will the district have to hire more teachers?

We do not anticipate a need to hire additional teachers as a result of COVID-19.

General Back-to-School Questions

When is my child's open house or orientation?

As we await guidance from the local health department, we are still determining the timing and format for our typical open houses, orientations and schedule pick-ups. Please continue to check back for more information as it is available.

Will there be a kindergarten information night?

We understand the excitement and anticipation our youngest learners have about starting school. Our principals are working through how we may hold kindergarten information sessions and will communicate directly with parents once the details are finalized.

Can students participate in extracurricular activities such as sports, clubs, and band if they are enrolled in OnCourse?

Yes, any student enrolled in a District supported educational program is eligible to participate.

Will the District be hosting physicals for student athletes and marching band members?

The District will host physicals for student athletes and marching band members on Thursday, July 23 from 6pm - 8pm at SHS. The cost is \$20 and you must print off and sign FINAL FORMS prior to attending.