



Distance Learning Handbook
Fall 2021

Disclaimers

A distance learning option will be offered in the fall semester of 2021 to students with serious medical conditions under a doctor's recommendation. Students may also be considered for the distance learning option under a medical doctor's recommendation, if a person residing in the student's documented residency has a serious medical condition and available vaccinations do not provide efficient support.

Distance learning students will be required to complete school work during normal school hours to be counted present. SPSD recommends an adult be home during the school day to monitor the student while completing coursework.

District officials will work closely with Mississippi Department of Education truancy officers to monitor attendance.

If the distance learning option is granted, students must remain distance for the entire fall semester.

Distance learning students will not be allowed to participate in extra-curricular activities such as athletics and fine arts.

Distance learning students must remain in compliance with all District policies, handbooks, rules and regulations and said policies, handbooks, rules and regulations will apply to all distance learning students.

Enrollment

For the Fall 2021 semester, the distance learning option will only be available for students with a serious medical condition or serious medical condition in their documented residence. A doctor's recommendation is required for a student to be considered for distance learning. For K-12 students to be eligible for acceptance, the following must be completed:

- Registration completed via ActiveParent by July 9th - Required documents must be uploaded (proof of residency, immunization compliance, birth certificate, etc.)
- Distance Learning Application Completed ([Linked here](#))
- Completed SPSD medical recommendation form (p. 7), physician's letter, and signed distance learning handbook consent form (p. 8) will need to be scanned and uploaded to the Distance Learning Application.
- After the submission of the Distance Learning Application, SPSD medical recommendation form and distance learning handbook consent form, complete an in person meeting between the District and the Student and their parent(s)/guardian(s) to discuss distance learning. Such in person meetings may be conducted exercising social distancing guidelines if necessary.

Submitting an application indicates a commitment for at least one semester.

Only completed applications with all documents submitted will be reviewed for approval. All applications must be submitted by Friday, July 9th at 4:30 p.m.

In order to prepare for the 2021-22 school year, school officials will not accept late or incomplete applications.

You may email news@spanola.net with any questions or concerns.

See page 7 in the handbook for more information on medical documents.

Attendance

Attendance will be taken daily in accordance with the Mississippi Department of Education's attendance guidelines.

Required Instructional Minutes

The Mississippi Department of Education requires 330 minutes of daily instruction for all students, including those participating in the distance learning option. This is an increase of 90 minutes per day compared to last year.

Elementary

Kindergarten-Fifth Grades

Teachers will assist students in working through weekly assignments with a mix of interactive activities. The content and the pace will match curriculum expectations. Daily instruction could include recorded videos from the classroom teacher, other instructional videos, tasks, assignments, and/or activities.

Google Classroom

South Panola School District utilizes Google Classroom as our learning management system. Each day lessons, assignments, assessments, or activities will be uploaded for K-5 students to complete. Students must submit assignments using this platform.

Log in information will be distributed to students at the school level.

Secondary

Sixth- Twelfth Grades

Secondary virtual courses will be taught through Edgenuity Courseware, a heavily video-based course curriculum. Pre-recorded video instruction is provided by Edgenuity, not South Panola teachers. Courses include assignments and assessments aligned to the state standards.

Secondary students will have a limited course selection.

Courses required for graduation, which are not offered through Edgenuity, will be offered through Google Classroom.

Secondary Attendance Policy

Grades 6-8: To be counted present, students must work within a course for 48 minutes per class period. For classes that are 2 periods in length, students must work 96 minutes within the course to be counted present.

Grades 9-12: To be counted present, students must work within a course 96 minutes per block.

Expectations

- The student understands that it is the enrolled student who must complete his/her assigned work.
- Students are not allowed to record, publish, photograph, stream, post to a third- party site, sell, duplicate or share anything posted on or within the Google Classroom/Edgenuity platforms, either by Google Classroom/Edgenuity or South Panola School District. Violations could result in removal from the program and possible prosecution in accordance with the law.

Internet & Devices

The student's home school will initiate contact concerning student device deployment and distribution for upcoming the school year.

Technology Support

Students and families in need of technology support can put in a help ticket using the SPSD Student Help Ticket Request Form linked here.

Or you may call the district office and ask for the technology department at 662-563-9361.

Grading

Students will follow the SPSD board approved grading policy.

State Assessments

Students enrolled in the distance learning option will be required to participate in state assessments. Some of the state assessments could be required for promotion and/or graduation by state law/policy, such as is the case for all 3rd grade students and high school students enrolled in Algebra I, English II, Biology I, U.S. History, or taking the ACT. In addition, all students in kindergarten and grades 4-8 are required to take a state assessment by federal and/or state law, along with all English Learner students in all grades. These state assessments will require the student to take the assessment in the school building. The school will work with the guardian to complete this at the appropriate time.

Food & Nutrition

Meals are available to students who participate in the distance learning option. Please contact the Director of Child Nutrition, Ashton King, for more information at aking@spanola.net.

Special Education

A student's IEP was written to provide personalized instructional support services in a traditional school setting. Some special education services and related services along with supplementary aids and services may not be appropriate or feasible in a distance option. An IEP meeting will be held at the beginning of the school year to determine the services that can be provided while the student is participating in distance learning.

504

A student's 504 plan was written to provide accommodations in a traditional school setting to provide equity due to that student's disability. Some accommodations may not be appropriate or feasible in a

distance learning option. A 504 meeting will be held at the beginning of the school year to determine the accommodations that can be provided while the student is participating in distance learning.

English Learner

English Learner students will receive services as outlined in their language service plan. The student's English Learner teacher will be in contact after school begins.

Gifted/Merit Education

Gifted/Merit students will receive services/assignments through Google Classroom similar to other classes. The student's Gifted/Merit teacher will be in contact after school begins.

Career Tech

For our Career Tech programs, much of our curriculum requires hands-on learning and use of tools, equipment, and lab space that is provided to our students on campus. Because Career Tech uses a hands-on learning model, students can only be served in a face-to-face environment. Therefore, if students choose to apply for the distance option, they will not be able to participate in their Career Tech program.

Athletics and Extracurricular Activities

Distance learning students will not be allowed to participate in extra-curricular activities such as athletics and fine arts.

Additional Information

The parent/guardian further understands that at any point if the school or district feels that this learning approach is not the most effective for a student due to lack of attendance, participation, or academic growth, a conference will be held with the parent/guardian to decide if participation in the distance learning option will continue.

As educators, we feel it is important to share that we strongly believe that students learn best in the traditional classroom setting. We feel it is the most beneficial and effective academic and social-emotional instructional mode of delivery. Careful consideration should be taken when requesting your child participate in the distance learning option.

**South Panola School District – Distance Learning
Medical Recommendation Form- Fall 2021**

Name of Medical Office	Student's Name
Date of Recommendation	Physician's Name Completing Recommendation Letter
<p>_____ Check here if the medical recommendation is in reference to the student listed above.</p> <p>_____ Check here if the medical recommendation is in reference to a family member residing within the student's household.</p>	
<p>Please sign below acknowledging that you recommend the student listed above be removed from the traditional classroom setting and placed in the distance setting provided by South Panola School District for the 2021 fall semester due to a medical reason.</p> <p>Print Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____</p>	

Please submit a letter from the physician including the following:

- Student's Name
- Reason for requesting enrollment into the distance learning option for the 2021 fall semester
- Information on the specific medical condition(s) and/or diagnosis requiring the student to participate in distance learning
- Physician's signature
- Physician's Phone Number

***The physician will need to state in the letter that he/she recommends the student to be removed from the traditional classroom setting and placed in the distance setting due to a serious medical diagnosis/condition or a family member with a serious medical situation in their documented residence.

South Panola School District officials may need to contact the physician in order to verify information in the medical form or in the physician's recommendation letter or to request additional medical information relating to the student or family member's serious medical condition. In the event the District needs additional information from the physician, I agree to sign any documents necessary to authorize the release of said information to the South Panola School District.

You will need to submit a scanned copy of this form, physician's letter, and signed distance learning handbook consent form in the Distance Learning Application.

South Panola School District
Distance Learning Handbook Consent Form

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read, agree to and understand the terms of all items concerning the distance learning handbook for the 2021-2022 school year.

Student Name: _____

School: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____

Phone Number: _____

Date: _____