



South Panola School District
2021-22
Return-to-School Plan



South Panola School District is committed to offering students an exceptional education experience, while considering the health and safety of students, faculty, and staff for the upcoming school year. SPSD has put together this guide to help students and parents understand protocols in place for the 2021-22 school year due to COVID-19.

The South Panola School District opened schools on Aug. 2, 2021 for teachers and Aug. 5, 2021 for students, with a traditional in-person schedule. Beginning August 31, South Panola School District will offer a virtual learning option for students until the end of the first nine weeks. Distance learning may be an option during inclement weather and in the event of closures.



Due to the fluidity surrounding COVID-19, everyone must be prepared for intermittent closures. Parents must have plans that can be activated immediately if there is a school closure or if their children are not able to attend school because of a quarantine situation. Parents are urged to be prepared to change plans within 24 hours if needed, and it is critical that parents have updated email addresses and phone numbers on file with their child's school.

Please keep in mind, due to the ever changing nature of the Coronavirus pandemic, information in this plan is subject to change based on communication from federal, state, and local authorities.



Health and Safety Standards

Health Awareness and Education: Students and staff will receive education on social distancing, use of face coverings, personal hygiene, cleaning, and disinfection.

Screening Protocols: Parents and guardians should screen their children each morning prior to school arrival. If a student has a temperature of 100.0 or higher, or shows signs of any illness, he or she should remain at home. Faculty and staff should screen themselves prior to coming to work. Screening will occur at school as needed in the event that symptoms arise.

Face Coverings: As of February 15, 2022, face masks will be recommended, but not required, for students and staff. If COVID-19 cases rise in the future, a face mask requirement may be reinstated.

Social Distancing: Social distancing is important when feasible to ensure the health and safety of students and staff.

Larger Gatherings and Common Spaces: We will return to normal operations as it relates to recess, large gatherings, assemblies, and field trips.

Restricted Visitors: Visitors will not be able to enter school buildings except as deemed necessary by school principals.

Sports and Extracurricular Activities: The South Panola School District will follow the guidance and activities calendar of the Mississippi High School Activities Association (MHSAA) regarding school athletic and activity programs. Students who choose virtual as their primary mode of instruction will not be able to participate in extracurricular activities.

Decision-Making Process: The district will continue to partner with local public health and government officials to garner accurate data for our decision-making processes.

Signage on School Campuses: Each campus will utilize signage as reminders for adequate hand washing techniques, observing social distancing, and adequate face coverings.



Daily Procedures



- The district will increase the frequency of cleaning classrooms, restrooms, conference rooms, break rooms, offices, cafeterias, and buses.
- Buses will be wiped down with a sanitizing solution between routes.
- Hand sanitizer and sanitizer wipes will be available in each classroom.
- Grab-and-go breakfast will be served at all schools. Lunch will be eaten inside the cafeteria, however schools may transition to grab-and-go lunch if necessary.

Arriving at School

- Students will not be permitted to congregate outside or in common areas within the building.
- Upon arrival at school, students will unload the bus or vehicle, and enter the school through entry points designated by the building principal.
- Upon entering the school building, students who eat breakfast at school may report to the cafeteria. Students who do not eat breakfast at school must report directly to their homeroom classroom.

General Safety Throughout the Day

- Enhanced cleaning will include replacing general-purpose cleaners with EPA-registered disinfectants for nightly cleaning.





COVID-19 Procedures

When Someone Shows Symptoms

- Immediately separate staff and students with COVID-19 symptoms at school.
- Identify a room/space to isolate anyone who displays symptoms of COVID-19.
- Contact the parent/guardian or someone on the emergency contact list.
- Immediately transfer the student to temporary distance learning.
- If students or employees are sent home from school:
 - Due to fever: They should remain fever free without medication for 24 hours or more before returning to school.
 - Due to illness as it relates to COVID-19, flu, or vomiting/diarrhea, must be symptom free for 24 hours without the use of medications before returning to school.

COVID-19 Diagnoses

- Inform those students/ employees who have been identified as a close contact.
 - Close contact to COVID-19 is defined as 15 minutes of cumulative contact over a 24-hour period at <3 feet without the use of masks, with the following exceptions:
 - Fully vaccinated persons in close contact with an infected person do NOT have to quarantine unless they develop symptoms.

- People who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 3 months and recovered do not have to quarantine as long as they do not develop new symptoms.

- In the K-12 indoor classroom setting, unvaccinated individuals within 3 feet of an infected student do not have to quarantine with proper masking.

- In all other settings the standard definition of close contact applies.

- If a case is identified in a student's home, parents should notify the school.

- If a student tests positive for COVID-19, they may return to school after isolating for five (5) days. May return on sixth (6) day if fever free for 24 hours, without the use of medications, and with improvement of symptoms.

- If a student is identified as a close contact with a COVID-19 case, they must self-quarantine for five (5) days from the date of last contact with the infected individual and have no symptoms before returning to school. (May return on the sixth (6) day.) Testing is not required if individual is symptom free.



Health and Safety Considerations

Students, teachers, and other school staff will be at risk of transmitting and acquiring an infection.

- The district will not conduct COVID-19 testing. This is the responsibility of parents/guardians.
- Social distancing will be maintained to the greatest extent possible, however students may not be able to maintain social distancing in numerous classroom settings or while utilizing district school buses.
- If there is a significant COVID-19 spread, any group of students could be moved to temporary distance learning for a period of time. This hiatus could apply to individual classes, individual schools, multiple schools, or the entire school district.
- Each South Panola School District campus has one school nurse located on site to answer health and safety questions.

Instructional Plan

The South Panola School District opened schools on Aug. 2, 2021 for teachers and Aug. 5, 2021 for students, with a traditional in-person schedule. Beginning August 31, 2021, South Panola School District will offer a virtual learning option for students until the end of the first nine weeks. Distance learning may be an option during inclement weather and in the event of closures.

Face-to-Face Instructional Plan: Students

will be scheduled according to their grade level requirements in order to ensure academic success. Opportunities for after school tutoring or enrichment will be offered throughout the school.

Virtual Learning Option:

Beginning August 31, 2021 a virtual learning option will be offered until the end of the first nine weeks. See the Virtual Learning Handbook on the SPSD website for more information.

Monitoring of Student Progress: Student progress will be monitored throughout the school year using teacher observation and scheduled assessments.

Staff Observation and Feedback: Staff will be observed by administration regularly and provided with feedback to improve student success.

Distance learning: Distance learning may be an option during inclement weather and in the event of a closure.

Technology and Training: South Panola School District provides teachers with instructional technology such as laptops, Smart Boards, etc. in order to equip teachers with the materials needed to teach in a technology driven world. Chromebooks are also available for student use: both in class and distance. Professional development on distance learning and the South Panola School District learning management systems (Google Classroom) are provided to students, teachers, and parents on the SPSD website.



In addition, all SPSD certified staff members have been required to complete the Google Level 1 for Education modules (13 in total) to better utilize and offer instruction through Google Classroom. Teachers will be surveyed using Google Forms to determine technology based and professional learning needs.

Support for Academic Success: The South Panola School District will provide academic support for parents through the district website. In addition, South Panola School District has a Parent Center that is open daily to parents and students and hosts programs to assist parents and students academically.

Grading: Grading for students in the traditional classroom setting, virtual learning, and distance learning environment will follow the same SPSD grading policies as listed in the school's student handbook.

Attendance: The Mississippi Department of Education is responsible for establishing general attendance requirements that are to be followed by Mississippi school districts. The South Panola School District will comply with these requirements.

Ensuring equity, access, and social-emotional wellness: Schools will be responsive and continue to meet the needs of all students, including language support for English Learners and support for students with disabilities. Ongoing monitoring of equity will be happening throughout the year. Areas found deficient will be immediately addressed with a focus on access and social-emotional health. Each school has counselors on-site and SPSD

partners with Communicare to provide assistance with social-emotional needs.

Communication

Public information will be provided to families and community partners using multiple methods and languages (email, mobile app, district and school websites, and social media pages). Surveys using Google Forms will be placed on the district website in order to gather feedback about diverse student populations and their needed supports and instructional programs.

Items to Keep in Mind

Continuing to provide safe and effective education to the students is a top priority for SPSD. We understand social distancing will not be possible in many situations with the traditional school model. Social distancing will be maintained to the greatest extent possible, and strategies will be implemented by school officials based on the feasibility of the unique space at each school and in each classroom. As this plan is subject to change based on newly provided information, please ensure that your contact information is up-to-date with your child's school. Updates will also be provided on the SPSD website and Facebook page.