

SIOUX CITY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Return-to-Learn Plan

2021-2022



Sioux City Community School District's Return-to-Learn Plan

The Sioux City Community School District (SCCSD) developed a Return-to-Learn Plan for the 2021-2022 school year as directed by the Iowa Department of Education. The SCCSD website holds updated information regarding quarantine and isolation procedures and safety practices. The SCCSD website can be found here: <https://www.siouxcityschools.org/>.

Full-Time, In-Person Learning

The adopted 2021-2022 School Calendar and assigned (normal) school hours for students and staff will be followed.

Health and Safety

Student and staff health and safety are a top priority. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that individuals wear masks indoors if not fully vaccinated. Students, staff and school visitors who are unvaccinated will be encouraged to wear a mask to school daily. Students are encouraged to bring their own mask to school. Masks will be available to anyone who requests a mask. Parents choose whether their children wear masks. School district staff will ensure any student choosing to wear a mask feels comfortable with their decision. Conversations in classrooms will occur that promote tolerance and acceptance for student's choices.

The SCCSD successfully held in-person learning for students during the 2020-2021 school year. Multiple layers put into place to ensure student and staff safety led to a successful school year. The 2021-2022 school year begins with the same cleaning practices in place that were utilized during the 2020-2021 school year. Students will clean their desks or learning station before and after use. Cleaning supplies will be available. Hand sanitizer will be available in each classroom and office. We will monitor CDC guidance and adjust procedures when needed. High-touch areas in the buildings and classrooms will be cleaned more frequently during the day and thorough cleaning will not be restricted until after the building is vacated.

All parents are expected to take their child/children's temperature before they leave home when going to school or activities. Students who are sick should stay home while they are having symptoms.

If a child becomes sick at school, there are two different steps to take. If a child is coughing and appears to have a fever (possible COVID symptoms), the child should be sent from the classroom with a mask to the "caring room". The child should not be sent to the office where there is high traffic. The "caring room" will be equipped with supplies and equipment to determine if the child should be sent home. A school nurse or certified nurse's assistant will attend to the "caring room" and will be provided PPE materials. The SCCSD will acquire COVID tests. If a child has COVID symptoms, a parent will be contacted and if parent or guardian grants permission, a COVID test will be given to the student. The result of the COVID test will be shared with the parent. If it is determined that the child should be sent home, a parent will be expected to come to school to take their sick child home and to help prevent further

spread of possible COVID in the building. Students who are sick with other non-COVID symptoms will be sent to the office when sick.

Another safety precaution for the beginning of the year is limiting access to the buildings. Parents and volunteers will not be able to visit classrooms as a health and safety precaution. Access of outside agencies will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Supporting Staff

The SCCSD increased the number of guidance counselors working in the District beginning with the 2021-2022 school year. The additional guidance counselors provide supports to students and coordinate additional supports for students as well. The SCCSD plans to expand the number of school-based mental health therapists working in the buildings through our continued partnership with mental health agencies and providers. The guidance counselors make contact with mental health therapists requesting additional supports for students.

To reduce class sizes and allow for increased social distancing, the SCCSD plans to hire, over a period of time, additional staff if there are classrooms available in buildings and there are high-quality applicants for the open positions. Elementary class sizes will average 18 students in kindergarten classrooms, 20 students in first grade classrooms, 22 students in second grade classrooms, 24 students in third grade classrooms, 26 students in fourth grade classrooms and 28 students in fifth grade classrooms. Additional staff members will be hired for core courses at the middle school. With the additional middle school staff, the middle schools will be able to operate with full teams. High school core classes will average class sizes below 30.

The SCCSD continues to offer free breakfast and lunch during the 2021-2022 school year to all students enrolled in the District.

Instructional Preparation and Addressing Learning Loss

At the beginning of the year, students will be taught traditional school routines and procedures. School routines and procedures include: Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS) expectations, proper handwashing techniques, desk and work space cleaning procedures, accessing Outlook e-mail, joining Teams meetings, participating appropriately during instruction delivered through Teams, accessing the District “landing page” that holds the District supported and most commonly used programs/applications, accessing and navigating within Canvas or Seesaw, and accessing the help desk for technical questions or problems.

At the beginning of the year, all staff will access a document that shares the major content and skills that students did not receive instruction on during the 2019-2020 school year due to the closure of schools. This document provides teachers with insight regarding the gaps in learning that occurred during the closure.

During the first month of the 2021-2022 school year, assessments will be administered, and data analysis conducted to determine the educational level and proficiency of students. The following assessments will be used to make programming and placement decisions: IGDIs for literacy and math for preschool students, FAST literacy assessment for students in grades TK-5, FAST math assessment for students in grades TK-5, District-developed BME math assessment

for students in grades 6-12, Rapid literacy assessment for students in grades 6-8, Open Response writing assessments in grades 9-12 and the District-developed pre-assessment in literacy for students in grades 2-12. Assessment results will be shared with parents at the fall parent-teacher conferences.

To help remediate some of the learning lost during school closure in 2020, and interrupted learning in 2020-2021, after-school tutoring and homework assistance will be offered to students who are struggling academically, students who choose to receive extra support and students who are failing courses. After-school tutoring and homework assistance will be offered during the 2021-2022 school year, the 2022-2023 school year and the 2023-2024 school year. A Request for Proposal will be made available in the fall of 2021 for outside agencies to submit a proposal to provide support to students in the form of after-school tutoring and homework assistance.

Also to help remediate some of the learning lost during school closure in 2020, and interrupted learning in 2020-2021, summer school will be provided using ESSER III funds during the 2021, 2022 and 2023 summers. Elementary students achieving below grade-level standards in reading or math will be encouraged to attend the elementary summer school. Middle school students achieving below grade-level in reading or math and/or failing core classes will be invited to attend the middle school summer school. High school students failing classes will be invited to attend the high school summer school.

Technology

The SCCSD provides laptops to all students in grades 6-12. The laptops are internet accessible and can be used at school and home. The SCCSD provides devices for students in TK-5 for their individual use. There will not be a need to share devices. Additional materials, like intervention materials or manipulatives, will be acquired to reduce the need to share materials.

A call center will be available for students, parents and staff to access with technology related questions. The call center will be available between the hours of 7:00am and 7:00pm.

Virtual Learning

The full-time in-person learning may be moved to virtual learning by governor's emergency proclamation related to COVID-19, if necessary.

The SCCSD provides a virtual learning option. Parents who choose the virtual learning option for the 2021-2022 school year can enroll their child(ren) in the VIBE Academy Virtual School.