

South Conway County School District Ready for Learning Plan Updated 4-12-21

The South Conway County School District (SCCSD) will follow the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) guidelines and the Arkansas Ready for Learning guidance issued by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) in planning for **to complete the final quarter of the 2020-2021 school year.**

The District's mission is to maximize the safety, learning, and achievement of every scholar. Our goal has always been to provide as safe an environment as possible which includes a rich educational experience, with opportunities for social interaction and extra-curricular activities while adhering to guidelines provided by the Arkansas Department of Health.

What is the first day for students?

School will begin on August 24, 2020. This date will only change if ADH, DESE, or the Governor of Arkansas sends updated guidance with this requirement.

Will face coverings be required?

The District is receiving weekly, if not daily updates on many COVID-19 topics, including face coverings. Currently, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) are **recommending** all individuals ages 3 years or older to wear a face covering. ***Beginning on May 3, 2021, the District will make the wearing of a face covering optional for all adults and students.*** The District **recommends** that **all** adults and students wear face coverings when physical social distancing (6ft) cannot be achieved

Do we need to provide masks for our student or will one be provided?

Beginning on May 3, 2021, if a student or adult wishes to wear a mask for safety reasons, they must provide his/her own mask that meets the student handbook dress code policy.

Will bus transportation be provided?

Though districts are not required to provide transportation to school, the SCCSD **will** provide bus transportation for all students. Based on current ADH guidance, ***it is recommended all students and bus drivers wear face coverings when riding the bus. Beginning on May 3, 2021, the District will make the wearing of a face covering optional for all adults and students.*** The District is not planning changes to bus schedules or bus stops at this time. All busses will be disinfected and sanitized after every use.

Bus drivers will assign seats for all students riding a bus. This will allow contact tracers to know what families to contact in the event of a known COVID-19 case. As stated previously, when details from the state level are revised, the District will continue communicating requirements with our learning community.

How normal will the day be for a student?

The District's goal is for your student(s) to have as normal of a day as possible while we also provide as much safety as possible. School leaders will work diligently to create a schedule and transitions to minimize close physical interactions and adhere to social distancing recommendations, while also

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allowing for normal school activities. More details about daily schedules will be provided later in the summer, including recess for elementary students.

Will students at the elementary still have extra classes like PE, art, music, guidance and library?

Yes, students will continue to participate in activity classes, check out library books, and receive guidance and gifted instruction. In some cases, the teacher may present his/her lesson in the student's classroom to reduce the amount of transitions. This will help the District keep the cohorts of students together in K-6 as much as possible.

Will my elementary student have recess?

Yes, elementary students will have outdoor play time with restrictions that limit the number of students they come in contact with. Additionally, playground equipment will be sanitized between groups of students.

Will social distancing guidelines be observed?

To the degree that is feasibly possible, social distancing recommendations will be observed based on the guidance we receive from ADH between now and the first of school. Under current guidelines, during times when social distancing would be a challenge, such as during transitions and moving to other areas of campus, face coverings **are recommended**. Reorganization of classrooms, cafeterias, and other learning spaces will also take place in order to increase space between students. We will balance this with not limiting students' needs to interact and communicate with their teachers and classmates.

If an individual tests positive for COVID-19, what will happen?

In the event an individual tests positive, we will follow the latest guidance from the ADH and DESE. The District will be in direct contact with ADH. This could result in a brief closure of a single school within the district to provide time for additional cleaning and disinfecting and/or quarantine.

Will students and adults be screened daily?

Both students and adults will complete a daily screening tool. You will be provided a link to the tool prior to the start of school. It is very important for parents/guardians to complete this screening in the morning prior to taking the student to school or placing the student on the bus. Individuals will be asked the following questions:

- 1.) Have you had a fever of 100.4°F or greater in the last 2 days?
- 2.) Have you had a cough, difficulty breathing, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell?
- 3.) Have you been in contact with a person known to be infected with COVID-19 within the previous 14 days?

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If students choose to do full-time virtual, will they be able to participate in extracurricular activities?

Yes, the District will provide a flex scheduling option that allows students in grades 7-12 the opportunity to participate in extra-curricular activities. Students concerned about returning to campus each day will have the option to not be involved in any on-site, or extracurricular activities.

Will we have open house?

Yes. Some buildings will have an open house virtually, along with a drive-thru (7-12) and other buildings will conduct this by appointment (K-6). The goal is to meet with parents/guardians safely to communicate important information utilizing social distancing and face coverings.

Will students be able to participate in extra-curricular activities and sports in the fall?

Yes, the District anticipates sports activities in the fall with possible modifications as required by the ADH. At this time, the District is still awaiting guidance on both band and choir.

Will my student eat lunch in the classroom?

Because of current ADH guidelines regarding limited capacities in cafeterias, we are preparing to adjust lunch schedules and/or use alternative areas if needed. Other measures will include sanitation and revised meal distribution protocols. All cafeteria staff will be trained in ServSafe, which is intense food safety training. Parents are encouraged to send a water bottle with their students since water fountains will not be available.

Due to safety, the District is not allowing meals to be delivered to campuses unless they are in the personal lunchbox of the student. There will be no microwaves in the school for students to use. This is to reduce the risk of spreading illness through contact with the same surface.

What special precautions will be implemented in regard to cleaning and sanitizing?

Sanitation and disinfecting have always been a high priority for the District. The District will be emphasizing cleaning high touch surfaces (door knobs, light switches, etc.) and restrooms on a continuous basis throughout the day. The District has also purchased disinfectant sprays to quickly sanitize all rooms between usage. The District will also provide time for hand washing and hand sanitizing throughout our campuses. Students will be asked to sanitize their hands each time they leave and enter a new space.

If a student comes to school sick, what will happen?

If a student comes to school sick, the school nurse will screen the student and check his/her temperature. If temperature is over the ADH guidance, the student will be isolated and sent home. The student will need to be fever free for 48 hours without medication before returning to school. The parent/guardian may be advised to have the student tested for COVID-19. When the child returns to school they will check in with the school nurse.

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How will you help fill any gaps my student has from the previous year?

Curriculum teams have worked to revise the curriculum so that missed essential standards will be addressed when students return. Additionally, students will be assessed to determine individual strengths and deficits. These assessments will determine if students need additional support. At the secondary level, missed skills from a previous course will be embedded in the next course in the sequence. For example, a student enrolled in last semester geometry would have geometry skills embedded in his/her Algebra II course this semester.

What happens if we have school closures again?

If schools close again and have to utilize off-site digital learning, we will utilize a “Blended Learning” strategy that allows for students to receive direct instruction (whether in person or through recorded lessons) in combination with digital content and lessons. The District is creating a detailed digital learning plan for all students to move from on-site to at-home instruction at any time. Digital and blended learning will become part of our “new normal” on campus as teams work to greatly increase and improve our digital content on Google Classroom Learning Management System (LMS) for grades K-8 and Canvas LMS for grades 9-12, including resources and recordings of lessons.

Students and teachers will use blended teaching and learning on a regular basis on campus in order to better prepare for another closure if necessary. The District is considering scheduling a few digital learning days in the school calendar where students and teachers will use digital learning for class on pre-scheduled days. Students will learn off-site on the designated digital days. This will allow students and families to troubleshoot and prepare for another possible, lengthier closure by accessing digital lessons on Google Classroom and Canvas from home.

Our digital learning approach will also allow a student who becomes ill or must be quarantined to continue learning grade level and content standards even when he/she cannot be physically present in the classroom.

If I feel uncomfortable about my student returning to a traditional classroom, what are my options?

The District currently has three (3) instructional options for students **for the 2020-2021 school year:**

1. Traditional On-site instruction at the school buildings.
2. Devil Dog Virtual Academy – This is an off-site instructional delivery method for students in grades K-12. Students in grades K-8 will utilize the Google Classroom LMS with instructional content delivered by South Conway County School District licensed teachers. Student in grades 9-12 will be enrolled in Virtual Arkansas, using the Canvas LMS, with instructional content delivered by licensed teachers employed by Virtual Arkansas. Parents/Guardians choosing this option of instructional delivery will have more of the educational burden to ensure a schedule is followed and work/assessments are completed on time. Students will need reliable Internet and be able to follow a schedule. The District will provide a computer (if needed) to each student enrolled in Devil Dog Virtual Academy.
3. Flex Scheduling for Students in Grades 7-12 – This is a combination of Traditional On-site Learning for some classes and enrollment in Devil Dog Virtual Academy for the remainder of the class schedule. This is only for students in grades 7-12. Parents/Guardians will be responsible for transportation to and from school each day.

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The South Conway County School District is committed to providing a high quality education program to all of our students. At the same time, the District is also committed to maximizing the safety of every student and staff member. Each building is creating a more specific “Ready for Learning” plan specific to that building to be able to maximize the safety of every student and staff member. The SCCSD will continue to work with DESE and ADH to prepare for the 2020-2021 school year to ensure we are “Ready for Learning.” We will continue to communicate as much information as possible to our great learning community in a responsible manner. Thank you for your continued support of the South Conway County School District.