

Scott County Public Schools

Instructional Learning Plan



8/28/2023
Updated Health Protocol section

Safety, Health, & Instructional Guidance Documents

Scott County Public Schools (SCPS) has developed the following COVID-19 Leadership Task Force:

Name	Role	Contact Information
John I. Ferguson	Superintendent	john.ferguson@scottschools.com
Jason Smith	Assistant Superintendent	jason.smith@scottschools.com
Jennifer Frazier	Secondary Supervisor/Food Services Supervisor	jennifer.frazier@scottschools.com
Tammy Quillen	Elementary Supervisor/Virtual Instruction Director	tammy.quillen@scottschools.com
Brenda Robinette	Special Services and Middle School Supervisor	brenda.robinette@scottschools.com
Reagan Mullins	Middle School Supervisor/DDOT	reagan.mullins@scottschools.com
Courtney Bolling	Nurse Coordinator	courtney.bolling@scottschools.com
Robert Sallee	Maintenance Supervisor	robert.sallee@scottschools.com
Debby Brickey	Technology Coordinator	debby.brickey@scottschools.com
Katrina Smith-Toole	School Psychologist	katrina.toole@scottschools.com
Angie Vermillion	School Social Worker	angie.vermillion@scottschools.com
Tim Edwards	Transportation Coordinator	tim.edwards@scottschools.com
Cindy Raymond	HeadStart Director	craymond@scottcountyheadstart.org

History of Plan:

On March 13, 2020, students, staff, and families in Scott County and throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia had their lives changed drastically. We all found ourselves adjusting to new routines, new habits, and new approaches to our everyday lives. Immediately after school divisions across Virginia shut down, our dedicated Executive Leadership Team began to consider and work on this Reopening Plan. The plan is the result of this hard work and feedback from our students, families, and staff.

The Return-to-School Plan was developed using guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Virginia Department of Health (VDH), Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), Virginia Department of Labor and Industry (DOLI), and consultation with the staff from the Lee-Norton-Wise-Scott (LENOWISCO) health department.

On May 18, 2021, Governor Ralph Northam lifted Virginia's universal indoor mask mandate to align with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Governor Northam also announced that Virginia will ease all distancing and capacity restrictions on Friday, May 28, two weeks earlier than planned. The updates to Virginia's mask policy are reflected in amendments to Executive Order Seventy-Two

The state of emergency in Virginia will remain in place at least through June 30 to provide flexibility for local government and support ongoing COVID-19 vaccination efforts. Governor Northam will take executive action to ensure individuals have the option to wear masks up to and after that date. Masks will continue to be required in K-12 public schools, given low rates of vaccination among children.

Updated January, 2022

Governor Glenn Youngkin signed into effect Executive Order 2 containing these three principles:

1. Parents are in charge of their children's health, wellbeing and education,
2. Schools must be open five days a week for in-person learning, and
3. The Commonwealth and school divisions must provide a safe and healthy school environment.

With freedom comes responsibility. This guidance clarifies the roles of parents, educators and the schools. The Virginia Department of Health and the Virginia Department of Education will continue to provide quality, actionable and up-to-date information on the pandemic so that parents can continue to make educated health decisions that are best for their child and family. The Virginia Department of Health provided updated Interim

Updated May 31, 2023

Scott County's Instructional Plan is ongoing and will be updated as we proceed through these times. Portions of this plan will become permanent parts of our instructional plan for years to come as education moves to more of a combination of in-person and remote learning. We hope you find this document to be a helpful resource. If you have any questions about the contents of our Plan, then please contact your school or the School Board Office.

Opportunity for Public Comment

During the ORIGINAL development of the School Opening Instructional Plan, Scott County Public Schools sought input from faculty, staff, parents, and students and included all stakeholders on committees. The 2021 – 2022 Instructional Plan was submitted to the Board on June 1, 2021. Opportunities for parent and community input was provided during the Public Comment section of regular meetings of the School Board. All input was considered in the development of the reopening plan. The Instructional Plan for 2021-22 was Board approved on July 6, 2021.

The plan is updated every six months to accommodate the changes in mitigation, COVID patterns, etc.

For additional comments, please contact Jason Smith jason.smith@scottschools.com or Tammy Quillen tammy.quillen@scottschools.com Both can also be reached at 276-386-6118.

Periodic Review of the Plan

During the period of the ARP ESSER award (until September 2023), Scott County Public Schools will periodically review and, as needed, revise its plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services. The plan will be reviewed at least every six months, and the school system will seek and consider public input during the review process. Plan revisions will address updated CDC guidance on safely reopening schools, if any are issued.

Making the Plan Available to the Public

Scott County Public Schools has taken the following steps to make this plan available to the public:

- The plan is posted at <https://www.scottschools.com/>
- The plan may be orally translated for parents. Contact Title III Coordinator, Reagan Mullins, (276) 386-6118 to request translation; and
- Upon request, a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA may be provided with the plan in an alternative format accessible by contacting Brenda Robinette, Special Education
- Director, 276-386-6118

SAFETY OF STUDENTS, STAFF, AND VISITORS

SCHOOL SAFETY

- Visitor access to the building.
 - Administration must preapprove all school & classroom visitors
 - No parent lunch with students
 - No outside food may be delivered on school grounds
- Community Use of Facilities Policy KG and Regulation KG-R shall remain in effect to the extent that users of the facility shall continue to adhere to all school board policies and regulations and must comply with social distancing and/or other public health recommendations/mandates. Use of facilities and the ability to abide by such policies and regulations shall be determined by the principal and superintendent, who shall have the discretion to make decisions in the best interests of the school division and community.
- Meetings with parents/guardians will be arranged through the office.
- Nurse visits:
 - Teachers will assess individual needs before sending students to the nurse's office.
 - Teachers will be provided with bandages and other acceptable items for their classrooms.
 - Teachers will be provided strategies to reduce trips to the nurse's office.
- Water bottle fillers will be checked, cleaned, and sanitized throughout the school day. Water bottles will be encouraged to be brought from home.

DAILY PROCEDURES

- Schools will follow any current face mask mandate.
- Morning arrival:
 - Students will report directly to a designated area with assigned seats.
 - Parents will be asked to screen students (temperature and symptoms) before sending them to school.
- The decision to hold school dances, pep rallies, or other gatherings will follow the current executive order.

STUDENTS AND PARENTS

- Parents may check in and out students in the office.
- Students will not be allowed to ride a bus other than their assigned bus.

STUDENT & EMPLOYEE SCREENING AND PROTOCOLS

To help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and reduce the potential risk of exposure to our employees, we will be requiring employees to complete the *Employee Symptom Check* form each morning, which includes a temperature reading and evaluation of the following symptoms including:

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| • Temperature of 100° | • Headache |
| • Cough | • Sore throat |
| • Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing | • Loss of taste or smell |
| • Chills | • Diarrhea |
| • Repeated shaking with chills | • Known close contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19 |
| • Muscle pain | |

HEALTH PROTOCOL

- The Division will follow Lenowisco Health Districts leadership. <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/lenowisco/>
- The Division will allow students / staff to return on day 6, unless their symptoms prevent them from doing so.
- School/division closures will be identified by the VDH, Governor's executive order, or absence percentage suggested by LHD. (typically, 40%)

ISOLATION GUIDELINES:

The Division will require students / staff who test positive for Covid-19 to isolate at home for at least 5 days. If they are asymptomatic or symptoms are resolving and they have been fever-free for 24 hours, they may return to school / work on Day 6. It is recommended that if the individual is able to mask, they should do so through Day 10.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

In order to minimize exposure to COVID-19, PPE may be needed to prevent certain exposures. Scott County School Division will follow PPE mandates as the state requires. PPE can include:

- **Masks:** Face masks are an important part of employee and student protection, as well as personal hygiene, social distancing, and frequent cleaning efforts.
- **Gloves:** The uses of gloves may be used in appropriate situations.

In addition to using PPE, please remember to:

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available

Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth

Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow

PERSONAL WORKSPACE/CLASSROOM

Employees are encouraged to disinfect their own personal workspace (teacher desk, phone, etc.) throughout the day, giving special attention to commonly touched surfaces. Teachers will clean high contact areas between classes.

SHARED WORKSPACE

Employees are encouraged to disinfect their own workspace multiple times throughout the day, giving special attention to commonly touched surfaces. SCPS has alcohol-based hand sanitizers throughout the workplace and in common areas. Cleaning sprays and wipes are also available to clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces such as telephones and keyboards. The SCPS Custodial Team will clean all workspaces at their designated cleaning time.

There will be limited access to certain workspaces to reduce exposure to risks and ensure employee safety.

TRANSPORTATION

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

- Students may only ride the bus they are assigned.
- Students will sit in assigned seats as directed by their bus driver alternating aisle and window, when feasible.

BUS DRIVERS/BUS PROTOCOLS

- Bus drivers or custodial staff must disinfect the buses after each route

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING OF TEACHERS AND STAFF

- School counselors will provide all students social emotional instruction 2x monthly by large group or classroom setting.
- Continued availability of individual mental health counseling will be provided by school counselors as needed. Consultation with school psychologist or school social worker will be as needed. This will apply to students, parents and faculty of SCPS.
- School Psychologist and School Social Worker will be available for crisis intervention as needed. Outside mental health referrals will be made by the school psychologist or school social worker as appropriate. This will apply to students, parents and faculty of SCPS.

In the event, SCPS educational environment moves into exclusive online learning the following will be implemented:

- School counselors will add social emotional activities and mental health resources for students and parents virtually and will be placed on each school's website. If a student does not have technology available, then printed activities and resources will be made available to them along with their academic instruction packets.
- School Psychologist and School Social Worker will maintain activities and resources on Scott County Public Schools website. They will also maintain constant communication with School Counselors to provide up to date information regarding resources.

Resources to support the Emotional and Physical Health of our Teachers and Staff are attached. Some of the contents covered include:

- General Tips
- Coping with Stress
- Support of Loved Ones
- Emotional Awareness
- Relationship Building

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL: WELL-BEING OF FAMILIES AND STUDENTS

Resources to support the emotional and social well-being of our students and their families are attached and include:

- Employee Mental Health Info COVID 19
- Free Online Mental Health First Aid Course
- Helping Children Cope with Change
- Helping Children Cope with Natural Disasters
- Talking to Children about COVID 19
- Tips for Families and Educators
- Understanding Adverse Childhood Experiences
- VDOE Social and Emotional Health Information

ACADEMICS

INSTRUCTIONAL EQUITY Consistent implementation of a division-wide instructional schedule is needed to promote equity.

ASSESSMENTS: The focus of student assessments, such as formative assessments, will help staff identify students' learning needs and plan for necessary revisions to curriculum and pacing guides. This will have a direct impact on plans for remediation based on student need. Standards of Learning assessments will be scheduled for maximum social distancing within schools.

SCPS GAP PLAN: Teachers will blend remedial and new instruction. Student and school schedules have been adjusted to include dedicated remedial time.

- Elementary: students will have access to Title I support will have daily opportunities to remediate
- Middle: students are provided daily built in remedial or enrichment opportunities
- High: students will have continuous remediation built into all classes

PARENT MEETINGS: Teachers and administration may hold parent meetings virtually using Google Meet, when feasible.

SPECIAL EDUCATION/504: Special education teachers and other school staff will work with parents and students through the IEP/504 process to ensure accessibility and continuity of services for students with disabilities.

INTERVENTION SERVICES: All learners, whether young learners, economically disadvantaged, English learners, students with disabilities or gifted, will continue to require flexible and responsive support for their academic, behavioral, and wellness needs. Academic supports will provide focus and review of essential standards through whole-group and small-group instruction and individual student intervention. Formative assessments and ongoing progress monitoring will be instrumental in preparing for student interventions. Support staff and resource teachers, including school counselors, will work flexibly to support student needs,

English Learners (ELs)

Formative ELD assessments will be used to assist monitoring of student progress in the development of reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills. Counseling, social work services and psychology services will be available to support students' social-emotional needs. Family outreach will be provided to support families.

Gifted and Talented (GATE)

Whether learning takes place primarily in an online environment or face-to-face, expanded resources will ensure students have consistent access to high quality learning tools. Gifted learners will continue using the Virtual VA Stem Program to expand their instruction. K-7 students will also receive a monthly stem activity kit in the event of distance learning while 8-12 students will have access to a list of on-line resources to support their education.

DIGITAL SUPPORT: Whether learning takes place primarily in an online environment or face-to-face, expanded digital resources will ensure students have consistent access to high quality learning tools. Staff will continue to receive training and support in applying blended learning strategies, which involve a mix of teacher-directed and self-directed learning. In the event that the schools have to reopen with Distance Learning, the following guidelines will be followed:

- All SCPS students in grades 1-12 will be issued a 1:1 device to use for distance learning.
- When required for assigned learning activities, PreK – K students will be provided electronic devices.
- Students with internet access will receive digital lessons and assignments from teachers.
- If students do not have the ability or means to gain daily internet or mobile access to their teacher, SCPS will provide paper packets.

GRADING POLICY: Students will be required to complete assigned work and participate in classroom activities (whether virtual, distance, or in person) to receive credit/grades. When grading new instruction, teachers need to make sure that students have had multiple and differentiated opportunities to develop a grasp of the content.

PARTICIPATION & ATTENDANCE Participation in school, no matter the mode of instruction, is required. Participation and attendance will be monitored.

ATHLETICS & EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES SCPS will follow VHSL Return to Athletics Guidelines for students participating in athletics. Extra-Curricular activities will follow the Governor's Executive Order.