

ANSWERING YOUR QUESTIONS

Virtual learning time commitments, mask requirements, visitors and more inside.

KEEPING STUDENTS SAFE

An outline of the steps SPS is taking and how your family can help.

BACK TO SPS

SCHOOL RE-ENTRY
PLAN



HOW OUR SPS COMMUNITY DEVELOPED THESE PLANS TO RE-OPEN

75 Representatives



In total, 75 representatives from the community collaborated in four major work groups to develop the plans you'll read in this document.

The SPS Re-Entry plan was developed in collaboration with the Springfield-Greene County Health Department, as well as teachers, principals and other SPS representatives,



A NOTE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



The past few months have taken all of us on an interesting journey. At SPS, we tried to remain flexible, creative and diligent in response to the constantly changing circumstances caused by COVID-19.

As we approach the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year, we are all eager for things to return to normal; but no one can predict when that may happen. One thing we do know is that learning must continue for our 25,000 students.

While August 24 won't look like the traditional start of any previous school year, families will be able to send their students back to school, either in the classroom or online from home with virtual learning.

The goal of both options is to allow families the flexibility to choose the option that best meets their unique needs during these uncertain times.

Thanks to the dedication and hard work of SPS teachers, staff and administrators, we believe this plan creates a path for students to return to learning in a way that protects the health and well-being of everyone in our schools. It also addresses the recommendations and guidelines provided by local, state and federal agencies.

As the school year progresses, we expect that modifications and adjustments will be necessary. We ask for your understanding and patience as we continue to make this journey together. In the event that modifications to our plan are necessary, please know that our decisions will be guided by our desire to do what is best for our students, employees and community.

For now, we are ready to welcome students back to SPS. Whether it is in a seated classroom or via an online platform, we look forward to seeing you again August 24!

Stay well,

Dr. John Jungmann
Superintendent of Schools

Four Work Groups



During the summer, four work teams were created by SPS to guide strategic discussions for safely re-opening schools. Districtwide efforts were organized in four work groups:

Health, Safety, Social/Emotional Learning Supports and Operations; Learning Development and Support; Equity and Diversity and Communications and Partnerships.

9,830 Surveys



In the month of June, more than 8,000 SPS parents submitted a survey determining if they would like to return to school. Survey results indicated that more than

90% of SPS staff and parents wanted to return to school in the fall, with more than 1,200 responding teachers indicating an ability to provide virtual instruction as needed. Comprehensive survey data, including parent comments, were reviewed by SPS leaders to determine work group objectives.

View detailed survey results, work group focus areas, initial recommendations, initial procedures and more at [SPS.org/reentry](https://www.sps.org/reentry)

KEY PRIORITIES

SPS RE-ENTRY GOALS



**PROVIDE FAMILIES
OPTIONS REGARDING
INSTRUCTION
DELIVERY**



**PROVIDE EQUITABLE
LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES
FOR UNDER RESOURCED &
UNDER-REPRESENTED
STUDENTS**



OUR COMMITMENT TO SPRINGFIELD

As we return for the 2020-2021 school year, Springfield Public Schools will work to ensure classrooms and schools are safe learning environments for all.


To determine staffing needs, families must select their preferred option for each child by July 31. When making your selection, it is important to fully consider both options, as your choice will determine placement for the entirety of the first semester.

Our plan to return to school is built upon five foundational topics:

- Instruction Options
- Health & Safety
- Exposure/Closure Procedures
- Student Supports
- Activities & Athletics Procedures

FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION

 [FB.COM/SPRINGFIELDPUBLICSCHOOLS](https://www.facebook.com/springfieldpublicschools)

 [@OFFICIALSPS](https://twitter.com/OFFICIALSPS)

 WWW.SPS.ORG

 COMMUNICATIONS@SPS.ORG

TWO LEARNING OPTIONS



LEARNING WHEREVER YOU ARE

Your child, your choices

In developing plans to start the 2020-2021 school year, Springfield Public Schools focused on strategies that allow students to return to learning while prioritizing the health and wellness of our students, staff and community.

We are balancing the impact of a global pandemic with the critical need for our students to continue their learning. By offering In-Person and Virtual Learning options, we are providing families a choice that allows them to access high-quality instruction provided by SPS teachers in formats which will best meet their specific needs of each student.

In-Person Learning Option

The In-Person option blends seated and virtual instruction to reduce the number of people within the building. Students will attend seated classes two days a week and there will be a limited number of students in each classroom in order to allow for appropriate social distancing. Students will learn online from home three days a week. Ultimately, the objective will be to transition to five days a week of seated classes after the first quarter, when health conditions within the community improve.

Virtual Learning Option

The Virtual option is the best choice for families who desire full-time virtual learning. With this option, students will learn online full time from home with regular virtual interaction with their teacher(s).

Due to the logistics associated with delivering the two instruction options, families must commit to the option they select for the first semester of the 2020-2021 school year. When the first semester ends December 22, they will have the opportunity to select a different option. Families who choose the In-Person option should be aware that the number of days of seated vs. virtual instruction may fluctuate depending upon the changing conditions related to COVID-19.

MAKE YOUR CHOICE BY JULY 31

To begin your child's school year, simply complete the following two steps.

- ➔ **Review this Re-Entry Guide**, as well as visit sps.org/reentry for the latest information.
- ➔ **Select your option:** choose your learning option for each enrolled SPS child with the Learning Options Selection Form.

CHOOSE YOUR OPTION

You must be enrolled as an SPS student to complete the form.

IN-PERSON OPTION



Two days in class, three days online

- Students will attend classes at school two days a week and participate in online learning from home three days a week.
- To minimize class sizes, students will be divided alphabetically into two groups.
- Students' last names A-K are in Group 1
 - **Group 1** will attend in-person classes on Monday and Tuesday. On Wednesdays, a teacher will lead online instruction and engage with students virtually from home. Thursday and Friday students will participate in independent online curriculum tools with limited teacher interaction.
- Students' last names L-Z are in Group 2
 - **Group 2** will attend in-person classes on Thursday and Friday. On Wednesdays, a teacher will lead online instruction and engage with students virtually from home. Monday and Tuesday, students will participate in independent online curriculum tools with limited teacher interaction.
- On independent virtual learning days, students are expected to be in attendance at home actively learning during school time.
- Adult engagement and support will be needed on independent learning days.
- SPS devices are issued to all students. For students needing Internet access, a variety of options will be available including hot spots and in-home solutions through MediaCom. Further information will be available in the coming weeks.
- All courses will be available in Canvas, regardless of delivery mode, including access to adaptive software, eBooks and other district-adopted resources. All courses are written to Missouri Learning Standards or Major Instructional Goals.
- At the middle and high school level, the student's schedule selected in the spring will remain largely unchanged, including elective offerings with some exceptions.
- Due to the logistics associated with delivering the two instruction options, families should commit to the option they select for the first semester of the 2020-2021 school year. When the first semester ends December 22, they will have the opportunity to select a different option.

Depending on COVID-19 exposure levels in the community at the end of first quarter, SPS may consider increasing the number of days In-Person students attend classes at school. Conversely, students may be required to do full-time virtual learning at any time due to changes in conditions at school or in the community.

VIRTUAL LEARNING

PARENTS MAY SELECT FULL-TIME VIRTUAL LEARNING.

LEARNING WHEREVER YOU ARE

100 percent virtual, wherever you are

- Students will be supported in their online learning by teachers who provide direct instruction, feedback and interaction.
- Attendance and grading expectations will be the same as those for In-Person classes.
- Teachers will communicate regularly with parents/guardians to ensure attendance and monitor for needed support.
- There will be face-to-face check-in opportunities for students during the school day in a limited capacity.
- All courses will be available in Canvas, regardless of delivery mode including access to adaptive software, eBooks and other district-adopted resources. All courses are written to Missouri Learning Standards or Major Instructional Goals.
- Full-time virtual students will be enrolled in the same number of courses as full-time In-Person enrollment.
- Qualifying students who meet criteria for English Language Learners, Special Education or Title I services will receive support, however, it may look different than the support provided In-Person.
 - Students with IEPs will meet with the site IEP team to determine available services in a full-time virtual model.
- Full-time virtual services are not available for students in choice magnet schools and other specialty programs. This includes: WOLF, Academy of Exploration, Academy of Fine and Performing Arts, International Baccalaureate Programmes and Springfield Scholars.
- Most elective courses will be available virtually.
- SPS devices are issued to all students. Students opting into full-time virtual courses will need reliable, high-speed Internet. For students needing Internet access, a variety of options will be available including hot spots and in-home solutions through MediaCom. Further information will be available in the coming weeks.
- Students will be expected to complete all required assessments including iReady and Missouri Assessment Program, End of Course exams and college and career assessments, as required by the state of Missouri.
- Full-time virtual students are eligible for MSHSAA extracurricular sanctioned activities should they meet GPA and citizenship requirements.
- Technical support will be available through the Launch Office at 417-523-0417 or [email](#).

VIRTUAL EXPECTATIONS



The full-time virtual learning option will be a comprehensive school experience. The 100 percent virtual curriculum will be delivered by a certified SPS teacher. Students will have a more structured online learning experience than they did this spring via the SPS At Home online learning platform.

IN-PERSON VS. VIRTUAL

THE CHOICE IS DIFFICULT, BUT WE BUILT OPTIONS THAT PROVIDE ACCESS TO QUALITY LEARNING.



LEARNING WHEREVER YOU ARE

In-Person

- Students will attend classes at school two days a week and participate in online learning from home three days a week.
- To minimize class sizes, students will be divided alphabetically into two groups.
- Students' last names A-K are in Group 1
 - **Group 1** will attend in-person classes on Monday and Tuesday. On Wednesdays, a teacher will lead online instruction and engage with students virtually from home. Thursday and Friday students will participate in independent online curriculum tools with limited teacher interaction.
- Students' last names L-Z are in Group 2
 - **Group 2** will attend in-person classes on Thursday and Friday. On Wednesdays, a teacher will lead online instruction and engage with students virtually from home. Monday and Tuesday, students will participate in independent online curriculum tools with limited teacher interaction.

No matter what option you choose for your child, support services such as English Language Learners, Special Education and Title I will still be made available.

Virtual

- Students will be supported in their online learning by teachers who provide direct instruction, feedback and interaction.
- Attendance and grading expectations will be the same as those for In-Person classes.
- Teachers will communicate regularly with parents/guardians to ensure attendance and monitor for needed support.
- There will be face-to-face check-in opportunities for students during the school day in a limited capacity.



MORE SCHOOL DAYS MIGHT OCCUR






Depending on COVID-19 exposure levels in the community at the end of first quarter, SPS may consider increasing the number of days In-Person students attend classes at school.

VIRTUAL LEARNING MAY BE REQUIRED

Conversely, students may be shifted to full-time virtual learning, at any time, if COVID-19 exposures significantly increase. All decisions would be made in collaboration with the Health Department.

LEARNING PLAN SCHEDULE

IN-PERSON

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<p>Students in Group 1 attend school in-person.</p> <p>Students in Group 2 learn from home using online curriculum and tools.</p> <p>All school schedules, start and end times remain the same.</p>	<p>Students in Group 1 attend school in-person.</p> <p>Students in Group 2 learn from home using online curriculum and tools.</p> <p>All school schedules, start and end times remain the same.</p>	<p>All students attend virtually.</p> <p>Elementary students will have live lessons from teachers and online learning tools.</p> <p>Middle and high school students will have independent modules and live teacher support, as needed.</p> <p>Students should plan to be online during the hours of their regular school schedule.</p>	<p>Students in Group 2 attend school in-person.</p> <p>Students in Group 1 learn from home using online curriculum and tools.</p> <p>All school schedules, start and end times remain the same.</p>	<p>Students in Group 2 attend school in-person.</p> <p>Students in Group 1 learn from home using online curriculum and tools.</p> <p>All school schedules, start and end times remain the same.</p>
<p>GROUP 1 INCLUDES: STUDENTS LAST NAMES A-K</p>			<p>GROUP 2 INCLUDES: STUDENTS LAST NAMES L-Z</p>	
				

VIRTUAL OPTION SCHEDULE

- ➔ **Elementary Students** who choose the full Virtual option will be required to be online five days a week with their teacher in live lessons for approximately 4.5 hours throughout the day, beginning at 8:30 a.m.
- ➔ **Middle and High School Students** who choose the full Virtual option will engage with teachers daily and complete lessons independently. Students should plan to participate in each course six hours per week.

This Schedule May Change

- ➔ Depending on COVID-19 exposure levels in the community at the end of first quarter, SPS may consider increasing the number of days students attend classes at school. Conversely, students may be shifted to full-time virtual at any time if COVID-19 exposures significantly increase.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS



Magnet schools and other specialty programs will not be available via the full-time Virtual Learning option.

Magnet Schools

- Students participating in programs like Academy of Exploration, Academy of Fine and Performing Arts, IB PYP, IB MYP, IB DP, Scholars and Wonders of the Ozarks Learning Facility should select the In-Person learning option.

Gifted Education

- Gifted Education will be provided in a fully virtual format. WINGS students will participate via Virtual learning on an assigned day and time. Students enrolled in In-person instruction may participate in Gifted Education services during one of their virtual instruction days. Participating students will receive additional information.

GO CAPS

- Students registered for the GO CAPS program will receive additional information about their placement soon.

English Language Learners

- Support and instruction for English Language Learners will be offered to students participating in In-person instruction. Plans are being developed for ways to support students participating in Virtual instruction.

Homeless Services

- Homeless Services will be provided to eligible students through the McKinney-Vento program.

Title I

- Students eligible for Title I services will continue to receive the supports provided through Title I programs in both In-Person and Virtual.

Special Education

- Special Education teachers and staff will work with parents to provide specialized instruction and support as defined by a student's individualized education program (IEP). IEP teams will determine the appropriate supports needed and have protocols in place to support delivery of services in virtual ways if needed. For more information, call (417) 523-7500.

PRESCHOOL



Early Childhood Special Education

Learning options are currently being developed for Early Childhood Special Education students. At this time, ECSE students do not need to complete the form to select a learning option. They will receive information at a later date.



Wonder Years Wonder Years students will participate in the In-Person learning option, which offers two days of In-Person classes and three days of online learning at home.

PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

MASKS WILL BE REQUIRED FOR EMPLOYEES AND STUDENTS PREK-12 AT ALL TIMES.



#MASKUP417

Wearing a face covering or mask is required to help limit exposure.

- At SPS, masks or face coverings will be required for employees and students in preKindergarten through grade 12 while at school and when riding the bus. Employees and students are encouraged to bring their own masks when possible. Masks must be school-appropriate if brought from home. Masks will be provided to students and employees if they do not have their own.
- Some individuals may have medical conditions that prevent them from wearing masks for extended periods of time. With documentation from a medical provider, exceptions may be made. In addition, face coverings/masks are not required while students are eating and drinking, during outdoor play, physical education class, or when circumstances allow them to maintain an appropriate social distance of six feet.
- Hand sanitizer and disinfectant will be available in every classroom.
- Desk partitions will be available for teacher use during small group instruction.
- Protective shields will be installed at all main office locations.
- Gloves and N95 masks will be provided for nurses and other appropriate staff.
- Face shields and clear face masks will also be available for appropriate staff.
- Touch-free thermometers will be available in each building.

Face coverings are not required in the following scenarios:

- During meals.
- During outdoor play.
- During physical education class.
- When circumstances allow students to maintain an appropriate distance of six feet.
- When a student's parent/guardian provides medical documentation that indicates a face covering/mask cannot be worn.

MASKS AT SPS

Parents should discuss the importance of social distancing and wearing masks with their students prior to the start of school.

- ➔ All students grades K-12 must wear a mask at all times with the exception of certain scenarios (above).
- ➔ Staff members will be required to wear a mask at all times, in addition to ensuring social distancing whenever possible.
- ➔ **Visitors will be limited and all approved visitors are required to wear a mask while at school.**

INCREASED CLEANING



Our focus on cleaning

- Adequate supplies of protective equipment, soap, paper towels, sanitizer, and tissues will be provided throughout each school.
- Staff will be trained and expected to frequently clean high-touch areas such as countertops, desks, doorknobs, keyboards, light switches, handrails, etc. with district-supplied cleaning and disinfectant products.
- Each classroom will have a daily clean with district-supplied cleaning and disinfectant products. In-Person classes will not meet on campus Wednesdays to allow classrooms and schools to have a deep clean.
- Playground equipment will be cleaned and sanitized regularly.



CLASSROOMS TO BE CLEANED DAILY

Students will be encouraged to be responsible for their own learning spaces, while also being frequently instructed to wash their hands throughout the school day.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES KEPT PERSONAL

To minimize risk, school supplies will be limited and kept personal to each individual student.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Help us keep your child and family safe at home. Here are a few tips to help control the spread of any illness.

- ➔ Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are unavailable.
- ➔ Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands.
- ➔ Avoid contact with people who are sick and keep your child home if they are sick.
- ➔ Clean and disinfect frequently-touched objects and surfaces.

SOCIAL DISTANCING



LEARNING TOGETHER, APART

Social distancing or physical distancing refers to maintaining 6 feet of separation between individuals. This recommended practice limits the spread of COVID-19. The following guidelines will help maintain social distancing during the school day.

- Upon arrival, all students should report directly to their classroom/first period class. Students who choose to eat breakfast, they will eat in the classroom.
- Arrival and dismissal procedures will minimize the opportunity for groups of students to interact.
- Students will not congregate in the lunchroom, commons area, gymnasium, hallways or other areas on arrival and at dismissal.
- Signage will be in place to help students gauge appropriate spacing and to direct traffic patterns in hallways.
- Recess schedules will limit the number of students on the playground or within a specific area of the playground.
- Assemblies and large student gatherings will not be held.

DISTANCING ON BUSES

Parents who can transport their students to/from school are encouraged to do so to help minimize the number of students riding the bus and allow for minimized student contact.

- ➔ Modifications to bus loading and unloading procedures will be made, with students loaded from the back to the front to minimize student contact and interaction.
- ➔ Students will be assigned seats to limit exposure.
- ➔ Hand sanitizer will be available for students' use.

SCHOOL PROCEDURES



LEARNING TOGETHER, APART

SAFER SPACES FOR STUDENTS & STAFF

In the Classroom

- Handwashing and infection prevention instruction will be required and taught to students.
- Students and staff will be expected to maintain distance from each other while in the school and taught appropriate hygiene/COVID practices: [COVID 19 Do the 5!](#)
- Assigned seating and other measures, including arranging desks and tables to face the same direction, will be implemented in the classroom to minimize interaction.
- Spacing will be increased between desks and tables to maximize social distancing.
- Use of communal supplies will be discouraged and in instances where items are shared they will be disinfected after each use.
- Students will use hand sanitizer when entering and exiting the classroom and will be expected to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer every hour and before and after eating.
- Classroom field trips will be limited and must be approved in advance.

In the School

- Students will report directly to their classroom upon arrival and avoid congregating in hallways, gymnasiums, etc.
- If students leave the classroom, each building will develop a procedure to track students' names and locations of visits in order to make contact tracing easier should a student/employee become ill.
- Students should not be dropped off more than 15 minutes before school starts unless they are enrolled in a before-school program.
- Schools will develop procedures that limit the number of students on the playground or within specific areas of the playground.

DAILY MUST-DOS

In case of school closure due to COVID-19, students should take the following materials home each evening:

- ➔ District-issued device
- ➔ District-issued charging cord for the device
- ➔ Notebook
- ➔ Pencil and pen

WHEN YOU ARE SICK

LEARNING TOGETHER, APART

Parents and caregivers play an important role in limiting the spread of COVID-19 by actively screening their children for symptoms at home, prior to coming to school. Keeping your child home when they feel sick helps to protect other students, school staff members, and community as a whole.

Sick Students

- **Parents are expected to perform a daily screening** (right) before a student arrives at school reduces the likelihood that a student will have to be isolated at school and sent home after experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.
- Students who have exhibited any symptoms in the past 72 hours should stay home from school until symptoms resolve.
- Students who feel healthy but have recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19 should stay home and monitor their health until 14 days after their last exposure.
- Students who have taken any fever-reducing medications in the past 72 hours should stay home until they are fever-free without the use of medication for 72 hours.
- Staff will monitor students for symptoms.

Sick Employees

- Employees are expected to follow the same screening procedures required for students (below) and stay home if they are exhibiting symptoms. Employees must report any symptoms or potential exposures and follow district directions.

AT-HOME SCREENING

Students should be evaluated by their parent/guardian before school daily by taking their temperature, gauging how they are feeling, and by making sure that they can accurately answer no to all questions below. If a question can be answered yes, an individual should not attend work or school and seek medical care as needed.

1. Is your current temperature in excess of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit?
2. Have you or anyone in your household had any of the symptoms listed under the Symptoms Alert section?
3. Have you or anyone in your household recently cared for an individual who is in quarantine or is a presumptive positive or has tested positive for COVID-19?

SYMPTOMS ALERT

➔ Be Aware Of These Symptoms

Fever, cough, rash, sore throat, shortness of breath, congestion/runny nose, diarrhea, nausea, fatigue, headache, muscle pain, lack of appetite and lack of smell/taste

POSSIBLE EXPOSURES



KEEPING YOU INFORMED

SPS has worked in coordination with the Springfield-Greene County Health Department to develop procedures to provide a timely and comprehensive response in the event of a confirmed COVID-19 exposure at our schools. Throughout this process, the goal of SPS will be to provide transparent communication while balancing our legal obligation to protect the privacy of individuals affected.

- Staff will be trained on how to isolate symptomatic students or staff members at school, handling positive cases, and assisting the Springfield-Greene County Health Department with contact tracing efforts.
- Springfield-Greene County Health Department will notify SPS of potential exposure to COVID-19 in the learning and/or working environment and SPS will support the Health Department in its follow up work.
- Anyone determined to be at potential risk for exposure will be contacted directly and will receive appropriate guidance.
- SPS will communicate with parents and/or staff within the building or department regarding the potential exposure.
- Temporary closure of a site would be as determined by the Health Department if absences related to illness or quarantine reach a specific threshold.

If a student gets COVID-19

- SPS will notify families of students who have had close contact in the same class/cohort; while on the same bus; or on the same club or team.
- Springfield-Greene County Health Department will conduct contact tracing and notification will be made to individuals who may have had extended close contact with the COVID positive student.
- The COVID-positive student may return to school when they meet CDC guidelines.

If an employee gets COVID-19

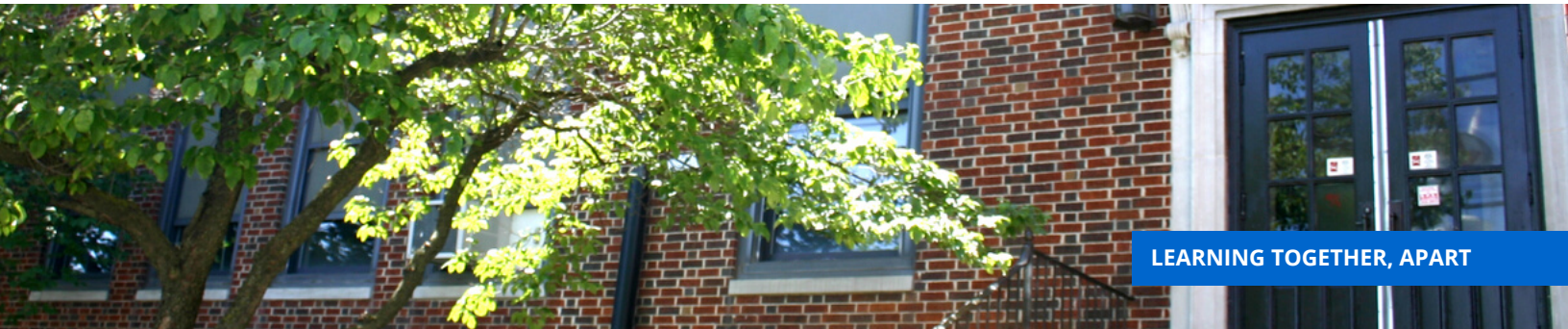
- SPS will notify families of students and employees who may have been in close contact with a COVID-positive employee.
- Springfield-Greene County Health Department will conduct contact tracing and notification will be made to individuals who may have had extended close contact with the COVID positive employee.
- The COVID-positive employee may return to school when they meet CDC recommendations.

IF THERE'S A POSITIVE

➔ SPS will follow the protocol on this page

In the event of a positive exposure, SPS must balance the public's right to know with protecting the privacy of individuals affected.

POSSIBLE CLOSURES



LEARNING TOGETHER, APART

The decision to close SPS schools may be made as a means to prevent further spread of COVID-19 or in response to increased student and/or staff absenteeism. The district will make school closure decisions in consultation with the Springfield-Greene County Health Department.

- The school district will consider implementing school closures based upon city, county, and state guidelines and will consider the percentage of the population testing positive for COVID-19 relative to the environment of the school building. For example, age-level, make-up of building occupants, likelihood of exposure to employees and students in the building.
- When there is confirmation a person infected with COVID-19 was in a school building, SPS will work with the Health Department to assess factors such as the likelihood of exposure to employees and students in the building, the number of cases in the community (building), and other factors that will determine when the building should close. Closure will be determined on a case-by-case basis depending on age-level, make-up of building occupants, etc.
- All other unaffected sites will remain open.
- If school closure is required, students will immediately begin virtual learning with their teacher.

Student Directions in Case of School Closure

In school closure due to COVID-19, students should take the following materials home each evening:

- District-issued device
- District-issued charging cord for the device
- Notebook
- Pencil or pen

If temporary school closures occur, teachers and students will transition instruction to virtual learning immediately until the building reopens.

- Students in In-Person classes will transition to virtual learning with the same teacher(s)

NOTIFICATION OF SCHOOL CLOSURE

SPS will use a variety of communication channels to notify parents of possible exposures and/or school closures. Our ability to communicate with you depends upon the accuracy of contact information you have on file.



Please review information on SPS communication channels at SPS.org/BacktoSPS to ensure your child's school has your current contact information.

LIMITED VISITOR ACCESS



FEWER PEOPLE, SAFER SPACES

VISITORS MUST WEAR MASKS

- Volunteers will be limited to those providing education services for students.
- Visitors will be limited to contracted providers/associates, other allowable community partners (before- and after-school providers), and student teachers/practicum students.
- Visitors/volunteers should follow normal school procedures by checking into the office to use the visitor management system to obtain a printed badge.
- Visitor/volunteer movement throughout the school building will be limited.
- A record of visitors/volunteers inside the school will be kept, and it should include areas of the school that were visited and the time the visitor entered and exited the building.



PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Schools will offer options to conduct meetings with families (conference call or videoconference) so parents can continue to engage with teachers and participate in necessary discussions (i.e. IEP and 504 plan meetings, discipline conversations) while reducing the need to meet at school.

LIMITED SOCIAL VISITORS

Visitors/volunteers will not attend classroom parties and they will not be allowed to eat lunch with students as space within school cafeterias is limited due to social distancing expectations.

VISITOR SCREENING QUESTIONS

Individuals deemed essential to visit an SPS building will answer the following questions prior to admission.

- ➔ Have you experienced any COVID-19 symptoms?
- ➔ What is the date, time and reason for your visit?
- ➔ Where in the building are you going?

All visitors will also have their temperature checked prior to admission.

TRANSPORTATION



FEWER PEOPLE, SAFER SPACES

Bus transportation will be available to eligible students.

Bus transportation will be available to eligible students, but due to social distancing recommendations, it is highly recommended that students/families provide their own transportation. Students at higher risk of illness from COVID-19, as well as students with special needs who may not wear facial coverings, are strongly encouraged to use alternate forms of transportation, if possible.

Eligible students who do choose to ride the bus must register to do so. **A form must be submitted for every child who plans to ride the bus by July 31** to receive transportation on the first day of school.

Eligible bus riders received an email on Thursday, July 23, 2020 with directions for registration. If you didn't receive the email and believe you are eligible, please contact transportation at 523-0500 prior to Friday, July 31.

BUS RIDER INFO

- To receive transportation on the first day of school, parents must pre-register eligible students for bus service by July 31.
- All bus riders must wear face coverings/masks, which will be provided if needed.
- Students will be required to maintain their mask and keep it with them during the school day. Students will be assigned seats on all routes, limiting the number of students per seat.
- Family members will be seated together.
- Bus drivers will seat students based on pick up order. Students picked up first should immediately move to the back of the bus.
- Buses will travel with some windows down to increase air circulation.
- Buses will be appropriately cleaned and sanitized on a regular basis.
- High touch surfaces will be disinfected between routes.
- Hand sanitizer will be available on all routes.
- Any student that exhibits obvious symptoms will be isolated on the bus and a parent/guardian will be contacted.
- Transportation will review the number of students per stop and limit the number when possible.

NUTRITION SERVICES



MEALS FOR EVERY LEARNER

Meals will be offered to students participating in both In-Person and Virtual Learning. When school begins, students will be charged for their meals based on their free, reduced or full pay status during the 2019-2020 school year. Parents are encouraged to complete the Free and Reduced Meal application to determine their status for the 2020-2021 school year. It will be available online in early August.

Details about how, when and where meals will be served or available for pick up will be communicated closer to the first day of school. Information about the numbers of students participating in each option are necessary to finalize these logistics.

IN-PERSON: ELEMENTARY

- Breakfast will be eaten in the classroom for all grades either through grab and go or Breakfast in the Classroom program.
- All food served or offered to students will be pre-packaged or individually wrapped.
- Students will wash or sanitize their hands before eating.
- Students will eat lunch in the cafeteria
- Stable groups and social distancing will be maintained.
- Tables and other surfaces will be disinfected between lunches.
- Meals will be available for students on days when they are learning from home.
- Meal prices will be based on a student's free, reduced or full pay status.

IN-PERSON: SECONDARY

- Breakfast will be eaten in the classroom for all grades either through grab and go or Breakfast in the Classroom program.
- Students will eat lunch in the cafeteria but the number of students allowed at one time will be limited.
- All food items will be pre-packaged or individually wrapped.
- Meals will be available for students on days when they are learning from home.
- Meal prices will be based on a student's free, reduced or full pay status.

VIRTUAL: ALL STUDENTS

- Grab and go meals for breakfast and lunch will be provided for pick up at select sites. Meal prices will be based on a student's free, reduced or full pay status.

DRINKING WATER

For the safety of all, water fountains will have limited access in schools.

- ➔ Drinking directly out of water fountains is prohibited. The use of water/drinking fountains is only allowed for those that have a self-dispenser to fill a bottle.
- ➔ Students are encouraged to bring their own refillable water bottle from home.
- ➔ For students who do not have a refillable water bottle, one will be provided.

SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL SUPPORTS



LEARNING TOGETHER, APART

Mental health issues which accompany the COVID-19 pandemic have rapidly compounded public health concerns. Research assessing the mental health implications of COVID-19 has identified a heightened prevalence of depression and anxiety among children, which reflects the widespread effects of uncertainty and health-related fears.

To support positive mental health, SPS provides a wide variety of programs and resources that may be helpful to your family.

- Counselors at every school will be accessible to students and families, in addition to regularly providing classroom lessons and discussions.
- Supports are also available through Burrell Behavioral Health, which provides case management, individual/family therapy and connects students and parents to support services. Contact your school counselor for a referral.
- A Care Team at each school will help support students who are struggling with barriers like food insecurity, socioeconomic challenges or other concerns.
- The SPS Counseling Services website provides additional mental health supports and can be accessed [online here](#).
- These supports are available for students in both In-Person and Virtual Learning.

WE ARE HERE TO HELP

Some students may have special circumstances that require additional supports. Feel free to reach out to these SPS teams that can connect you with specific resources:

→ English Language Learners:
(417) 523-1136

→ Equity & Diversity:
(417) 523-0315

→ Homeless Assistance:
(417) 523-7604

→ Counseling Services
(417) 523-1124

→ Special Education
(417) 523-7500

ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES



COMPETING AND COLLABORATING

Springfield Public Schools plans to provide students the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities. While offering these opportunities, the district will prioritize the health and safety of students and staff by adhering to the CDC and Springfield-Greene County Health Department regulations. SPS understands that as the district abides by those recommendations, some of those opportunities may be limited to the extent in which they can be provided.

Athletics

The [Missouri State High School Activities Association \(MSHSAA\)](#) and SPS may further outline guidelines on how athletics and activities will be offered at district high schools and middle schools. As a district, SPS understands the importance of offering these opportunities to students and will continue to make every effort to do so. However, SPS understands there may be decisions made by local, state, or national organizations that may prohibit some/all extracurricular activities. To the extent possible, administration expects that all athletics and activities be performed in accordance with CDC recommendations for student participation.

If you have questions about student eligibility or participation in athletics, please contact your child's school.

Co-Curricular Activities

SPS is committed to providing as many co-curricular opportunities as possible while adhering to CDC recommendations. Co-curricular describes a course that includes an extra-curricular activity component such as band or debate. If a student wants to participate in a co-curricular activity, the student should enroll in the In-Person at their school and participate in the extracurricular portion. Parents may be required to provide transportation for the activity if the student is not at school for the entire school day.

Some co-curricular opportunities may only be offered virtually but others will require an In-Person component.

POTENTIAL CHANGES

The offering of and participation in co-curriculars will require flexibility by students, families and sponsors. This may include, but is not limited to:

- ➔ Before- or after-school practice in larger spaces to account for social distancing.
- ➔ Multiple practice times in order to promote smaller group sizes and social distancing.
- ➔ Students and staff wearing masks due to inability to consistently maintain social distance.
- ➔ Adjusting performances and competitions to adhere to gathering size and social distancing recommendations.

VIRTUAL STUDENTS

- ➔ **Virtual students can participate in athletics and activities.**

Students who choose the Virtual Learning option will be eligible to participate in athletics and activities in 2020-2021 as long as they are fully enrolled as an SPS student.

ONLINE RESOURCES



GET THE LATEST COVID-19 INFORMATION

- [CDC: Coronavirus Symptoms](#)
- [CDC: How to Protect Yourself & Others](#)
- [CDC: When and How To Wash Your Hands](#)
- [CDC: How to Wear Cloth Face Coverings](#)
- [CDC: Social Distancing](#)
- [CDC: Checklist for Parents & Teachers](#)
- [DHSS and DESE School Reopening Guidelines](#)
- [Springfield-Greene County Health Department](#)
- [Greene County COVID-19 Website](#)

Information in this SPS Re-Entry Guide may change. Please visit sps.org/reentry for the most up-to-date details.



SIGN-UP FOR ALERTS

Find the best way to stay informed. Connect with a communications resource that's right for you.

- ➔ [Complete the Blackboard Connect Student Information Sheet at \[sps.org/backtoschool\]\(https://sps.org/backtoschool\) to receive phone calls and text messages.](#)
- ➔ [Download the MySPS App.](#)
- ➔ [Subscribe to the SPS E-Newsletter at your school site.](#)

The latest information will always be posted on the SPS website, [SPS.org](https://sps.org).

