

AMENDED
STOREY COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
PROPOSED REOPENING PLAN



Presented to the Storey County Board of Trustees

July 22, 2020

VISION/MISSION

Our Vision... Storey County School District will provide a world-class educational system in a climate of respect, responsibility and integrity, which will prepare all students to make their dreams realities in college, career and life.

Our Mission... In collaboration with parents and community, Storey County School District provides an excellent educational experience for each student to develop the skills to succeed in career, college and life.

Reopening of Schools Committee Members

(Includes Sub Committee Members)

NAME	TITLE
Todd Hess	Superintendent
Joe Curtis	Storey County Emergency Management
Jeff Nevin	Storey County Fire Chief, Board Trustee, NIAA Representative
Dawn Miller	School Board President
Brent Judy	Administrator/SCSD Emergency Operations Coordinator
ShawnMarie Lumos	Administrator/Special Education Director
Patrick Beckwith	Administrator/Parent
Kristen Chandler	Business Manager/Parent
Estelle Jorgensen	Human Resources
Kim Hames	Executive Assistant to Superintendent and Board/Parent
Karen Staffen	Certified Union President/RPDP Coordinator
Kelly Knapp	Director of Transportation
Marie Dufresne	NDE Social and Emotional Learning and School Counseling/State Reopening Committee Member
Sonja Hicks	Teacher
Esmie Hess	Student Accounts Systems Coordinator
Caren Baum	Counselor
Melissa Reymer	Counselor/Parent
Suzie McKibben	School Secretary
Crystal Pickett	Teacher/Parent
Melissa Ruebusch	Parent
Vee Peabody	Teacher
Danielle Garrett	Teacher/Parent
Kellea Markert	Parent
Ted Martinez	Teacher
Brittani McNutt	Parent
James Young	Teacher
Amanda Eddy	Teacher/Parent
Erik Schoen	Executive Director - Community Chest
Summer Pellett	Parent
Staci Harold	Parent
Michele Parsons	Clinical Aide
Jill Conners	Nurse
Amanda Crosswhite	Teacher/Parent
Molly Burnet	Custodial/Maintenance
Paige Beckwith	LCSD School Psychologist
Britany Beck	Therapist
Michael-Ann Lazzarino	Deputy Director of Community Chest/Parent
Shannon Parsons	Youth Development Director – Community Chest

Special Considerations Outlined by the Committee:

- Transportation
- Sanitation and Cleaning
- Hygiene Education
- Special Populations
- Crisis Response Teams
- Communication plan
- Focus on core subjects
- Intervention/Remediation
- Extra-curricular activities
- Start times
- Distance vs. Hybrid choice
- Connection between in person and online learning
- Rolling closures
- Contact tracing
- Special programs-- Facilities, Transportation, and Nutrition Services
- Nutrition Services
- PPE/Hand Sanitizer
- Social Emotional Learning
- Information Technology (IT)
- Funding
- Transitioning time between plans
- Restroom cleaning
- Family day care arrangements
- Cohorts by households
- Staffing/At risk members
- Family education/support
- Masks/Requirements
- Daily symptom screenings
- Master scheduling (P/T Conferences)

Reopening Schools

Guiding Principles:

- Ensure the safety and well-being of all students and employees
- Promote equity and accessibility of learning for all students
- Maintain high academic expectations for all students
- Provide instructional delivery systems to meet the needs of all students
- Foster positive relationships and interactions
- Financial Feasibility
- Community Impact

Academic Goals:

- Basic and social emotional needs of students and staff must be met in order to optimize student learning.
- All students must have equitable access to effective instruction and standards-based grade level learning.
- Learning loss must be evaluated and addressed.
- Standards-based grade level instruction must occur with in-school instruction and distance learning models.
- Professional Learning Communities and other learning opportunities are critical to build capacity within and among educators and to continuously improve.

Guidance for School Re-Entry – State Guidance

- Phase 2 Guidance – Directive 022
 - ◆ Less than 50% occupancy and Six Feet Social Distancing
 - ◆ 20-day notice to families
- Face Coverings - Directive 024
 - ◆ Governor requires use of face coverings in all community settings
 - ◆ Governor indicates an exception for children ages 2-9
- Districts must submit multiple learning plans to Board of Trustees and to Nevada Department of Education
 - ◆ Full Time Distance Learning
 - ◆ In-Person Learning
 - ◆ Hybrid Learning

American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)

AAP advocates for having all students physically present in school

Physical distancing practice of three to six feet for students and six feet apart for adults with face coverings for all

Cleaning and disinfecting per established protocols for Covid-19

Cohort classes and special considerations given for passing, recess, transportation, and nutrition breaks

Families conduct symptom screening at home and children presenting any symptoms should be kept at home with notifications to schools

Key Considerations

- American Association of Pediatrics Planning Considerations: Guidance for School Re-Entry
- Nevada Current Phase 2 Requirements
- Assumptions and Committee Considerations
- Nevada Department of Education Nevada’s Path Forward Guidance Memorandum 20-05

Reopening Schools—Assumptions:

- No single decision will satisfy all students, families, and staff
- Models have been developed and recommendations have been formed, without the benefit of clear information regarding our 2020-2021 budget
- The District will be operating in an environment of significantly reduced State revenues
- There will be a cost in dollars, time, supplies and human resources to reduce the risk of transmission
- Certain non-core functions of the District may be temporarily curtailed, postponed or eliminated
- Costs to provide services will be atypical and may potentially be higher than prior years
- There may be active cases of COVID-19 in Storey County at the time of school opening and throughout the 2020-21 school year
- There will not be a vaccine developed in time to impact the 2020-21 school year
- There will be families and staff who will want an alternative to in- person instruction for part, or the entirety, of the pandemic
- There will be families and staff who want a return to “normal”
- There may be an outbreak of COVID-19 in Storey County that could require a temporary school closure for one or more schools
- There may be multiple “waves” of virus outbreak and changing guidance from county health officials which will necessitate flexibility
- Schools will need to quickly pivot between delivery models as conditions change
- As decisions are made and models are considered, administration will continue to update and work with employee associations

Description of Multiple Learning Plans:

Full Time Distance Learning

Storey County School District must have an option for families to receive high quality standards-based instruction without coming into schools. The SCSD approved platform of Edgenuity (6-12) meets this requirement. K-5 will be facilitated by the classroom teacher with a blend of consumable and digital learning.

This option is available to all families under several scenarios:

- Families choose to enroll or request full-time distance learning.
- A student, or group of students, are excluded from school due to suspected or confirmed COVID-19 exposure.
- In the event a school is temporarily shut down due to an outbreak.
- In the event the school district is temporarily shut down due to an outbreak.

Hybrid Learning

A Hybrid Learning Model is one that combines elements of both in-person and distance learning. In Storey County, we are referring to a learning model in which students are receiving in-person instruction for part of the school week and are receiving distance learning instruction for part of the school week.

While in school, all provisions of in-person learning (e.g. social distancing, use of PPE, etc.) remain the same.

While on distance, all provisions of distance learning (e.g. certified teachers, access to food, etc.) remain the same.

If in-person learning is not available to all, because of space and staffing limitations, hybrid learning must be available to families.

Even when hybrid learning is employed, families with known medical, social, and academic vulnerabilities may receive full-time in person learning. This may include but not necessarily limited to:

- Students being served in self-contained special education programs.
- Students living in transition or in foster care.

In-Person Learning

An in-person learning model is one in which enrolled students attend school receiving most instruction within the building.

State Phase 2 Requirements Include:

- Social distancing
- Use of personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Restrictions to close contact activities
- Enhanced cleaning and hygiene protocols
- Screening protocols in place

SAFETY AND HEALTH

No single health & safety measure in isolation will effectively mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Therefore, a multi-layered approach, including the following, will be used:

- Self-screening and remaining home if any illness symptoms are present
- Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Enhanced cleaning & hygiene protocols, frequent cleaning of high touch surfaces
- Social Distancing
- Restrictions to close contact activities
- Staff may be asked to engage in duties not typically associated with their professional positions
- It is not practical to reliably check for fever of every student and staff member as they enter a school
- Once at school, if a child presents with symptoms, follow typical protocols for intervention

Transportation Protocols

- Procedures for loading and unloading students to limit contact
- Appropriate signage and seat markings will be placed on each bus
- Air flow throughout the bus will be increased by opening selected windows
- Currently, all occupants on the bus are required to wear face covering

Cleaning/Disinfecting Buses Daily:

- Driver will disinfect handrails, seat tops and entrance doors between runs
- Daily disinfecting of buses will be performed by SCSD Transportation.

Custodial Procedures and Protocols

- Cleaning procedures will be prioritized
- Possible reallocation or work shift changes for custodial staff

Nutrition Services (Hillside Only)

Service options are being developed to allow for safe and efficient distribution of school lunches. Services may include classroom delivery or mobile cart delivery. In the event of a full closure SCSD will provide meals-to-go which would allow students or parents to pick-up meals for consumption at home while participating in distance learning.

Human Resources

All employees will return to work under the guidance of applicable negotiated agreements, policies, laws and procedures.

All employees must continue to monitor their health and stay home when sick.

SCSD staff understands that due to Phase 2, certified and classified employees may be asked to teach or work in areas outside of their regular scheduled classes or assigned duties.

Implementation (Recommendation #1)

Adjusted Start Date for Students

It is the recommendation of the committee that school start on Monday, August 24th for the 2020-2021 school year instead of the already approved start date of August 17th. It is proposed that August 17th through August 21st be used for licensed staff and instructional support professionals to engage in professional learning and development.

Implementation (Recommendation #2)

Use of Face Coverings

Consistent with the Governor's Directive 024, the use of face coverings for staff members, visitors and students age 10 and above, while in SCSD buildings and on properties, is required. There are medical exemptions and exceptions that will be considered on a case by case basis. The committee is also requiring the use of face coverings for students 9 years of age and younger until students are seated and socially distanced.

The committee is asking the board to require that face coverings be used in all common areas for grades PK-12. Common areas would include buses, hallways, bathrooms, gyms, etc. There may be opportunities for removal of masks based on social distancing, ventilation and outdoors. These plans may be developed at each individual site, following the Governor's directive.

The District will provide one reusable face covering for every child and staff member or students and staff may bring their own face coverings that cover both nose and mouth in lieu of a district supplied mask.

Implementation (Recommendation #3)

Transportation

To support Phase 2, student transportation should be provided by school buses at equal to 50% capacity. Additionally, all occupants on the bus would be required to wear face coverings.

Implementation (Recommendation #4)

Learning Model - Hugh Gallagher & Hillside Elementary

Based on current assumptions and analysis of space and available staffing, in-person learning at the elementary level is possible. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the committee that Hillside Elementary & Hugh Gallagher Elementary have students attend school Monday through Thursday receiving instruction on-site.* On Fridays, students will take part in distance learning. In the event a school or the district is temporarily shut down due to an outbreak, all students affected will partake in distance learning. Storey County School District will adhere to State Phase 2 reopening requirements at this time including: social distancing, use of personal protective equipment (PPE), enhanced cleaning and hygiene protocols, restrictions to close contact activities and screening protocols will be in place.

There is a strong possibility that SCSD may utilize middle and high school staff to provide added assistance at Hugh Gallagher Elementary. Phase 2 requirements may at times result in students working independently within the school setting and being supervised by non-certified staff.

*Any parent/guardian not wishing for their child to attend school on-site, will have the option for full-time distance education. The instruction will be supported daily by qualified certified teachers and students will have access to Chromebooks as well. Requirements for specialized learning (IEP compliance) will be met. Students who receive free/reduced lunches (Hillside Elementary only) will have access to food.

Implementation (Recommendation #5)

Learning Model – Virginia City Middle & Virginia City High School

The re-opening committee recommends the following learning model for students at Virginia City Middle School and Virginia City High School. A Hybrid Learning Model in which enrolled students attend school in a “A/B Rotation Schedule” format with 2 days of instruction to be in-person and 3 days of Distance Learning. In-person instruction will focus on 4 core subjects – Mathematics, Language Arts, Social Studies and Science – while instruction in other courses such as PE, Health, Fine Arts and electives will be delivered primarily through Distance Learning*. Certain vulnerable student groups will receive in-person instruction throughout the week (Monday-Thursday).

Temporary use of Distance Learning will be utilized in the event a student or group of students is excluded, or if a school or the district is temporarily shut down due to an outbreak.

Analysis of available transportation, staffing and space prompted the consideration of this Hybrid Model. Phase 2 requirements may at times result in students working independently within the school setting and being supervised by non-certified staff

*Any parent/guardian not wishing for their child to attend school on-site, will have the option for full-time distance education. The instruction will be supported daily by qualified certified teachers and students will have access to Chromebooks as well. Requirements for specialized learning (IEP compliance) will be met.

Recommended Motion for the Board of Trustees:

I move that the Board approves the Reopening Plan as presented, including the recommendations of the Reopening Committee, as follows:

1. That the start date for students in the Storey County School District will be August 24, 2020, and the licensed staff and instructional support professionals will report for work to engage in professional learning on August 17 through 21;
2. That consistent with the Governor's Directive 024, the use of face coverings for staff members, visitors and students age 10 and above, while in SCSD buildings and on properties, is required. There are medical exemptions and exceptions that will be considered on a case by case basis. It is also required that students 9 years of age and younger use face coverings until students are seated and socially distanced. Students grades PK-12 will be required to wear face coverings in all common areas. There may be opportunities for removal of masks based on social distancing, ventilation and outdoors. These plans may be developed at each individual site, following the Governor's directive. The District will provide one reusable face covering for each student and staff member that covers both the nose and mouth;
3. That subject to availability of funding, bus transportation over established routes will be provided at 50% capacity (or such greater capacity as is approved by the State). All persons riding on the bus must wear face coverings while on the bus, with loading and unloading as provided in the Plan;
4. That parents and guardians who do not desire to have their elementary school children attend school on-site will have the option for full-time distance learning for at least the first half of the school year, and that for all other elementary school students, in-person instruction will be implemented Monday through Thursday, and will take part in distance education on Fridays;
5. That parents and guardians who do not desire to have their middle or high school children attend school on-site will have the option for full-time distance learning for at least the first half of the school year, and that for all other middle and high school students, the District will employ an A/B Rotation Schedule format whereby students will receive half of their instruction in person and half through distance learning, with the A/B Rotation Schedule being observed Monday through Thursday; Fridays shall be distance learning for all;
6. That certain vulnerable middle and high school student groups (i.e., students with individual education plans, except for speech) will be provided in-person instruction Monday through Thursday;
7. That in the event of an outbreak of the Corona virus, distance learning may be used for all students;
8. That as best as possible, the District will adhere to state and local requirements;

9. That although the District will not test staff, students, and visitors on entry to schools and District facilities, self-screening at home should be done, and if any symptoms of illness are present, the staff member, student, or visitor should stay at home;
10. That restrictions may be placed on any and all activities involving close contact;
11. That the Superintendent shall have authority to relax, tighten, or change the safety or educational protocols as the state and local circumstances, guidelines, and directives change, such actions to include but not limited to possible emergency school closures or movement of staff from one site to another.