

SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Frequently Asked Questions

FOR

Re-Engaging & Re-Imagining Teaching and Learning

School Reopening Plan

2020-2021



Southampton County Public Schools

SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DIVISION

2020-2021 SCHOOL REOPENING PLAN FAQs

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Southampton County Public Schools

VISION

The vision of Southampton County Public Schools is that all students will be successful, productive, lifelong learners in an ever-changing world.

MISSION

The mission of Southampton County Public Schools through the combined efforts of staff, students, families, and the community is to ensure a quality education in a safe environment that will prepare students to be successful learners and productive citizens in an ever-changing society.

DIVISION GOALS

GOAL 1: *Expand Learning Opportunities and Increase Student Achievement*

GOAL 2: *Expand Our Safe and Healthy School Culture and Climate*

GOAL 3: *Expand Professional Training and Improved Employee Retention*

GOAL 4: *Expand Community and Parental Partnerships*

GOAL 5: *Expand Capital Improvement Efforts and Acquire More Fiscal Resources*

GOAL 6: *Expand Opportunities to Make them Equitable for All Students*

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PURPOSE OF THIS BOOKLET

Southampton County Public School Division recently created an online survey recognizing that families may have questions and concerns as we begin the 2020-2021 school year. The division has answered the most frequently asked questions relating to health and safety, instruction, technology, scheduling, grading, extracurricular activities, food services, and transportation. The Division is committed to working with families to provide support, flexibility, and understanding during these unprecedented times.

Southampton Public School Division's Website

www.southampton.k12.va.us



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HEALTH & SAFETY

1. **What is in place to address the social-emotional needs of children?**

SCPS RESPONSE: SCPS has provided training on social emotional learning to teachers. Counselors will provide sessions addressing social emotional learning weekly.

2. **Will students be provided with masks when they return to school?**

SCPS RESPONSE: Yes, all students will be provided with a cloth facial covering prior to returning to the school building.

3. **How much more do the numbers have to drop before students are able to return to the classroom?**

SCPS RESPONSE: At this time, Southampton County Public Schools has not set a threshold of daily cases, positivity rates or other daily counts in regards to allowing students and staff to resume face to face instruction. We will continue to work with the Western Tidewater Health District on and heed to the advice of its officials.

4. **What safety procedures are in place once students return to the school building?**

SCPS RESPONSE: Safety procedures and virus mitigation strategies, such as masks, social distancing and providing classroom cleaning supplies have been put in place to best protect our students when they return to the school buildings. Additionally, classrooms, offices and bathrooms will be sanitized daily--utilizing sanitizing sprays, wipes or foggers. You may view our Health Plan on the division's website at www.southampton.k12.va.us and by scanning the QR Code on page 18 of this booklet.

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INSTRUCTION (TEACHING)

1. Will students be doing work during "synchronous" learning?

SCPS RESPONSE: Yes. The instructional format will include synchronous and asynchronous learning. The classroom teachers are the experts, and they will utilize best practices to facilitate students' learning. This may include, whole/small group and supported instructional practices, which will be infused with project based learning as appropriate. During synchronous instruction, students will receive new instruction (as deemed appropriate by the classroom teacher) and will work with their teachers to address and master skills and content.

2. Will lessons be recorded for students to review during individual time?

SCPS RESPONSE: Yes. Lessons will be recorded daily. Nevertheless, students are expected to participate during synchronous learning time. If problems arise, such as internet issues, family emergencies, illness, etc., please communicate and work with your child's teacher. Teachers will be flexible (within reason).

3. How will testing occur?

SCPS RESPONSE: Teachers are expected to monitor, update, and utilize authentic assessments in conjunction with the grading policy for all Southampton County Public School Division students. The learning management system, Schoology, has components that allow testing, along with other electronic platforms.

4. How will teachers manage students' attention spans?

SCPS RESPONSE: Teachers, as experts, will monitor the students' activity and attention, and will provide brain breaks, as well as adjust their lessons accordingly (just as they do during in-person classroom settings.). Classroom times are organized according to screen time recommendations from research.

5. When our students return, will there be enough teachers to accommodate the appropriate levels of students for each classroom?

SCPS RESPONSE: Yes. Despite the national, state, and local teacher shortage, SCPS, will continue to recruit, train and hire the best candidates for all vacancies. Further, if we return to school in-person utilizing the hybrid model, and adhering to CDC guidelines, we will have enough teachers to accommodate our students.

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6. **What happens if a student misses their scheduled instruction time? How would this be made up?**

SCPS RESPONSE: Student attendance and participation is a major component of instructional success. Students and parents are asked to work directly with the teachers if they are unable to attend class.

7. **Will paper packets be offered for those who do not have internet access?**

SCPS RESPONSE: Perhaps. At this time, it is the desire of the school division that all students access their Schoology accounts to be a part of their respective classes. The school division has dedicated many resources to aid in providing internet access, through personal devices (MiFi), neighborhood devices (bus WiFi) and school based WiFi availability, for all of our students. However, if a need still exists, paper packets may be a substitute to access instruction for those that do not have adequate internet services.

8. **Will someone be available to show parents how to set up the virtual classes for the students?**

SCPS RESPONSE: Yes. There will be faculty and staff available to show parents how to set up the virtual classes for students. The first week of classes will be devoted to familiarizing students and caregivers with the proper use of software, programs, and apps. Furthermore, tutorial videos as well as live sessions will be available for parents. See our website www.southampton.k12.va.us for more information and times.

9. **What will be the total time that my child is required to be logged in and on camera for the day?**

SCPS RESPONSE: The total time that students are required to be online for synchronous learning is 180 minutes a day. Elementary students will have 60 minutes of asynchronous learning each day if needed. Middle and high school students will have 120 minutes of asynchronous learning each day if needed. If after the second week of school (when routines become established), you have a concern about the amount of instructional time or 'on camera' time, please talk with the teacher or the building principal.

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10. Are parents required to be in the room during teaching?

SCPS RESPONSE: The parent/guardian is not required to be with the child for the purpose of teaching and learning; however, adult assistance may be required from time to time. Southampton County Public Schools can offer best practices for at home learning space design, but we will not make requirements of the home setting. We are focused on our students, and what the teachers and schools can do to best support them through this distance learning period. The Schoology system is child-friendly and your child will be able to navigate it alone or with the teacher's assistance. The first week of classes will be devoted to familiarizing students and caregivers with the proper use of software, programs, and apps. Because of the variations in the maturity level of some students, we are making every possible effort to teach objectives that the student and teacher may work on without the assistance of another adult. Paraprofessionals, reading and math specialists will be available for one-on-one and small group sessions.

11. Are the teachers actually going to teach the material that is covered on the daily homework/quiz/test assignments?

SCPS RESPONSE: Within the fall 2020 instructional model, teachers will be teaching each day to their group of students. Students will have curriculum objectives to be mastered under daily objectives, and SOLs that will still be assessed at the end of course in those particular classes. All materials that are course specific will be available through the Schoology platform.

12. What if the child doesn't succeed with virtual learning and needs hands-on?

SCPS RESPONSE: Within the fall 2020 instructional model, students will not be left on their own for learning; teachers will be there to guide and promote positive habits that will enhance the learning experience of each student during distance learning. If your child(ren) struggles with virtual learning, the teacher will provide modifications and additional assistance. Paraprofessionals, reading and math specialists will be available for one-on-one and small group sessions. Under unique conditions, some students may require one-on-one or small group in-person learning. This will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

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13. **Will the teachers be available during non-scheduled teaching time for questions and assistance?**

SCPS RESPONSE: All teachers will have an instructional schedule, and will maintain 'office hours' where they will be available for questions, enrichment, and assistance for their students. Please contact your child's teacher for their specific office hour times.

TECHNOLOGY

1. **Will devices be provided to students?**

SCPS RESPONSE: Yes. Devices will be provided for all Southampton County Public School students. Distribution has begun. Please contact your child's school to schedule a time to pick up a device if you have not already retrieved one and by scanning the QR Code on page 18 of this booklet.

2. **When will devices be distributed?**

SCPS RESPONSE: Device distribution has begun. Please contact your child's school to schedule a time to pick up a device if you have not already retrieved one.

3. **How can I request a MiFi?**

SCPS RESPONSE: You may request a MiFi by completing the Mifi form on the division's website www.southampton.k12.va.us or scanning the QR Code on page 18 of this booklet.

4. **What is a MiFi and how does it work?**

SCPS RESPONSE: A MiFi, also known as a "mobile hotspot", is an electronic device connected to a cellular network that allows users to access the Internet via WiFi on their devices. Directions and instructions for use are available through the SCPS technology department.

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5. **If the internet isn't working, how would a student/ parent notify the school system?**

SCPS RESPONSE: In the case of an unexpected interruption in Internet services, students or parents should contact their teacher as soon as possible to inform them of the issues. Internet issues are not unexpected and will be accommodated as best as possible by the teachers and schools.

6. **Will each student get headphones?**

SCPS RESPONSE: Yes, headphones are included in the supply packet distributed to each student.

7. **If for some reason the MiFi service does not work or is spotty, will this count as an absence for class?**

SCPS RESPONSE: MiFis utilize cell phone towers for their signal. In the event of a service outage, schools and teachers will work with families to ensure that their students' needs are met during the down time.

8. **Will the teacher be able to see the student?**

SCPS RESPONSE: Yes. Students will be able to see and interact with their teachers and peers during synchronous instruction -when they are all online at the same time utilizing the video conferencing tools within Schoology.

SCHEDULING

1. **Will students have to sign out of one class and into the next?**

SCPS RESPONSE: No. Students will be utilizing the Schoology platform, all of their classes will be located within the platform. They will not have to sign out of the Schoology platform; however, they will be required to go to the home screen and click on the next class.

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2. Is the time slot selected flexible?

SCPS RESPONSE: Selecting a time slot assigns a student to a seat/space at a specific time in a specific class. If changes are required or requested for any reason, please contact the assigned teacher and building principal.

3. What time will the classes begin and end?

SCPS RESPONSE: Scheduling blocks for students will be 8:30-11:30/12:30-3:30/5:30-8:30. These times are set and consistent within the school division. Within those blocks, the time spent with whole and small group instruction will vary. Times will vary by grade, subject, teacher, and school.

4. Can special requests be considered for parents in which none of the options work?

SCPS RESPONSE: The offered schedules took into account the needs of parents, staff, and students. If none of the options work for you or your child, please contact your child's building principal and we will work together to accommodate your child within reason.

ATTENDANCE

1. What counts as attendance?

SCPS RESPONSE: Students will be expected to be present and engaged. If a student misses or knows they will miss a course, they are to follow the same protocol as they would if they were on campus. Students and parents are to notify their respective teachers and the school's main office.

2. How is attendance recorded and tracked?

SCPS RESPONSE: SCPS is required to make certain that students are enrolled, present, and available for instruction. Students will be able to check in virtually as prescribed by the class teacher.

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3. Will students be marked as absent if they cannot log on that day?

SCPS RESPONSE: We recognize that the SCPS community is unique in several ways, including internet connectivity. We encourage students and parents to remain in touch with teachers and the technology department so that we may continue to monitor areas where additional support may be needed. Students will not be penalized for circumstances beyond their control.

4. Will students be required to show their faces?

SCPS RESPONSE: Students will be expected to be present and engaged. Students will be engaged in small/whole group and project-based activities. They will be expected to be in full attendance.

5. What happens if the child is late? How many virtual learning sessions can the child miss?

SCPS RESPONSE: The SCPS is required to make certain that students are enrolled, present, and participating in instruction. Please work with your child's teacher on the specifics. Students will not be penalized for circumstances beyond their control.

GRADES

1. Will grades include tests/quizzes?

SCPS RESPONSE: Grades will encompass students' knowledge, demonstration of mastery, and skills. There will be assessments both formal and informal, along with grading for knowledge, skill, and comprehension. Assessment style, type, and frequency will be based on subject and content. Details about a specific class or content area should be addressed with the teacher or the building principal.

2. With everything virtual, assignments should also be virtually turned in, how will this occur?

SCPS RESPONSE: In Schoology, the student has the ability to upload assignments.

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3. Will students be graded for accuracy or completion?

SCPS RESPONSE: A pass/fail system will not be used. Assignments will be graded for accuracy or as determined by the teacher. Grades will encompass students' knowledge, demonstration of mastery, and skills. Details about a specific class or content area should be addressed with the teacher or the building principal.

4. Will I be informed promptly if my child starts to fall behind? Will I be informed of any failing grades?

SCPS RESPONSE: Home and school communication will be a vital component of the virtual learning experience during the COVID-19 pandemic. Teachers will maintain scheduled office hours; students will receive support; and parents are encouraged to actively engage with their child's teachers.

SPECIAL EDUCATION, 504, GIFTED, ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS, ETC.

1. How will gifted classes be scheduled with normal learning? Will this be additional screen time?

SCPS RESPONSE: Students who are enrolled in Special Programs will receive instruction and support based on federal, state, and VDOE guidelines. The programs will occur during regularly scheduled times. For more information contact your building principal or Mrs. Gillette, Director of Curriculum, at 757-653-2692 ext. 3342.

2. Will special education services still be offered?

SCPS RESPONSE: Yes. The SCPS division is working in adherence to the VDOE and federal guidelines. For students who receive special education services and accommodations based on an IEP, services will continue as normal. Please contact your child's case manager or the Special Education Department for more information at 757-653-2692 ext. 3336.

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3. **My child was in the process of obtaining an IEP. How will that continue?**

SCPS RESPONSE: The Special Education Department is in the process of evaluating and assessing students for IDEA services. For more information, please contact the Special Education Department at 757-653-2692 ext. 3336.

4. **Having a greater need, will special needs children be permitted to attend in person classes at the school?**

SCPS RESPONSE: There are exemptions based on classification and program enrollment. However, the health and safety of students and staff are our top priority. The special education department is working closely with families to provide assistance and details about potential exemptions and alternatives for instructional practices, which may include some in-person instruction.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES (SPORTS, BAND, CHORUS, CLUBS, ETC.)

1. **Will there be any extracurricular activities or sports this year?**

SCPS RESPONSE: Southampton County Public Schools will continue to monitor and receive guidance as set forth in guidelines from the VDH/CDC and the VDOE in regards to student health and activities. The VHSL has determined their calendar for activities and athletics for the 2020-2021 school year, which is set to begin December 14, 2020, with the first contests being allowed December 28, 2020.

2. **How are kids going to have adequate instruction with regards to band and art?**

SCPS RESPONSE: Our students taking band and art classes will continue to participate on a virtual basis within their scheduled classes or class times.

3. **Will we be required to do any of these non-essential classes while virtual learning?**

SCPS RESPONSE: All classes in our curriculum are essential. Teachers will provide instruction in all disciplines.

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FOOD SERVICES

1. **Will P-EBT be disbursed again?**

SCPS RESPONSE: The determination for the method of nutrition support and consumption is not determined by the SCPS. However, students will continue to receive access to nutrition in the form of meals as required by the state and program guidelines.

2. **Will food pick-up be available weekly?**

SCPS RESPONSE: Meals will be delivered to students. Parents, please complete the form regarding meal services by clicking on the QR Code on page 18 of this booklet.

TRANSPORTATION

1. **How many bus drivers have you hired?**

SCPS RESPONSE: Southampton County Public Schools, much like every other division, is currently training and hiring drivers on a continual basis in an attempt to address the nationwide shortage of fully licensed school bus drivers. If you or anyone that you know are interested in driving please contact Mr. Josh Griffin, Transportation Supervisor at 757-653-2692 ext. 3347 or ext. 3337 or apply at www.southampton.k12.va.us.

2. **If school opens back will we be responsible for our own transportation?**

SCPS RESPONSE: No. Southampton County Public Schools is dedicated to providing safe and reliable transportation for all of our county resident students. Parents will continue to have the choice of their child utilizing the school bus, or other personal/private transportation modes.

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3. How will students sit on the bus? Can siblings sit together?

SCPS RESPONSE: In the current Southampton County Public Schools health plan, once face to face instruction is allowed to resume, students riding the bus will sit one to a seat, with masks on and maintain 3 feet of separation at all times. Yes, students living in the same household will be allowed to sit together, as long as social distancing is maintained for all other riders.

OTHER

1. Will we need to purchase school supplies?

SCPS RESPONSE: SCPS has purchased school supplies for all students. Please contact your child's school to arrange a time to pick up supplies if you have not already done so.

2. Will parents receive teacher's contact information?

SCPS RESPONSE: Information as to how to communicate with your child's teachers will be available.

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QR CODES

Health Plan Code



<https://tinyurl.com/SCPS-HealthPlan>

Instructional Plan Code



<https://tinyurl.com/SCPS-InstructionalPlan>

MiFi Request Code



<https://tinyurl.com/SCPS-MiFi>

Meal Services Request Code



<https://tinyurl.com/SCPS-MealDelivery>

Southampton County Public Schools

OUR SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY PRINCIPALS' WORK CELL PHONE NUMBERS

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Southampton High School, Principal

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Southampton High School Office Number: 1-757-653-2751

MR. DARIAN BELL

Southampton Middle School, Principal

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Southampton Middle School Office Number: 1-757-653-9250

DR. ALLISON FRANCIS

Capron Elementary School, Principal

1-757-419-1471

Capron Elementary School Office Number: 1-434-658-4348

MRS. SUSAN FOWLER

Meherrin Elementary School, Principal

1-757-533-1939

Meherrin Elementary School Office Number: 1-757-654-6461

MRS. SUSAN MELBYE

Nottoway Elementary School, Principal

1-757-346-8582

Nottoway Elementary School Office Number: 1-757-859-6593

MRS. TAMEE RAILEY

Riverdale Elementary School, Co-Principal

1-757-620-9218

Riverdale Elementary School Office Number: 1-757-562-3007

MRS. KISHA WATFORD

Riverdale Elementary School, Co-Principal

1-757-650-8441

Riverdale Elementary School Office Number: 1-757-562-3007

MR. ALFRED CHARITY

Fresh Start Center, Lead Teacher

1-757-651-8231

Fresh Start Center Office Number: 1-757-562-2903

Constant Contact

Southampton County Public School Division remains committed to the health, safety, and well-being of our students, staff, and families. Open communication is the cornerstone for an effective relationship between the school division and families.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact any member of the Southampton Administrative Team. Cellular numbers are provided for your convenience. Please take care of yourself and your loved ones.

OUR SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY ADMINISTRATORS' WORK CELL PHONE NUMBERS

Southampton School

Board Office Number: 1-757-653-2692

DR. GWENDOLYN P. SHANNON

Division Superintendent of Southampton County Public Schools

1-757-653-4464

DR. TONIA TAYLOR

Director of Special Education & Student Services

1-757-352-8951

MRS. KELLI GILLETTE

Director of Curriculum

1-757-556-4890

MS. DEBRA HICKS

Interim Director of Human Resources and Marketing

1-757-419-1431

MR. WILL MELBYE

Coordinator of Auxiliary Services & Transportation

1-757-544-8109

MR. BILL HATCH

Technology Specialist

1-757-653-1347

"Keeping the Lines of Communication Open"

Southampton County Public Schools

www.southampton.k12.va.us

