

Southern Local School District

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Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

Southern Local Schools is committed to creating a safe environment for student learning. District personnel worked with the local health department, county educational service center, school based mental health providers, Director of Special Education and related service, and the school community to develop the following plan for returning to in-person learning and the continuation of services for our students and families. We welcome any input from our Southern Local community. To provide input or feedback, please contact the Southern Local Administration Building at 330-679-2343 or locate the feedback for Safe Return link on the district site.

Facilities-Southern Local Schools is currently working to upgrade air ventilation systems to allow for better filtration and flow within the buildings and other indoor facilities. All restroom facilities will be upgraded to include touch less faucets, paper towel dispensers, faucets, and automatic flushing toilets. Additional busses are being purchased to allow for proper spacing during routes. Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the facilities. Custodial staff will continue to sanitize high touch areas frequently to decrease the opportunity for the spread of viruses and other communicable diseases.

Southern Local Schools Recommendations:

Mask Wearing- Southern Local Schools will follow recommended guidelines from the Columbiana County Health Department and CDC. In situations where social distancing is not possible, masks would be recommended but not mandatory.

Social Distancing- Social distancing is recommended in all settings including classrooms and common indoor spaces.

Hand Washing- All staff, students, and community members entering Southern Local facilities are encouraged to wash their hands frequently including prior to eating.

Tracing/Isolating/Quarantining- Southern Local will continue to follow CDC and Columbiana County Health recommendations related to support and care of ill staff or students. Any ill staff member or student will report to the nurse's station for care. Parents or Guardians of ill students will be contacted for next steps.

Southern Local Schools partnered with the Columbiana County Health Department to offer multiple opportunities for staff and students to be vaccinated during the 2020-2021 school year. Vaccinations of staff and students is not required. The district will continue to work with the county providers to offer vaccinations to those who are interested.

Extended Learning Opportunities and Identification of Learning Loss

School closures during the spring of 2020 and the 2020-2021 school year have created challenges with delivering instruction for students leading to learning loss. Southern Local Schools will have all students participate in quarterly benchmark assessments to identify areas of support needed for students. Teacher teams will meet monthly to plan and develop learning processes and strategies to address the identified areas of learning support needed. Progress monitoring will take place to track student progress and make learning process adjustments to meet student needs. Southern Local Schools will offer extended learning opportunities during June, and before or after school tutoring/interventions during the school year. All special education students will continue to receive both academic and related services.

Social Emotional and Positive Behavior Supports

Southern Local partners with multiple school based mental health providers to support student's mental health and has a certified school psychologist on staff. The mental health team will be formed in the fall of 2021 and will meet quarterly to review student data related to attendance, behavior, and health and wellbeing to provide supports where needed.

Staff members in grades PK-5 have been trained in PAX strategies to provide behavior supports for elementary students. Positive behavior supports for students

in grades 6-12 are currently being reviewed and revised to address areas of need related to attendance and behavior.

Meal Services

Southern Local will continue to provide FREE breakfast and lunch to all students as part of the district CEP status. The district is partnering with Nutrition Inc. beginning in the fall of 2021 to provide after school meals to students who are participating in after school programs and activities.

Southern Local will review the district plan semi-annually in January and August with the district team, community partners, parents, and students. District feedback surveys will continue to be posted on the district website to gather input throughout the year. Any revisions will take place following the review to ensure the plan is updated. The updated plan will be posted to the school website (www.southern.k12.oh.us) following each review and revision period. To provide input or feedback, please contact the Southern Local Administration Building at 330-679-2343 or locate the feedback for Safe Return link on the district site.

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