

COVID-19 PANDEMIC Contract for Families

SBRSD is following all state and federal guidelines to address COVID-19 related school issues. This includes guidance set forth by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) as they relate to maintaining health and safety guidelines during the COVID-19 pandemic. In order to keep our students, staff, and community as safe as possible, SBRSD requires families to read and sign the below agreement.

Remote Learning Time and Use of Remote Learning Platforms

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, during the 2020-2021 school year the District may be required to provide some or all educational programming via remote learning and various remote learning platforms.

The Code of Conduct and District Policies, including but not limited to those that govern student discipline, bullying, harassment, and discrimination, are applicable during remote learning times and when using remote learning platforms.

Parents and students are prohibited from recording and/or disseminating remote learning lessons or instruction. Violations of the no-recording policy may result in school-based discipline or referral, in appropriate cases, to law enforcement.

Safety Requirements and Educational Program Continuum

As a result of the on-going COVID-19 pandemic, on June 25, 2020, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education issued “Initial Fall School Reopening Guidance” (the “Guidance”). In accordance with this guidance, the following safety requirements and educational programming models will be in place for the 2020-2021 academic school year, as required by the Commonwealth. The District reserves the right to amend these requirements and the manner in which educational services are provided to its students as determined appropriate and as order/advised by the various agencies of the federal and state governments.

Safety Requirements

Masks/face coverings

- All students and staff are required to wear a mask/face covering that covers their nose and mouth.
- Masks/face coverings must be provided by the student/family and at least one extra mask should remain in their backpack ; however, extra disposable face masks will be made available by the school for students who need them. Additionally, each student/staff will be provided with one cloth face mask by the district.
- Adults, including educators and staff, are required to wear masks/face coverings.
- Face coverings should fit securely and cover the nose and mouth fully.
- Exceptions to mask/face covering requirements will be made for those for whom it is not possible due to documented medical conditions, behavioral, disability, or other health or safety factors.
- Mask breaks will occur throughout the day in a manner that complies with health and safety standards.
- Masks/face coverings are required to be worn by everyone on the bus .

- Ensure that all students and staff are aware that cloth face coverings should not be worn if they are wet. A wet cloth face covering may make it difficult to breathe.
- Ensure that all students and staff are aware that they should never share or swap cloth face coverings.
- Students' cloth face coverings should be clearly identified with their names or initials, to avoid confusion or swapping. Students' face coverings may also be labeled to indicate top/bottom and front/back.
- Cloth face coverings should be stored in a space designated for each student that is separate from others when not being worn (e.g., in individually labeled containers or bags or backpack).
- Cloth face coverings should be washed after every day of use and/or before being used again, or if visibly soiled.
- **Bandanas are not acceptable face coverings.**

All students in SBRSD, grades PK-12, are required to wear cloth face coverings (masks), unless a medical condition or disability prohibits mask wearing. Teachers will encourage students to wear masks. If a student refuses to wear a mask, he/she will be sent to the school office and an administrator will contact the parent/guardian immediately to pick up their child and discuss ways to address the safety concern.

Students in grades PK-1 will be supported and instructed in the correct use of a face covering, unless medically unable (or based on disability) to do so. Parents should provide their child(ren) masks and reinforce the need to wear them at school.

Health Checks

- Parents are responsible to check their children for symptoms of COVID-19 before bringing them to school or putting them on the bus. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. The symptoms include but are not limited to the following based on CDC Guidance:

Fever/chills
 Cough
 Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 Fatigue
 Muscle or body aches
 Headache
 New loss of taste or smell
 Sore throat
 Congestion or runny nose
 Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea

- **If a student arrives at school showing any of the above symptoms, or shows symptoms during the course of the school day, they will be removed from the**

general school community and placed in a staffed medical isolation room, after being evaluated by the school nurse. Parents/Guardians will be contacted and asked to pick up their child immediately. Your signature on this document indicates your understanding and compliance with this safety protocol.

Physical Distancing/Student Groupings

- The District will aim to maintain a physical distance of six feet between individuals.
- For instructional purposes or based student needs, when a physical distance of six feet cannot be maintained, the District will aim to maintain a minimum distance of three feet between individuals.
- Classrooms including desks will be configured in a manner that provides for the above-referenced physical distance between individuals.
- Additional safety precautions will be taken by the school nurses and/or any staff supporting students with disabilities in close proximity, when social distancing is not possible.

Hand Hygiene:

- Students and staff are required to exercise hand hygiene (handwashing or sanitizing) upon arrival to school, before eating, before putting on and taking off masks, and before dismissal.
- When handwashing, individuals should use soap and water to wash all surfaces of their hands for at least 20 seconds, wait for visible lather, rinse thoroughly, and dry with an individual disposable towel.
- If handwashing is not feasible, hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent ethanol or at least 70 percent isopropanol content can be used. Hand sanitizer should be applied to all surfaces of the hands and in sufficient quantity that it takes 20 seconds of rubbing hands together for the sanitizer to dry.

Educational Program Continuum

Per the Initial DESE Guidance, educational services will be provided in one of the three (3) below described models depending upon the needs of the student and/or health and safety requirements.

Model 1 – In-Person Learning

It is the District's goal to provide in-person learning to as many students as possible without compromising safety. In this model, all students return in person to school settings that are appropriately modified to accommodate the health and safety requirements outlined above. Examples of modifications could include altered classroom configurations, setting up additional learning spaces, and schedule changes.

Model 2 – Hybrid Learning

In the event that the District is unable to bring all students back to school under the health and safety requirements despite best efforts, or in case of COVID-19 related circumstances, a hybrid learning model will be implemented. In this model, students will alternate between in-person and remote learning. For instance, students could switch between in-person and remote learning on alternating weeks or days of the week.

Model 3 – Remote Learning

In the event that individual students cannot not return to in-person learning, or in the event of future classroom or school closures impacting all students, remote learning will be implemented. As stated throughout the Handbook, the Code of Conduct and District’s Bullying and Harassment/Discrimination policies apply to students during remote learning times and when using remote learning platforms.

Plan for Special Populations

Additional plan(s) have been developed, as appropriate, for the provision of services and accommodations to special student populations, including students with disabilities and English Learners. These can be found in the SBRSD Re-Opening Plan.

For students with disabilities who receive services and/or accommodations pursuant to an IEP or Section 504 Plan, please note that in the event of a school closure or provision of a hybrid learning model as described above, these exceptional circumstances may affect how a particular service is provided and a free and appropriate public education may look different than it did during in-person learning. Federal disability law allows for flexibility in determining how to meet the individual needs of students with disabilities. In these instances, the District will work to provide specialized instructional opportunities and related services through remote learning or a hybrid model of remote and in-person learning to the extent feasible in the least restrictive environment, while maintaining the safety of both students and staff and complying with applicable federal, state and local government directives.

Signature of Parent/Guardian or Student