

# Silver Creek Middle School - Reopening Plan - Updated April 2021

## Communication Plan

The Silver Creek CSD's reopening plan has been modified based on updated NYS Department of Health guidance that was released on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021. In Mid-March 2021 the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) released updated guidance and the NYS Department of Health followed with updated guidance in early April. This updated guidance was the result of current understanding around the spread of COVID-19 in school settings. After receiving the updated guidance, Silver Creek CSD met as an administrative team to read and understand how the changes would impact our current programming. The district reconvened the reopening committee, comprised of administrators, teachers, union representation, directors of buildings and grounds and transportation, the school nurse, the SRO, Title VI Coordinator, Seneca Nation of Indians Education department leaders, and each school's dean of students. Additionally, the district sent a letter to families in grades 6-12 to articulate changes to programming and sent a survey to virtual families in the elementary schools to ascertain their desire to return to in-person learning. A Facebook live event was held on April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021 to inform the community of changes and answer any questions. Updated plans are posted on the district's website.

The district will continue to communicate using the school's website, global connect calls, and district-approved social media platforms, Facebook and Twitter. The updated reopening plan will be posted to the school's website and the community will be notified when changes are made to the plan. The Superintendent regularly updates the community through global connect calls and the recording of those calls are also posted to the website. We are willing and prepared to increase our communication with district families when necessary.

## Health and Safety Plan

### Middle School Capacity:

**Student body:** Capacity will be determined by our ability to socially distance in a classroom. Taking in consideration 6 feet around a student (current DOH, CDC, and NYSED guidelines), we have determined that, at the bare minimum, classrooms will be able to have 12—15 students, in a room, at one time. When considering courses such as physical education and music classes, specifically chorus and wind instruments, we will abide by a 6 foot social distance recommendation in these areas, unless advised otherwise.

Maintaining this level of social distancing will impact our ability to have in-person for all 156 students. Masks will be available for all students that either cannot provide their own or have misplaced or forgotten their mask.

**Staff:** We do not anticipate social distancing guidelines to impact our ability to have all school staff on-campus during normal school hours. Staff will have the same access to our mask supply in the event that they cannot supply their own.

### **Middle School Arrival for In-Person or Hybrid Models:**

Middle School students who are riding school transportation will enter the main high school lobby and a secure entranceway by our cafeteria/band room. Students who ride district transportation will be dropped off at the main lobby entrance and the students that do not take school transportation will be dropped off at our band door entranceway. During our morning arrival, middle school students will enter the school lobby one bus at a time, wearing masks and socially distant. Students entering through the band doors will also wear their masks and be social distant. Temperatures will be checked for all students upon arrival. Students will enter and form two single lines for temperature checks. Once cleared to enter the building, , students will be instructed to “grab and go” breakfast and to proceed to their 1<sup>st</sup> period class.

### **Screening of Staff and Students:**

- Staff will be required to complete the screening questionnaire prior to arrival at school and encourage parents/guardians to screen their child before sending them to school. The screening questionnaire determines whether the individual has:
  - knowingly been in close or proximate contact in the past 14 days with anyone who has tested positive through a diagnostic test for COVID-19 or who has or had symptoms of COVID-19;
  - tested positive through a diagnostic test for COVID-19 in the past 14 days;
  - has experienced any symptoms of COVID-19, including a temperature of greater than 100.0°F in the past 14 days: and/or
  - has traveled internationally or from a state with widespread community transmission of COVID-19 per the New York State Travel Advisory in the past 14 days.
- Students and staff will be required to notify the school when they develop symptoms or if their answers to the questionnaire change during or outside school hours. The Health Office will monitor phone calls and collect this information. If a parent/guardian symptom screen evaluation is reported to the school, we will ensure all students are treated equally; and ensure students whose parent/guardian did not complete the screening are not singled out.
- Students will be screened upon arrival to school. Trained staff members will perform temperature screenings;
  - Staff members will supervise students who are waiting their turn. While waiting, students will be socially distanced;
  - Sufficient supplies for taking temperatures such as disposable thermometer probes will be provided
  - PPE or barriers will be provided for staff members conducting the screening.
  - Staff will additionally make a visual inspection of the child for signs of illness, which could include flushed cheeks, rapid breathing or difficulty breathing (without recent physical activity), fatigue, or extreme fussiness.

### **Identifying possible sickness:**

- Parents/guardians and staff members will be provided resources to educate them regarding the careful observation of symptoms of COVID-19 and health screening that must be conducted each morning before coming to school. Parents/guardians and school staff must be instructed that any student or staff member with a fever of 100°F or greater and/or symptoms of possible COVID-19 virus must be directed immediately to the school's health office.
- Silver Creek Central School District will follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for an up to date list of symptoms of Coronavirus. This list is not all-inclusive as some individuals may display other symptoms or none at all. The following are the most common symptoms of COVID-19:
  - Fever or chills (100°F or greater)
  - 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 or vomiting
  - and/or Diarrhea.
- All staff will be educated to observe students or other staff members for signs of any type of illness such as:
  - Flushed cheeks
  - Rapid or difficulty breathing (without recent physical activity)
  - Fatigue, and/or irritability
  - Frequent use of the bathroom.
- Students and staff exhibiting these signs with no other explanation for them should be sent to the school health office for an assessment by the school nurse. Health screenings including daily temperature checks and completion of a screening questionnaire will be required for staff, contractors, vendors, and visitors. Students are required to have a daily temperature check and periodic completion of a screening questionnaire. Anyone who has a temperature of 100°F or greater or has a positive response on the screening questionnaire will be isolated from others and sent home immediately. Students will be supervised in the isolated area while awaiting transport home. The school nurse will refer such persons to a healthcare provider and provide resources on COVID-19 testing.

### **Taking care of a sick person:**

- Students and staff with symptoms of illness and/or who report symptoms via questionnaires will be sent to the Health Office and isolated with adult supervision. A facemask (e.g., cloth or surgical mask) will be provided if the ill person can tolerate wearing it and does not have difficulty breathing, to prevent the possible transmission of the virus to others while waiting for transportation home.
- School staff will immediately report any illness of students or staff to the Health Office during the day.
  - Such reports will be made in compliance with FERPA. If a school nurse goes to a classroom to assess students, this will also be done in a manner that protects the student's confidentiality.
- The school nurses will isolate and dismiss immediately any student or staff member who has a fever above 100 or other symptoms of COVID-19 that are not explained by a chronic health condition for follow up with a health care provider.
  - If there are several students waiting to see a school nurse, arrangements will be made to have students wait at least 6 feet apart.
- The Health Office will have separate areas for ill students and staff and for those who have injuries or need their medications or nursing treatments.
- Students will be escorted from isolation area to the parent/guardian when possible. The parent or guardian will be instructed to call their health care provider, or if they do not have a health care provider, to follow up with a local clinic or urgent care center.
- The Registered Nurse will immediately notify the Chautauqua County Public Health and Human Services Department of any COVID-19 symptoms. The District RN and Medical Director, in accordance with the Health Department, will make such evaluations of students, teachers and any other school employees we deem necessary to protect the health of the students and staff.
- Symptomatic students or staff members will follow CDC's Stay Home When You Are Sick guidance unless otherwise directed by a healthcare provider or the local department of health.
- If the student or staff member has emergency warning signs such as trouble breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion, inability to arouse, bluish lips or face, 911 will be called and the operator will be notified that the person may have COVID-19;
- All areas of the Health Office will have a supervising adult to be present and will have easy access to a bathroom and sink with hand hygiene supplies.
- The school nurses assessing or providing care to ill students and staff will follow Transmission- based precautions, which includes the use of appropriate PPE.

### **Signage:**

- The following link from the CDC provides signage for Covid information and proper hand and respiratory hygiene. Signs will be placed throughout the building. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/toolkits/schools.html>

### **Social Distance for in-person or hybrid models:**

**Middle School:** All staff and students will be required to wear facemasks at all times. Mask breaks will be scheduled throughout the day. Each classroom in the middle school will have desks spaced six feet apart. The hallways throughout the campus will have tape down the center with arrows in either direction. Essentially, students in the hallways will be abiding by traffic laws, they will be instructed to stay to the right when passing from class-to-class. Additionally, any space that requires students to form a line marking will be placed six feet apart. The middle school will also be assigning lockers that will be spread out throughout the middle school area.

### **Cloth Face Coverings:**

Cloth face coverings are meant to protect other people in case the wearer is unknowingly infected but does not have symptoms. Cloth face coverings are not surgical masks, respirators, or other medical personal protective equipment. All individuals in Silver Creek CSD school facilities and on school grounds must wear face coverings at all times. Mask breaks will happen throughout the day, as determined by teachers, but not in the following situations; (for classroom teachers this can preferably occur during independent work.)

- When individuals are within 6 feet of someone;
- In hallways;
- In restrooms; and
- In other congregate settings, including buses.

Silver Creek CSD will provide acceptable face covering to employees (and students if they forget their own) and have an adequate supply in case of need for replacement per Executive Order 202.16. Employees and students with healthcare provider documentation stating they are not medically able to tolerate face covering will not be required to do so.

The district will use alternate PPE (i.e., face shields or coverings that are transparent at or around the mouth) for therapies or interventions that require visualization of the movement of the lips and/or mouths (e.g. speech therapy). These alternate coverings may also be used for certain students (e.g. hearing impaired) that benefit from being able to see more of the employee's face.

### **Cleaning Protocols:**

- Silver Creek CSD will conduct regular cleanings and disinfection of the facilities as indicated below:
  - a. Areas considered high-risk will be disinfected between each individual's usage. This would include work areas, bus seating, cafeteria seating and other commonly used locations.
  - b. If used with a cohort cleaning disinfection will take place between cohorts.
  - c. Continual cleaning and disinfection of high touch areas (door handles, sink handles, drinking fountains, electronics, shared objects) will take place throughout the day by cleaning staff whenever possible.
  - d. Deep cleaning of instructional spaces, restrooms and large group areas will take place at the conclusion of each scheduled school day.
- Cleaning will be rigorous and ongoing following CDC, NYSED and County Health Guidelines. Custodial staff will keep on file a daily cleaning log documenting date, time, and scope of cleaning for each building.

### **Plan for PPE supplies:**

- Silver Creek CSD is utilizing the initial recommended quantity guidelines provided by NYSED in ordering the quantities of PPE for students, teachers, school nurses and health providers, along with other school staff members.
- PPE being provided to staff and students consists of face masks, face shields, N-95 ventilating masks, disposable gloves, disposable gowns.
- In work stations, polycarbonate dividers are being provided in a manner that allows for efficient workflow, while providing proper protection for staff and employees. This is through various portable polycarbonate dividers that relocate throughout the classroom, installation on office desks or reception areas, and table dividers for small group work where necessary.

### **Vulnerable People:**

- The following groups are at increased risk for complications from COVID-19 and may need added or alternative provisions for social distancing. Students who have family members who are in high risk groups may also need to attend school remotely. Silver Creek Schools will make accommodations and be able to accommodate the needs of these students in the school community.
- Persons in these groups should consult with their healthcare provider regarding prevention: Individuals age 65 or older; Pregnant individuals; Individuals with underlying health conditions including, but not limited to: chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma, serious heart conditions, kidney disease, immunocompromised, severe obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 30 or higher), diabetes, liver disease, sickle cell anemia, children who are medically complex, who have neurologic, genetic, metabolic conditions.
- Students with special needs or students who are medically fragile may not be able to maintain social distancing, hand or respiratory hygiene, or wear a face covering or mask. Silver Creek School will encourage parents/ guardians to work with their child's healthcare providers so that an informed decision can be made on how best to meet the child's needs at school while protecting their health and safety.
- Transitioning these students back to school will require planning and coordination of school health services personnel, special education personnel, pupil personnel services, and administration.

- Silver Creek Schools is aware that such families are already under significant stress and COVID-19 has made their situations more critical. Alternate plans will be created in consultation with school health personnel on how to meet the needs of the child while keeping social distancing which may include:
  - Additional PPE for staff caring for such students;
  - Assigning only one staff member to care for the student; and/or
  - Decreased students in a classroom, alternating schedules, and provision of related services to an individual instead of group setting.
  - Finally, if the parents/guardians choose not to send their child back to school, remote instruction will be provided.

**Return to School after confirmed case:**

- Silver Creek CSD will follow CDC guidance for allowing a student or staff member to return to school after exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19.
- If a person is not diagnosed by a healthcare provider (physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant) with COVID-19 they can return to school:
  - Once there is no fever, without the use of fever reducing medicines, and they have felt well for 24 hours;
  - If they have been diagnosed with another condition and has a healthcare provider written note stating they are clear to return to school.
- If a person is diagnosed with COVID-19 by a healthcare provider based on a test or their symptoms or does not get a COVID-19 test but has had symptoms, they should not be at school and should stay at home until:
  - It has been at least ten days since the individual first had symptoms;
  - It has been at least three days since the individual has had a fever (without using fever reducing medicine); and
  - It has been at least three days since the individual's symptoms improved, including cough and shortness of breath.
- The CDC provides specific guidance for individuals who are on home isolation regarding when the isolation may end.

**School Safety Plans:**

- The district will update and communicate protocols for emergency drills to include social distancing and the wearing of masks for students and staff. The district will design this work with members of our district-wide safety committee.

## **Child Nutrition**

Silver Creek CSD contracts food service for the entire District with Personal Touch Food Service. Personal Touch has provided assurance that their staff will be required to follow health and safety protocols daily, which include temperature screening and questionnaire.

Students in attendance will have meals available in each building's cafeteria following social distancing guidelines. Capacity within each cafeteria will be reduced to allow for proper social distancing, and alternate locations within each building will be used to allow for smaller cohorts to consume breakfast and lunch in a safe and sanitary environment. Cafeteria monitors will be assigned throughout the area to maintain order and health and safety protocols. Signage will be available (including: while in line, while seating in the cafeteria, and disposing of their trash). Monitors will direct students to seating locations where cleaning has occurred. Breakfast will be served in a grab and go fashion each morning to students. Multiple stations will be available for student pick up near the entrance being utilized by each student group. Meals will be properly labeled for students with food allergies.

Silver Creek CSD has added portable hand sanitizing stations at the entrance and exit of each cafeteria. The hand sanitizing stations will also be available at alternate locations used for food consumption within the building. Travel makers will be used to organize traffic patterns within the lunch line and dining areas. Locations will be staffed and visual signage will be used to reinforce proper CDC, DOH, District hygiene and social distancing protocols.

For those students wishing to receive meals during their off days the district will provide daily meals to go at the end of each day.

Silver Creek CSD will conduct regular cleanings and disinfection of the facilities as indicated below: Areas considered high-risk will be disinfected between each individual's usage. This would include cafeteria seating. If used with a cohort, cleaning and disinfection will take place between cohorts. Continual cleaning and disinfection of high touch areas (door handles, tables and chairs, and other shared objects) will take place throughout the day by cleaning staff whenever possible. Deep cleaning of spaces will take place at the conclusion of each scheduled school day. Cleaning will be rigorous and ongoing following CDC, NYSED and County Health Guidelines. Custodial staff will keep on file a daily cleaning log documenting date, time, and scope of cleaning for each building.

The district will survey families to determine whether they would be requiring breakfast, lunch or both during the hybrid scenario. Families will be able to use [myschoolbucks.com](https://myschoolbucks.com) to add funding to their accounts or send money into the school on their in-person learning days. Cashless transactions will be encouraged. Polycarbonate barriers will be utilized at registers to protect both students and staff.

## Transportation

- Masks will be worn on the bus at all times.
- Silver Creek CSD ensures all buses (conforming and non-conforming to Federal Motor Carrier Safety Standards, as well as type A, C or D) which are used every day by districts and contract carriers will be cleaned/disinfected once a day.
- School buses will not be equipped with hand sanitizer due to its combustible composition and potential liability to the carrier or and furthermore ensure that school bus drivers, monitors and attendants not carry personal bottles of hand sanitizer with them on school buses.
  - All drivers will continue to have regular reminders of allowable cleaning products for use in student areas in accordance with NYSED guidance
  - Daily reminders as well as spot checks will be conducted regularly
  - Silver Creek CSD will require that school bus drivers, monitors, attendants and mechanics to wear a face covering. All staff will be offered PPE daily if they do not have their own that meets the DOH criteria.
- Staff will be trained and provided periodic refreshers on;
  - the proper use of personal protective equipment including the quality of homemade facemasks,
  - the signs and symptoms of COVID-19,
  - the proper use of social distancing
  - hand washing and use of hand sanitizer in the district office areas including break room areas
- Any staff that may come into direct contact with students will be provided gloves daily, as well as be provided with training on proper use and disposal
- All staff will self-verify daily that they have not exhibited any signs or symptoms related to COVID-19 and will sign documentation as to such
- All transportation staff will be trained to advise students on the use of face masks as well as provide disposable masks to any students that do not have one. If any student, including students with disabilities cannot wear a mask, arrangements on the bus will be made for proper social distancing
- Regular reminders will be given to students as to the importance of proper social distancing to limit the spread of and contact with any aerosol germs
- Our transportation department will continue to provide transportation to all nonpublic, parochial, private, charter schools or students whose Individualized Education Program have placed them out of district whose schools are meeting in person.

## **Social Emotional Well Being**

### **Social Emotional Programming:**

As school and district personnel adapt to environments that result in substantially less time spent interacting in-person, ensuring intentional and meaningful inclusion of social emotional learning (SEL) across all aspects of operating strategies is critical to support the well-being and success of students, staff, and families. Along with physical health and well-being, Silver Creek CSD has prioritized social emotional well-being – not at the expense of academics, but in order to create the mental, social, and emotional space for academic learning to occur.

- Silver Creek CSD will ensure that a district-wide and building-level comprehensive developmental school counseling program plan, developed under the direction of certified school counselor(s), is reviewed and updated to meet current needs.
- Silver Creek CSD will establish an advisory council, shared decision-making, school climate team, or other collaborative working group comprised of families, students, members of the board of education, school building and/or district/charter leaders, community-based service providers, teachers, certified school counselors, and other pupil personnel service providers including school social workers and/or school psychologists to inform the comprehensive developmental school counseling program plan.
- Silver Creek CSD will provide resources and referrals to address mental health, behavioral, and emotional support services and programs.
- Silver Creek CSD will provide professional development opportunities for faculty and staff on how to talk with and support students during and after the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency, as well as provide support for developing coping and resilience skills for students, faculty, and staff.

## Instructional Programming

### Middle School Schedules:

**100% in –person** – Under the current guidelines for social distancing provided by the NYS Department of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and the NYS Department of Education, a full in-person model is unable to occur in the Silver Creek MS.

**Hybrid Model:** Beginning in September 2020, the middle school will be utilizing a hybrid schedule in order to meet the academic and social/emotional needs of our students. Students will be placed in A-day/B-day groupings that will be predetermined by the students' first letter of their last name. Students placed in the A-day group will receive in-person instruction every Monday and Wednesday of each week, with students in the B-day group receiving in-person instruction every Tuesday and Thursday. When students are not in the building physically, they will be provided instruction by their teachers to be completed remotely. The Middle School will be using Microsoft Teams as a launching point for all student instruction. This includes video conferencing as well as accessing materials needed for class. Students will attend on alternating Fridays in-person beginning May 7<sup>th</sup>. Group A will attend on May 7<sup>th</sup> and Group B the following Friday, and so on for the remainder of the school year.

If families do not want their child to participate in the in-person instruction, students will be able to access teacher created video instruction for that day. Teachers and/or TA's would be available during office hours to answer any questions. AIS and special education teachers will provide support for students. Students with disabilities will attend for in-person instruction to the greatest extent possible in order to receive services as outlined on their Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

**100% Remote Learning** – If Silver Creek Middle school were required to move to a full remote learning schedule, all students would participate in their scheduled classes via Microsoft Teams.

### Attendance and Absenteeism:

The NYS Education Department requirement of 180 days of school is still in effect for the 2020-21 school year. School districts are required to track daily attendance. PowerSchool is our mechanism for tracking student attendance. During face to face and remote instruction, daily attendance as well as period by period attendance will be taken through PowerSchool.

### **Technology and Connectivity:**

The district has data collected during closure to understand family needs in terms of technology and connectivity. Building principals will review the data and connect with families as appropriate to determine further need. The district will problem solve with families to ensure connectivity to the greatest extent possible. For students where there is no connectivity after the district has problem solved and provided all of the resources possible, accommodations will be made for the student to demonstrate mastery of learning via paper.

The district will be providing 1:1 devices for students in grades 3-12 for the 2020-21 school year. Additionally, primary students who are participating in remote learning will be provided with a device for use in their residence.

The district will continue to use its WIFI throughout the district (accessible throughout campus and parking lots) for district owned devices. Staff and students can connect to access the internet. Additionally, the district will work with families who indicate a need and whose geolocation is not hindered by MiFi capabilities and try to accommodate this group with wireless devices. Furthermore, the district is collaborating with the Seneca Nation of Indians Education Department to provide additional resources for students who live on the territory.

All district devices will be filtered using the district's Internet filter to keep students safe while browsing the web, and any district provided MiFis will be limited to use on district provided devices.

### **Teaching and Learning/Continuity of Learning Plan:**

#### **Alignment to NYS Standards:**

As a NYS public school district, our instructional program, whether in-person, hybrid, or remote, is at all times aligned to the NYS Learning standards. Teachers will work collaboratively at grade level or subject area to identify any gaps in learning from the sudden March-June 2020 school closures and to identify power standards for primary focus. Teachers will collaborate by department/grade level to develop common communication methods and instructional delivery models utilizing an interdisciplinary/project-based approach when possible.

Instructional leaders within the district have outlined and documented gaps in curriculum and will work within their grade levels and departments to continue this work. The base of this work will be to focus on priority standards and K-12 vertical alignment to guide instructional practices and curriculum prioritization. Teachers will collaborate at grade level and department to ensure alignment of instructional practices both vertically and horizontally.

### **Regular and substantive interaction with certified teacher:**

Whether in-person or remote, teachers will be asked to submit bi-weekly instructional plans that indicate instructional interactions with students. These interactions will be characterized as;

1. **Content Delivery Lessons - (CDL's)** new declarative or procedural knowledge will be delivered via screen casting, learning management system or remote meeting to students. In either format, the delivery design must provide students with new content chunked in age- appropriate quantities. CDL must provide for students to interact/ engage with content by including “pause points” for students to engage in practice or interact with new content as a vehicle to make sense of it. These pause points provide students an active chance to create meaning while providing a source of formative assessment for teachers.
2. **Elaboration/ Feedback Lesson - (EFL's)**- Conducted either face to face or in a remote meeting, teachers provide feedback to students on their efforts in CDL lessons. They may provide additional modeling of skill or elaborative explanations of declarative content. Students may engage in learning activities requiring them to meaningfully interact with content and receive immediate teacher feedback.

### **Special Education:**

**Provision of FAPE:** In developing our reopening plans, SCCSD has closely considered IDEA and the needs of our special education students to the fullest extent possible and ensures the provisions of a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE). All decisions considered and made by the Committee on Special Education center on making individualized programs that ensure every student is placed in their Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) and has access to their grade-level standards to make educational progress.

### **Communication and Parental Involvement:**

- The Silver Creek Department of Special Education recognizes the critical nature of parent/guardian involvement in the IEP process. Parents and students with disabilities are always encouraged to be a part of the decision making process and attend the CSE meetings. During the closure parents were contacted with multiple attempts through various means (ie.: email, phone calls, letters) to participate in CSE/CPSE meetings via virtual and/or phone meetings. The District will continue to work collaboratively with parents/guardians to ensure open lines of communication regarding evaluations, services provided, progress monitoring, and conducting meetings. We will continue to conduct virtual or phone meetings, based on parent/guardian preference, until such time the health and safety of all parties can be ensured. All communication will be delivered in the parents/guardians preferred language or mode of communication.
- The Silver Creek Department of Special Education will make every attempt to contact each family of a student in a special class in the home district setting to discuss the protocols, precautions, and service delivery plan for their individual student. Additionally, each student receiving Consultant Teacher or Resource Room services will have attempted contacted via phone or in writing to encourage in-person attendance and to discuss their students individual service delivery plan.

**Child Find:** Child Find is governed by IDEA, 34CFR.311, Part 200.2 and section 4410 of the New York Regulations of the Commissioner of Education. The District continues to maintain its obligation to locate, evaluate, and identify students with disabilities who are in need of special education and/or related services, despite the challenges of the impact of school closures. With the health and safety of all individuals in mind, the District has implemented a plan for conducting evaluations.

- Initial Evaluations -
  - Identify evaluation components, on an individual basis that may be performed remotely
  - Utilize existing available information that may be appropriate to meet the required components of the initial evaluation and identify any additional information that might be necessary for determination.
  - Identify any components of the initial evaluation that requires face-to-face in person testing and work with the parents to conduct the evaluation at a mutually agreeable time, when health and safety measures can be satisfied.
  - Classroom observations will be conducted when school is in session. In order to reduce delays in evaluations, the District is researching alternative evaluation protocols that can be administered virtually and/or in person with health and safety measures and protocols in place.
    - Transition from CPSE to CSE -
      - Transition from CPSE to CSE typically begins in November. Collaboration with stakeholders allows for the team to determine the next steps for preparing for Kindergarten with the parents/guardians.
      - Special Education building evaluation teams review the student file and determine what evaluative information is needed. This can be in the form of classroom observation, targeted evaluations, teacher/therapist checklists and conversation, as well as parent input.
      - Transition information is posted on the District website to assist with the process and answer frequently asked questions. Additionally, a CPSE to CSE Transition Night will be scheduled for parents/guardians as an informational night on understanding the process and answer any questions in late January/early February in person or virtually based on ensuring health and safety protocols at that time.
      - A transition CSE meeting for each student is typically scheduled between March and June. Moving forward the District will continue its in person plan as long as safe testing and/or meeting environments can be maintained. If a safe environment is unavailable or there is a school closure, the District will proceed with a remote platform.

### **Access to necessary accommodations, modifications, supplementary aids and services:**

- Silver Creek Central School District will to the greatest extent possible uphold all accommodations, modifications, supplementary aides and services whether a student attends in person or virtual learning.
- In the Middle school, the opportunity to participate in a combination of in person and virtual learning will be utilized for all students with disabilities.
  - All students receiving combinations of consultant teacher, resource room, and related services will receive 2 days of in person instruction.
  - For students receiving 15:1, consultant teacher, resource room, and/or related services in-person instruction will be offered 4 days weekly.
  - All students will receive one day of virtual learning from core instructors with the additional services, accommodations, and modifications to uphold their IEP.
  - For students whose parents chose not to have their child attend in person instruction, they will have the daily opportunity to participate through the virtual classroom to the greatest extent possible. Teachers will provide a combination of both synchronous and asynchronous learning opportunities to service children in group or individual sessions.
- Individualized Education Program (IEP) services will be implemented in accordance with the IEP. Should the need arise to make adjustments to an IEP, the CSE team and parent/guardian will meet to discuss the student's needs and agree to a prioritized set of services and/or accommodations that will enable the student to access instruction and make educational progress.
- For students whose parents chose not to have their child attend in person instruction, the District will create a virtual classroom teacher for those at home. They will provide both synchronous and asynchronous learning opportunities to service children in group or individual sessions.

### **Documentation of Programs and Services:**

- **Recovery Services:** A plan has been developed, that includes parent collaboration, to assess student's present levels of performance and regression of skills when students return. The assessment of present levels of performance will assess progress toward IEP goals. A determination of recovery services will be based on whether the student was able to make appropriate progress in light of COVID-19 or a school closure. The purpose of recovery services is to place the student in a position that he/she would have had had there been no COVID-19.
  - Determination for recovery services will encompass: continuity of services, communication, direct services administered, as well as educational progress and achievement.
  - Tools for determination:
    - Learning service logs (records of contacts, services provided, and communication)
    - Progress Monitoring
    - If necessary re-evaluation, screening, or observations.

**CSE Meetings** will be scheduled to discuss recovery services and to what extent additional services will be needed, as well as time frame for provision of services. Virtual or phone meeting opportunities will be provided to parents for discussion regarding progress toward goals and benchmarking. Consideration will be given to schedule services into the student's schedule and may result in providing additional services during the school day, extending the school day, or providing tutoring before or after school. Examples of possible Recovery Services are, but not limited to;

- Specially Designed Instruction
- Testing Accommodations
- Program Modifications
- Assistive Technology
- Tutors
- Additional Therapy Sessions

A plan has been developed for a systematic way to ensure staff has the time to address Initial referrals, the backlog of special education evaluations and reevaluations, and collection of data on present levels of performance to determine regression that occurred due to the closure. Continuity of Services to support the IEP in the event of a school closure will be ensured.

**IEP Implementation:** The district has developed a plan to ensure Continuity of Services to support the IEP in the event of a school closure through the development of specific grade level virtual schedules that address IEP needs.

- Individual transition plans for students who will have difficulty transitioning back to the school environment will be developed as appropriate with parental collaboration.
- Anticipation of potential additional sensory accommodations or modifications, that may be necessary in regarding social distancing, personal safety, personal hygiene, etc. (ie: masks), and the potential that some students may have medical excuses permitting them to not have to wear a mask.
- A plan for positive behavior interventions and supports, restorative practices, and/or social emotional learning targets will be in place before opening.
- Continue to review Special Education activities that were successful in meeting the unique needs of special education students during remote learning and implementing necessary improvements to increase success in meeting the needs of our students.
- Consider protocols for Community Based Learning opportunities (CDOS) including students whose IEP's require specific transition services/activities.
- Consideration for students who may require continued remote instruction full time due to underlying health conditions and are at risk. (Individual contact will be conducted to survey parents of high needs students to assist with planning.) *Check: CDC's People Who Are at Increased Risk for Severe Illness site.*

**ELL students:**

**ELL identification process**

- The district will continue to complete the ELL identification process within 30 days at the start of the school year for those enrolled during closure, during summer or 1st 20 days of school.
- Providers will make contact with families in their preferred language and mode of communication regarding reopening plans.

**Provision of required “instructional units of study” base on most recent proficiency level**

- The district will use instructional units of study based on student’s most recent English proficiency test.
- Students will also work with their homeroom/gen-ed teacher who collaborates with ELN provider to deliver Instructional Units of Study. Teachers will set up meetings to develop a plan for ELLs under all instructional scenarios.

**Maintain regular communication**

- ELL and homeroom/gen-ed teachers will work together to develop a plan for communicating with families, and determining their preferred language and mode of communication. Communication strategies may consist of weekly check in with families

**APPR:**

- Pursuant to Education Law 3012-d, the district will fully implement its currently approved APPR plan.