



St. George CCSD No. 258

— Every Child Every Day —

RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN

2023-2024



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Our Plan

St. George CCSD No. 258 *Return to School Plan* provides for a robust educational experience every school day with an emphasis on in-person instruction this year. The District plan adheres to current recommendations from the Kankakee County Health Department (KCHD), Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) guidelines for policies and procedures to reduce the risk to our students and staff of spreading illness. As the current pandemic situation is evolving and changing, this plan is subject to changes and modifications related to new guidance issued by KCHD, IDPH, CDC, and/or ISBE.

Our Pledge

St. George CCSD No. 258 is committed to providing a safe and healthy learning environment for students and staff while following procedures from KCHD, IDPH, CDC, and ISBE to reduce the spread of illness. The District is committed to providing academic, social, and emotional support for our students and staff through the return to in-person learning.

In-Person Session Guidelines

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Planning Considerations

Friday, August 19, 2022, is the first day of school for all students. The State of Illinois is currently in Phase 5 of the Restore Illinois Plan. At times throughout the year, local and state officials may recommend moving to a different phase of the Restore Illinois Plan. If the State moves into a different phase, St. George CCSD No. 258 may be required to switch to a different learning model.

Learning Model

According to ISBE, “Beginning with the 2021-22 school year, all schools must resume fully in-person learning for all student attendance days, provided that, pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/10-30 and 105 ILCS 5/34-18.66, remote instruction be made available for students who have not received a COVID-19 vaccine or who are not eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine, **only while they are under quarantine** consistent with guidance or requirements from a local public health department or the Illinois Department of Public Health.”

Remote Learning for quarantined students will be asynchronous (electronic and or paper copies to be sent home) similar to the 2021-2022 school year.

School Day Schedule

All students in Grades PreK - 8 will resume their regular bell schedule.

School days will begin at:

PreK AM.....7:50 a.m. – 10:55 a.m.

PreK PM.....12:15 p.m. – 3:20 p.m.

Kindergarten - 5th grades.....7:50 a.m. – 2:35 p.m.

6th-8th grades.....8:20 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Students will attend school five days per week as full school days.

Capacity

Capacity for classrooms and common spaces will be determined based on guidelines set forth by the ISBE and IDPH, which includes spacing/distancing to the greatest extent possible. Small group instruction for guided reading, guided math, speech, social work, etc., may limit spacing.

Health & Wellness

1. Face Coverings

On February 7, 2022, St. George School District suspended the mask mandate.

Face coverings will continue to be optional except under the following circumstance:

If a student/staff member returns on Day 6 after testing positive for COVID-19 and symptoms have subsided, they will be asked to wear a mask on Days 6-10. If the student/staff member chooses not to wear a mask during Days 6-10, they will be excluded.

2. Social Distancing & Hygiene

- a. Frequent hand washing/cleaning will occur throughout the day with both soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol will also be used frequently.
- b. Hand sanitizer is available in common areas throughout the building and in all classrooms.
- c. Proper hygiene includes washing hands upon arrival and departure from school; after blowing nose, coughing, sneezing; following restroom use; before food preparation or before or after eating; before/after routine care of another person; upon returning from the playground/PE; and following glove removal.
- d. Students should avoid touching their eyes, nose, and mouth.
- e. Students will face the same direction in the classroom, as feasible.

3. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Gloves and other Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) must be used as needed when assisting students who require close contact.

4. Screenings & Symptoms

Self-certification daily for symptoms of illness or exposure to COVID-19 is no longer required by IDPH or the CDC. Students and staff should stay home or they will be sent home if they have: 99.9 degrees or above temperature, cough, sore throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, chills, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, congestion or runny nose, or unvaccinated and a known close contact with a person who has been diagnosed with COVID 19. This list does not include all possible symptoms and is subject to change based on CDC guidance.

- a. No return to school or work can occur until fever-free for 24 hours without medication.
- b. Any student who has a temperature over 99.9 degrees will be sent to a designated area by the main office and remain there until he/she is picked up by a parent or guardian. A staff member who has a temperature over 99.9 degrees will be sent home.

5. Isolation/Quarantine/Contact Tracing - Exclusion School/Work

Students and staff who test positive or who are symptomatic for COVID-19 must isolate per CDC/IDPH guidelines.

Students and staff who are fully vaccinated with no COVID-19-like symptoms do not need to quarantine or restricted from school or extracurricular activities.

If a student/staff member returns on Day 6 after testing positive for COVID-19 and symptoms have subsided, they will be asked to wear a mask on Days 6-10. If the student/staff member chooses not to wear a mask during Days 6-10, they will be excluded.

The District will follow the IDPH Exclusion Decision Tree: [IDPH Exclusion Tree](#) (last updated 6/27/2022).

6. Medically Fragile or High-Risk Students
 - a. School administration will work with parents and the student's medical providers to determine safe alternatives to in-person instruction.
https://dph.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/idph/covid19/guidance/school/School-decision-tree-guidance_6.27.2022.pdf
 - b. Appropriate consent must be obtained for communication with outside providers.

Visitors

At this time, the District is again restricting visitors to the school campus during the school day.

1. Visitors are restricted to authorized personnel only.
2. Until further notice, parents are limited to the main office during the school day.

Classrooms & Common Areas

According to the CDC, when no people with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 are known to have been in a space, cleaning once a day is usually enough to sufficiently remove viruses that may be on surfaces and help maintain a healthy facility.

1. Classrooms
 - a. Student desks are spaced and distanced and students will face in the same direction to the greatest extent where possible.
 - b. Students must use their own school supplies and keep their belongings separate throughout the day.
 - c. Student movement outside is encouraged throughout the day when possible and weather permitting. Face coverings may be removed outside and social distancing should be practiced.
 - d. Hands are sanitized in classrooms throughout the day when entering the classroom.
 - e. Classrooms are cleaned daily.
 - f. Students can bring a water bottle to school and take it home each day.
 - g. Water bottles should be filled prior to arriving at school.
 - h. Drinking fountains and bottle fillers are available
 - i. Students and staff are encouraged not to share electronics or supplies.
 - j. Electronics are not to be shared by students or staff.
 - k. All student materials must be labeled with the student's name. If supplies come to school that is not labeled, the school will label them with the student's name including PE shoes.
 - l. Handshaking, high fives, or other physical contact is discouraged to reduce the spread of COVID-19.
2. Common Areas

Common areas including restrooms and frequently touched surfaces are cleaned daily.
3. Physical Education (In-Person)
 - a. PE will focus on fitness, health, and wellness.
 - b. Whenever feasible and weather permitting, PE will be outdoors.

- c. PE activities allow for physical distancing.
 - d. Handshaking, high fives, or other physical contact is discouraged.
 - e. Equipment is cleaned daily.
4. Music/Band
- a. Students must not share musical equipment.
 - b. Students must have their own equipment during music.
 - c. Face coverings are optional
5. LRC – Library (If Provided)
Students will attend the library weekly
6. Lunch
St. George School students will eat lunch in the cafeteria.

Social & Emotional Learning (SEL)

- 1. Teachers continue to implement the SEL curricula, i.e. Second Step, Kimochis, and other resource activities.
- 2. Teachers use supplementary materials to focus on the impact of COVID-19.

Related Services/Special Education - IEP (Individual Education Plan) & EL (English Learners)

- 1. Related Services and special education meetings may be held via phone or video conferencing platforms (Zoom or Google), whenever possible.
- 2. The Special Education Department remains in contact and supports families throughout the school year.
- 3. IEP evaluations and meetings continue to follow the required timelines.
- 4. IEP teams meet to discuss services to best ensure student success.
- 5. EL students continue to receive services through the district EL teacher.

Technology

- 1. Every K-8 student is assigned an individual device for learning.
- 2. K-2 students have touchscreen Chromebooks. Grades 3-8 are issued a standard Chromebook.
- 3. Parents may request a district device. Devices are the responsibility of the parent and a technology contract must be completed to check out the device. Students are responsible for transporting the device back and forth between home and school. Extra devices, if the student's device is left at home, are not available.

Athletics & Activities

The District will follow IESA guidelines.

Facilities & Transportation

Transportation

Masks are optional

Before & After Care

YMCA is available before and after school care.

School Closure Plan - CDC Guidance

St. George CCSD No. 258 is prepared for possible closures that may occur throughout the year. The KCHD may recommend brief closures or local circumstances may indicate the need for closures. In these situations, remote learning will be used for the school closure.

Conclusion

The Return to School Plan is subject to change based upon additional guidance from KCHD, IDPH, CDC, and ISBE. Questions can be directed to the principal's office or the superintendent's office at 815-933-1503, or by email to cjohnston@sg258.org or jaysmith@sg258.org.