

## SCVTS/SCSSSD DISTRICT SCHOOLS

# PLAN FOR SAFE RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION AND CONTINUITY OF SERVICE PURSUANT TO THE FEDERAL AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT, SECTION 2001(I)

- PUBLIC PRESENTATION/PUBLIC COMMENT
- JUNE 22, 2021



# INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND



- Section 2001(i)(1) of the ARP Act requires each LEA that receives ARP ESSER funds to develop and make publicly available on the LEA's website, no later than 30 days after receiving ARP ESSER funds, a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services for all schools (Safe Return Plan) A Safe Return Plan is required of all fund recipients, including those that have already returned to in-person instruction.
- Section 2001(i)(2) of the ARP Act further requires that the LEA seek public comment on the Safe Return Plan and take those comments into account in finalization of the Safe Return Plan. Under the interim final requirements published in Volume 86, No. 76 of the Federal Register by the U.S. Department of Education (USDE), an LEA must periodically, but no less frequently than every six months through September 30, 2023, review and, as appropriate, revise its Safe Return Plan.
- Pursuant to those requirements, LEAs must submit to the NJDOE and post on their website their Safe Return Plans by June 24, 2021.
- Plan Components:
  - 1. Maintaining Health and Safety ( Eight Sections:A-H)
  - 2. Ensuring Continuity of Services
  - 3. Public Comment (Every 60 Days)

# SCVTS/SCSSSD SAFE RETURN PLAN: SECTION A



## A. Universal and correct wearing of masks:

SCVTS/SCSSSD District Protocols for Face Coverings: Board of Education Policy #1648 Critical Area of Operation 2/3:

- As per the order of the Governor of New Jersey, face coverings will be required for students for staff unless it will inhibit the individual's health.

Philosophy:

- The SCVTS/SCSSSD District's require that masks be worn in classrooms, academic and administrative buildings, office settings, and when physical distancing is not possible on school grounds. The SCVTS/SCSSSD District's will adhere to the most conservative elements of local, state, and federal guidelines regarding our protocols for universal and correct mask-wearing.

# SCVTS/SCSSSD SAFE RETURN PLAN: SECTION B



## **B. Physical distancing (e.g., including use of cohorts/podding) \*Pending CDC Updated Guidance**

SCVTS/SCSSSD District Protocols for Physical Distancing/Cohorts: Board of Education Policy #1648 Critical Areas of Operation 2 and 6:

- Schools in the district will allow for social distancing within the classroom to the maximum extent practicable. Students and staff will be kept in cohorts, with corresponding records readily available for contact tracing purposes.

Philosophy:

- The SCVTS/SCSSSD District's acknowledges that since people can spread illnesses before they know they are sick it is important to stay six feet away from others when possible. Therefore, physical distancing, when possible, is required throughout our schools. The SCVTS/SCSSSD District's will adhere to the most conservative elements of local, state, and federal guidelines regarding our protocols for physical distancing. The CDC reports that "COVID-19 spreads mainly among people who are in close contact (within about six feet) for a period of more than 15 minutes."

# SCVTS/SCSSSD SAFE RETURN PLAN: SECTION C



## C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

SCVTS/SCSSSD District Protocols for Hand Washing and Respiratory Etiquette: Board of Education Policy #1648 Critical Area of Operation 2/3:

- The SCVTS/SCSSSD District's promotes behaviors that reduce the spread of COVID-19 such as encouraging staff and students to stay home when appropriate; encouraging the practice of hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette; requiring the use of face coverings; and signs and messages in and around school buildings. The SCVTS/SCSSSD District's have school-wide plans where students are required to wash hands for at least twenty seconds at regular intervals during the school day and always before eating, after using the bathroom, and after blowing their nose, coughing, and/or sneezing. If washing with soap and water is not possible, washing with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol) should be used.

Philosophy:

- All members of our school community should be familiar with COVID-19 information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, including: (as referenced at: [www.CDC.gov](http://www.CDC.gov)) COVID-19 Symptoms; How to Protect Yourself and Others; What to Do If You Are Sick; People Who Need to Take Extra Precautions. To reduce the spread of COVID-19, the CDC advises the use of respiratory Hygiene/Cough Etiquette, as well as regular hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent alcohol via the sanitized stations in each classroom and at each building entrance.

# SCVTS/SCSSSD SAFE RETURN PLAN: SECTION D



## D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

SCVTS/SCSSSD District Protocols for Cleaning and Ventilation Protocols: Board of Education Policy #1648 Critical Area of Operation 3:

- The district has developed a plan (procedure manual) for increased routine cleaning and disinfection. The district has enhanced ventilation via opened HVAC dampers to increase airflow.

Philosophy:

- The SCVTS/SCSSSD District's will undertake enhanced cleaning of school facilities and offices, with a focus on common areas and high-touch locations. Cleaning schedules have been modified according to student cohort/class schedules.

# SCVTS/SCSSSD SAFE RETURN PLAN: SECTION E



## **E. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments**

SCVTS/SCSSS District Protocols for Contact tracing, Isolation and Quarantining: Board of Education Policy #1648  
Critical Areas of Operation 5: Isolation/Quarantining/Contact Tracing:

- The SCVTS/SCSSS District's will fully cooperate in sharing information with the Salem and Cumberland County Health Department to fulfill all mandated Contact Tracing/Isolation/Quarantine/Readmittance Requirements.

Philosophy:

- When students or staff are experiencing discomfort or potential symptoms of COVID-19, they are isolated from others. The Salem County Health Department will be notified immediately. The Salem and Cumberland County Health Department will spearhead contact tracing.

# SCVTS/SCSSSD SAFE RETURN PLAN: SECTION F



## F. Diagnostic and screening testing

SCVTS/SCSSSD Protocols for Screening and Testing: Board of Education Policy #1648 Critical Area of Operation #5: Diagnostic Screening and Testing:

- The SCVTS/SCSSSD adheres to the philosophy that each student monitors their health daily to provide the healthiest environment possible for staff and students.

Philosophy:

- Schools will engage parents in monitoring daily the identified possible symptoms of COVID-19 listed within CDC guidance frameworks. As we learn about the disease, we may need to alter the list by adding or subtracting symptoms: fever or 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 or vomiting, diarrhea.
- Staff will utilize the SCVTS/SCSSSD e-screening app prior to reporting to work.



# SCVTS/SCSSSD SAFE RETURN PLAN: SECTION G



## **G. Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible**

SCVTS/SCSSSD Protocols for Vaccination: Board of Education Policy #1648 Critical Areas of Operation I: Safety

- The SCVTS/SCSSSD will enable/facilitate access to the COVID-19 vaccination for those who are eligible.

Philosophy:

- The SCVTS/SCSSSD has partnered with Inspira Health Network, Memorial Hospital Of Salem County, Rite Aid Pharmacy of Woodstown NJ, and the Salem County Department of Health to provide access to COVID-19 vaccinations for our school and community.

# SCVTS/SCSSSD SAFE RETURN PLAN: SECTION H



## **H. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies**

SCVTS/SCSSSD District Protocols for Appropriate Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: Board of Education Policy #1648 Critical Areas of Operation Section D : Special Education/ELLs/Students with Disabilities:

- The SCVTS/SCSSSD District's will provide all mandated ADA accommodations, and provide educators with professional development to best utilize the accessibility features and accommodations tools made available through technology-based and in-person formats. The school district will continue to ensure students receive individualized supports that meet the requirements of IEP and 504 Plans.

### Philosophy:

- The SCVTS/SCSSSD District's will provide reasonable accommodations for individuals that the CDC identifies as having a higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19, including older adults (aged 65 years and older) and individuals with disabilities or serious underlying medical conditions, or medically necessary exemptions from COVID mitigation protocols. The SCVTS/SCSSSD District's are committed to ensuring the appropriate delivery of Special Education and Related Services to students with disabilities to the greatest extent possible.

# SCVTS/SCSSSD SAFE RETURN PLAN



## 2. Ensuring Continuity of Services

The SCVTS/SCSSSD District's will ensure continuity of services for all sub-groups and mitigate learning gaps via curricular acceleration, K-12. The district will plan, design and implement K-12 Extended Learning Academies to provide struggling students with small-group instruction delivered by highly effective teachers, K-12, and utilize teachers and e-learning in grades 9-12. The SCVTS/SCSSSD District's will build a sustainable, tiered intervention model of school-based mental health supports and services to positively impact students in all sub-groups. Via SEL learning, our model will embed mental health in schools into an equitable system of supports to enhance the fit of mental health concerns and to fully promote social-emotional learning while comprehensively addressing any barriers. The SCVTS/SCSSSD District's will apply for grants to continue offering access to free breakfasts and lunch for our students.

## 3 . Public Comment

The SCVTS/SCSSSD District's have provided multiple opportunities for public comment on our plan. Our SCVTS/SCSSSD District Restart Committee commenced in June 2020, including members of the Board, Administrative Team, Teachers Association and Parents, conducting two virtual meetings to garner community/staff input. Input on the plan was sought during the Public Comment Segment at the May 2021 Regular Meeting of the SCVTS/SCSSSD Board of Education. Each school has a Safety/Pandemic Response Team that includes teachers, counselors, nurses, CST, principal, school safety specialist, custodian, parents.

- Continued Pandemic Response Meetings occur monthly and data sent to members on an ongoing basis.