



Return to In-Person Learning Delayed

(Jan. 29, 2021)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Why is SCS delaying the return to in-person learning?

As COVID-19 cases remain high in Shelby County, the planned gradual return to in-person learning has been delayed in the interest of safety for our students, staff and community.

Has the District considered the latest CDC guidance?

We acknowledge the latest CDC guidance affirming what we've said since the onset of the pandemic: school buildings can reopen IF the community works TOGETHER to "keep infection rates low" by prioritizing mask compliance, activity restrictions and vaccinations.

Is your decision to delay the reopening based on when educators will be able to receive the vaccine? Are you not returning until vaccinations are available?

No. Our return is based on health and safety. However, ensuring all employees have the option and access to the vaccine is a priority.

Will student vaccinations be mandatory to return to in-person learning?

No. Families can learn more about opportunities to receive the vaccine through the Shelby County Health Department.

Has this decision been made due to the number of teachers who will not be returning to school buildings? We've seen recent local reports on the need for additional classroom monitors.

As we've previously communicated, we are ensuring support for student learning regardless of their selected learning option as we give teachers the flexibility to work from home. There will be a combination of support for in-person learning with staff members from the school and trained Central Office staff with classroom experience.

We are considering all contingencies to ensure there are no gaps in classroom coverage, including the use of an education-focused temporary staffing service. The contract was presented as a plan to provide classroom monitors on an as-needed basis for the 2020-21 school year in the event an existing staff member is absent.

Will the learning option parents selected for their student(s) during Fall 2020 still apply?

Yes. Students whose parents opted for virtual learning will remain virtual when schools reopen. Those whose parents opted for in-person learning will gradually return to school buildings.

How will classrooms be supported if teachers are virtual when we do return to in-person learning?

We are ensuring support for student learning regardless of their selected learning option. If a student's assigned teacher is instructing the class virtually, there will be a combination of support for in-person learning with staff members from the school (teaching assistants, behavioral specialists, etc.) and trained Central Office staff with classroom experience from departments, including Academics, School Operations and the Office of Schools and Leadership.

All classroom facilitators will assist teachers who are working remotely by ensuring the students remain on task during the instructional day, as well as by providing direction and assistance to students in the event of an emergency. Click [here](#) to view our Re-Entry Simulation video.

Will an athletic option still be offered?

The District will consider a return to play option for student-athletes as we continue to prioritize in-person learning.