



SCSD DISTANCE LEARNING and the CONTINUITY OF LEARNING PLAN: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

During our extended school closure, the SCSD will provide students with access to instructional activities through digital and non-digital distance learning approaches. Our goal is to ensure that all students have digital and/or non-digital resources that allow them the option to engage in the content they had been learning while at school.

Given our commitment to equity and inclusion, a unified approach to Phase II of our Continuity of Learning Plan will be fully in place in all schools by April 14, 2020. Due to equity and access, no grades will be assigned during this time. Please know that we are making plans for more extensive distance learning **if** our schools are closed for longer than originally scheduled. Our teachers and administrators are working together to design in-depth learning possibilities, if needed. If you have additional questions, please contact your building principals, who are your child's instructional leaders, and can answer more in-depth questions.

Grades K-5

- Teachers will provide two activities per course.
- State Streets Chromebooks have been distributed. Waterman families are picking up Chromebooks Tuesday, March 31 from 9:00 - 1:00 at Waterman in the front of the school. Parents/guardians need to email Mr. Brown for a reservation pjborown@skanschools.org

Grades 6-8

- Teachers will provide approximately 20 minutes of coursework per day which might include a lesson, assignments, activities, etc. No grades will be assigned.
- Students will need to consistently check for teacher messages and updates via the PowerSchool MS Class. If a student is struggling with an assignment, have them set it aside and reach out to their teacher via email for assistance. Teachers will check in on your students' progress and provide feedback, in so far as possible, periodically via email.

Grades 9-12

- Teachers will be providing approximately 20 minutes of school work per day, per subject. These assignments will not carry a grade and are meant to provide some structure for our students with a reduced level of pressure.

Counselor Support

In addition to educational resources, our school counselors and psychologists will provide resources on social and emotional supports and will continue to work on scheduling for the upcoming year. More information will be communicated to families if the school closure is extended. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's school counselor if you have any questions.

Elementary Schools

Marcy Weed	mweed@skanschools.org
Abbie Paine	apaine@skanschools.org
Brian Hart	bhart@skanschools.org

Middle School

Michele Rogala	mrogala@skanschools.org
Chris Vigianno	cvigianno@skanschools.org
Vicky Powers	vpowers@skanschools.org

High School

David Frechette	dfrechette@skanschools.org
Mary Lou Ingram	mingram@skanschools.org
Brittany Manuel	bmanuel@skanschools.org
Jessica Walsh	jcwalsh@skanschools.org

Frequently Asked Questions

What will the distance learning plan look like?

While some expect our approach to mirror college and university experiences with distance learning and/or professional work-from-home arrangements, educating K-12 students in a print and digital environment requires much different planning and preparation, in that it must include specifically-designed, developmentally-appropriate curriculum, materials, and activities, based on using digital platforms (a novel experience for younger learners). This is why we are differentiating our approach in partnership with our trusted educators and administrators.

Our current focus is for the time up until April 14th and we are in the process of developing approaches that will support longer-term distance learning if we are not permitted to return. In collaboration with union leadership, our teachers, and administration, we have carefully considered a number of factors as we designed the current plan, and we will continue to

consider them as we craft additional plans. We appreciate that every situation is unique, and our level of continuing learning has taken the following factors in to account:

- **Equity and access:** To ensure even student access to additional materials, internet, and adult support, K-12, at this time, we encourage families to contact building principals for any technology support so that we can ensure everyone in our district has the same access.
- **Family stressors:** Families throughout our community (and world) are struggling with the necessity of going into work because they will not be paid otherwise, sickness, trauma, and other significant life experiences in the wake of COVID-19, and they cannot facilitate the same level of learning that teachers provide in school.
- **Students as childcare providers in their homes:** We know that many older students are currently providing childcare for their younger siblings while their caregivers are working.
- **Educators' family needs:** Many of our teachers are at home caring for their own families, and experiencing their own challenges, while also working to create educational experiences for our students.

Why is the SCSD talking about equity and inclusion in terms of the distance learning plan?

Given our commitment to equity and inclusion, a unified approach to Review and Resource education began on March 16th, 2020. We all want our children and families to have equal access to common learning experiences.

We fully understand that every student's situation is unique, and we cannot expect that every child has the same level of support at home. Each family is experiencing its own challenges in the midst of COVID-19. We know that some caregivers must continue to work full time, may be enduring their own sickness, are experiencing trauma in relationship to this pandemic, and/or have varied family support structures. Thus, while these activities aren't required for students to complete, we encourage you to leverage these resources to offer our young people regular opportunities to learn and grow, even outside of school.

Will 6-12 students have access to Chromebooks or the internet?

We continue to make every effort to ensure our students have the technology they need. Please continue to contact your building principals if you need to arrange the pick up/drop off of Chromebooks, and contact kdunphy@skanschools.org if we can help support you in internet access.

Middle School Principal Michael Caraccio mcaraccio@skanschools.org
High School Principal Gregory Santoro gsantoro@skanschools.org

Additional computer support can be accessed by sending an email to computersupport@skanschools.org and you will receive a prompt response.

Will PreK - 5 students have access to Chromebooks or other devices?

State Streets Chromebooks have been distributed. Waterman families are picking up Chromebooks Tuesday, March 31 from 9:00 - 1:00 at Waterman in the front of the school. Parents/guardians need to email Mr. Brown for a reservation pjbrown@skanschools.org

Please contact your building principals if you need to make arrangements for a Chromebook. Waterman Principal Patrick J. Brown pjbrown@skanschools.org
State Street Principal John Lawrence jlawrence@skanschools.org

Additional computer support can be accessed by sending an email to computersupport@skanschools.org and you will receive a prompt response.

What other resources are available to guide my child's learning during this time?

The New York State Education Department recently released a website full of learning supports and announced that PBS stations throughout the state will be showing educational content during this extended closure. Please check out the New York State Department of Education's Continuity of Learning website at <http://www.nysed.gov/edtech/guidance-continuity-learning> for more information.

How will this prepare students to pass a particular grade or exam, or even graduate?

Our distance learning plan is in place until April 14th. In the meantime, we are preparing plans for longer-term distance learning in the event that the Governor declares that we must be out of session for longer. Although we hope that this is not the case, we know that we must be prepared for a closure that surpasses our current reopening date. We will have more information about grades, exams, and graduation if the opening date is extended.

What about special education and preschool special education services?

This is an unprecedented time. The IDEA, Section 504, and Title II of the ADA do not specifically address a situation in which elementary and secondary schools are closed for an extended period of time (generally more than 10 consecutive days) due to exceptional circumstances, such as an outbreak of a particular disease. We are working to support all students as we are able and will have updates for you in the coming weeks.

We know that parents and caregivers of children with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) and 504 Plans have questions and concerns about their children's special education and services during the closure. While the situation is ever-changing, the SCSD has, at this time, made the decisions outlined below. We will continue to shift what we are doing in response to local, state, and federal directives.

- Special Education modifications and guidance will be provided in collaboration with general education teachers to maintain students' progress toward IEP goals under the current restraints. The focus will be on maintaining skills vs. acquiring new skills.
- Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, Speech-Language Therapists, and Adaptive PE teachers will be offering activities and/or home plans to maintain progress toward IEP goals under the current constraints. Counselors, School Social Workers, and School Psychologists will share resources for support and can be reached via email if you need further assistance.
- Office hours will be provided so that Special Education teachers and Related Service providers can connect with students and families on their caseload. We are asking case managers to make initial contact with families.
- All CSE meetings will be canceled through April 20, 2020. Your child's primary service provider will reach out to reschedule any meetings that have been canceled during the closure. If we are not able to hold face to face meetings, alternate meeting formats will be offered through phone or video conferencing.
- All testing in process for special education initial eligibility decisions will be suspended. Testing will resume when students return to school.
- IEP progress monitoring will be suspended and will resume when students return to school.

If you have questions about your child's special education services, please contact their special education teacher, or Jennifer Whipple, Director of Learning at jwhipple@skanschools.org

What about New York State testing and Advanced Placement (AP) tests?

The administrations of the 2020 elementary- and intermediate-level State assessments have been suspended for the remainder of this school year. This suspension for the remainder of the school year applies to the following New York State testing programs:

- New York State Grades 3-8 English Language Arts (ELA) Test
- New York State Grades 3-8 Mathematics Test
- New York State Grade 4 Elementary-Level Science Test
- New York State Grade 8 Intermediate-Level Science Test
- New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT) in Grades K-12
- New York State Alternate Assessment (NYSAA) for students with severe cognitive disabilities in Grades 3-8 and high school
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At this time, Regents assessments are expected to be given as scheduled (June 17-25 and August 13-14).

On March 20, the College Board released plans outlining how students can prepare for AP exams, and potentially take said exams, through distance learning. You can review these plans

at www.collegeboard.com. You can also contact your child's high school guidance counselor at anytime.