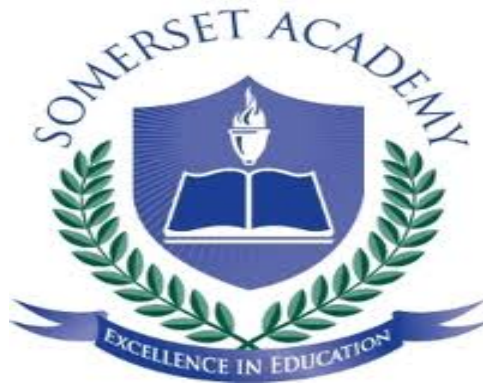

SOMERSET ACADEMY OF LAS VEGAS



2021-2022

Distance Education Plan

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2021-2022 Distance Education Plan

In-Person Learning: Health and Safety

- How will the school maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other school staff?
 - Somerset Academy of Las Vegas will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other school staff by following all recommended CDC protocols.
 - Somerset Academy of Las Vegas will continue to promote proper personal hygiene, including:
 - Washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds,
 - Keeping 6 feet of physical distance from others,
 - Avoiding touching eyes, nose, or mouth,
 - Avoiding traveling when sick,
 - Staying home if you are feeling ill,

- How is the school addressing key CDC recommendations including:
 - Use of face coverings
 - Somerset Academy will follow NDE and CDC protocols, including mandatory face coverings for those who have not been fully vaccinated. Face coverings will not be mandated for students ages 5-9.
 - Somerset Academy of Las Vegas will have face coverings available for anyone who requests one.
 - Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
 - Handwashing and sanitizing stations will be made available. Handwashing will be required often.
 - Signage is posted throughout all campuses indicating proper hand washing techniques.
 - Staff will redirect students who are not utilizing proper hygiene.
 - Respiratory etiquette will be taught and reinforced throughout the buildings to minimize the transmission of respiratory pathogens.
 - Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation
 - We maintain nightly janitorial services. High-touch surfaces will be cleaned throughout the day. Hand sanitizing stations will remain throughout the school.
 - Classroom and building high touch surfaces will be cleaned periodically throughout the day using approved cleaning products. We will utilize supplemental products to sanitize playground equipment. Teachers will include students in the classroom cleaning procedures to the greatest extent possible including frequent opportunities for hand sanitizing and wiping down high-touch surfaces.
 - We will ensure that custodial services regularly change air filters and clean air ducts.

- Contact tracing
 - Somerset Academy will follow all contact tracing protocols set forth by the Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD) and/or CDC.
- Social Distancing
 - Social Distancing protocols will be conducted in compliance with CDC, SNHD, and local regulations.
- Diagnostic and screening testing
 - Somerset Academy of Las Vegas will utilize the following diagnostic and screening testing methods:
 - Staff and students will self-screen their physical health. If any symptoms of illness are exhibited, staff or students will remain home until they are symptom free.
 - Touchless thermometers will be available for use at staff discretion.
 - If students become ill at school, they will be quarantined in the health office and sent home until they are symptom free for at least twenty four (24) hours.
- Efforts to increase access and awareness to vaccinations
 - Somerset Academy will communicate with stakeholders about access and awareness to vaccinations when applicable.
- Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies.
 - Somerset Academy will continue to follow all FERPA and IDEA, 504, and IEP accommodations. SEALPs (Special Education Alternative Learning Plan) will be created for students with an active IEP (Individualized Education Plan) to modify services.

In-Person Learning: Student and Staff Wellbeing

- How will the school meet students' social, emotional, mental and physical health needs and provide access to a safe and inclusive learning environment? How will the school support educator and staff well-being?
 - **Social Emotional Learning- Tier 1**
 - Our counselors and safe school professionals will provide direct classroom instruction to address SEL needs. Teachers will have a daily classroom meet up time to address SEL needs. The counseling staff will be available to help students as needed. Teachers will message the counseling staff when a student needs to have a one-on-one session. The counseling staff will then meet the student in the classroom.
 - Our staff will utilize culturally responsive practices to reinforce social emotional learning.
 - Our staff will continue to utilize data based decision making throughout campuses to ensure social emotional learning.

- **Trauma Informed Practices- Tiers 1-3**
 - Teachers will have a daily classroom meet up time as well as a daily ending activity to address SEL needs and determine if individual students need further support. Counseling staff and/or members of the Leadership Team will check in on students who are Tier 2 or 3 for behavior, or who are simply having a difficult time with the current situation. Counseling staff will continually look for and update our resource list for parents and help parents get the support they need. Activities may include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - Learning positive self-talk,
 - Practicing problem-solving skills,
 - Anxiety/grief support groups.
 - For more intensive support, Somerset Academy of Las Vegas may utilize these Tier 2 and 3 practices:
 - One-on-one weekly meetings between student and counselor,
 - Restorative justice practices,
 - Behavior contract.

- **Supporting Staff**
 - Somerset Academy of Las Vegas will continue to support staff by providing the following:
 - Modeling of teaching strategies and student interactions,
 - Providing training as needed.
 - Utilizing character development programs to be implemented in the classroom.

In-Person Learning: Accelerating Student Learning

- How will the school address the impact of COVID-19 on students' opportunity to learn, including implementing strategies for accelerating learning, effectively using data, and addressing resource inequities?
 - We will use diagnostic and formative assessments of student data (MAP, i-Ready, Burst, etc.) to evaluate the needs and effectiveness of instruction and determine the needs of students' academic progress.

- There may be times when it is necessary to host ALL students on campus for administration of assessments. If this is necessary, Somerset Academy of Las Vegas will ensure that a safe, socially distanced environment is provided.
 - Teachers will have data chats with students and determine student goals based on formative assessments, summative assessments, and diagnostic results.
 - Teachers will work with students to evaluate their progress toward their personalized goals and create a plan of action to work toward meeting those goals.
 - We will utilize PLCs to analyze and monitor data to determine class and grade level needs to support students who need intervention, extension, and re-teaching.
 - We will provide needed resources including necessary technology and curricular needs to those students who remain virtual.
 - Technology will be returned at the end of the year, in good working order.
 - Families will be provided with training on technology, if necessary.

Distance Education: Students unable to participate in person

- How will the school ensure that any student who falls into one of the categories listed below is able to participate in distance education that meets the requirements established for a Path Forward Programs of Distance Education?
- Somerset Academy has created a Distance Education plan specifically designed for students:
 - Who have documentation from a medical professional related to a condition that would be compromised by attending school in-person,
 - Who are quarantined on the advice of local public health officials.
- High Risk Medical Exemption Process:
 - Students who have been identified as high-risk, or who have a high-risk individual in their household, must submit medical documentation to the Principal of the individual Somerset Academy of Las Vegas campus. The Principal will review the documentation with the family to determine if distance education is appropriate.
 - Factors to consider when determining eligibility for distance learning include (but are not limited to):
 - Students will only be allowed to switch back to in-person learning at the end of each quarter, which will be determined on a case-by-case basis and with public health protocols in mind.
 - If a full-time distance learning student begins to struggle, intervention meetings may be conducted with the student and parent/guardian, and the student may be required to attend school for face-to-face instruction.
 - Students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) may need to attend therapy and related services at the school.

- Only students may participate in the real-time synchronous sessions. If a parent/guardian has a question or needs assistance, they should not interrupt a lesson
 - A student participating in full-time distance learning who qualifies for free and reduced lunch, may receive meals at the school at no cost.
 - Successful candidates for full-time distance learning have demonstrated positive attendance and grades during the previous year of school.
 - All full-time distance learning requests are subject to approval by the school leadership.
- Full time distance education:
 - Full time distance education will only be allowed for those students who have completed the Medical Exemption for Distance Education and have conferred with the Principal.
 - Each individual campus of Somerset Academy of Las Vegas will create a schedule for Distance Education based on the number of students eligible for Distance Education, but will include, at a minimum, the following:
 - 60-90 minutes of real time instruction for students in Kindergarten through 2nd grade,
 - 90-120 minutes of real time instruction for students in third through fifth grade,
 - 60 minutes per subject per week for students in 6 - 12th grade.
 - All students will have access to Clever, Google Classroom, and Zoom meetings (during which real time instruction will occur).
 - Teachers will submit at least one grade a week (per class) utilizing Infinite Campus.
 - Attendance will be recorded utilizing Infinite Campus.
 - Teachers will record attendance based on participation in real time instruction, work submitted, and contact with students.
 - If students are not participating in the above mentioned activities, staff will reach out to the family to determine circumstances (including whether or not distance education should be continued).
- Somerset Academy will utilize licensed teachers and/or licensed substitutes for instruction during distance learning.
 - Teachers will post assignments utilizing online forums, including Google Classroom and Clever.
 - Teachers will be available to students via telephone or email throughout the school day.
 - Teachers will provide support to families during distance learning.
- Somerset Academy will provide appropriate education for English Learners, students with Individualized Education Programs, and students with 504 Plan.
- Special education teachers will meet virtually with students as needed to meet the mandated number of instructional minutes.

- School staff will consider alternative ways to provide equitable access and appropriate educational opportunities for students with disabilities, including exploring all available supplementary aids and services and related services to include online or virtual platforms, and/or other activities, such as paper/pencil activities.
- There are two types of quarantine for full-time students:
 - Whole school/class quarantine,
 - Individual/limited number of students.

Topic Key Information to Address Distance Education: Emergency Closure

- How will the school ensure that all students are able to continue to learn through distance education in the event that school must be closed due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic or another major emergency that necessitates the closure of school?
 - There are two types of quarantine for full-time students:
 - Whole school/class quarantine,
 - Individual/limited number of students.
 - In the case of a school closure, we will utilize synchronous and asynchronous learning to continue to provide students with a high quality education.
 - Students will be placed in Distance Learning with their in-person teacher if the entire class goes under quarantine. All work/activities will be accessed via Clever, and instruction will take place via Zoom. If the assigned teacher cannot provide instruction, the entire class may receive instruction from another teacher who is providing Distance Learning.

Distance Education: Supporting Students

- How will the school ensure that all students are able to continue to learn through distance education in the event that school must be closed due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic or another major emergency that necessitates the closure of school?
 - Worsening public health conditions can affect the learning model that is implemented. If the Southern Nevada Health District, Center for Disease Control, and/or the Nevada Department of Education enforce new directives, we will make those changes as necessary. It will be a smooth transition for us due to our experience, and we are equipped to adapt to the changes.
 - The school will work to ensure continuity of services, including access to necessary technology and resources, special education and EL services, and nutrition services for students participating in distance education by following the protocols set forth in Directive 044.

- School/Family Communication
 - Students are required to check in with their teachers each day. Whether through email, a phone call, or (video) messaging through a learning management system and/or Zoom, it will count as an interaction for the day.
 - A teacher will schedule one or more conference(s) with the parent(s)/guardian(s) of a student if the student is not maintaining passing grades, is not achieving the expected level of performance, is presenting some problem to the teacher, or in any other case that the teacher considers necessary. Such conferences may be handled by telephone, in person, or via written communication.
 - If families and/or students call teachers, it has to be a viable conversation about academics to count as a present attendance mark. If not answered, a voicemail message should be recorded. A teacher will respond within 24 hours. If a student emails a teacher, the teacher will respond within 24 hours. Email communication sent on Fridays after 12:00 p.m. should expect a response by close of business on the non-holiday business day. If a student has not communicated with a staff member for 5 days in a row, a home visit will take place.
 - If a family communicates that they are in need of resources, campus leadership, the teacher and the community outreach coordinator will work together to provide resources.
- Nutrition Services
 - Students will receive access to the nutrition services to which they are entitled, to the extent nutrition services are generally provided by their charter school.
 - For virtual students to receive their lunch, the student and/or a family member will need to visit the campus in-person during a designated lunch period set by the campus administration. The school will then provide a lunch meal. A lunch meal will be not provided to anyone arriving before or after their designated lunch period, unless at the discretion of school administration.