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STATE OF NEVADA

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STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

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GUIDANCE RECOMMENDATION

TO: State Public Charter School Authority
FROM: Rebecca Feiden, Executive Director
SUBJECT: COVID-19 In-Person Learning Guidance
DATE: February 26, 2021

Recommendation

Under the current COVID-19 In-Person Learning Guidance, which the Authority approved on November 6, 2020, a school located in a county that is subject to Mitigation Level I or II pursuant to the Governor's COVID-19 Mitigation and Management Task Force must operate under a distance education or hybrid model, with the option to provide in-person instruction at a limited scale (less than 40% of the school's enrollment at any given time) and subject to all prevailing directives, including but not limited to [Emergency Directive 038](#) issued on February 17, 2021. Note that the limit for in-person learning was originally 25% of the school's enrollment. Additionally, throughout this school year, several exemptions to this limit were provided to SPCSA-sponsored charter schools that demonstrated need and strong safety measures.

In the last month, Nevada has seen a significant decline in COVID-19 cases and the test positivity rate, though rates continue to remain high. In addition, in each of the counties in which SPCSA-sponsored schools are located, educators are now eligible for and receiving vaccinations. Over the last six months, SPCSA-sponsored schools have developed, implemented, and refined protocols for mitigating the risk of transmission of COVID-19 and responding to possible and confirmed cases within their school communities. Through focus groups, many school leaders conveyed a strong interest in increasing in-person learning to better meet the educational needs of their students. Finally, on February 12, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released updated guidance, including an [Operational Strategy for K-12 School through](#)

Phased Mitigation. The CDC guidance emphasizes 1) Implementation of mitigation strategies with a particular focus on universal and correct use of masks and physical distancing, 2) Monitoring indicators of community transmission, and 3) Implementation of phased mitigation, learning modes, and testing. To be clear, this guidance does not suggest a wholesale return to in-person learning, but rather provides concrete recommendations for in-person learning at varying levels of community transmission.

Based on these factors, I recommend that the SPCSA remove the additional limits on in-person learning, specifically 40% of the school's enrollment, for counties flagged by the COVID-19 Mitigation and Management Task Force. Importantly, SPCSA-sponsored schools will continue to be subject to all prevailing directives, including but not limited to [Emergency Directive 038](#).

Continued Support and Oversight

SPCSA Staff will **support** schools with determining and implementing their instructional model through:

- 1) Continued information sharing of directives and guidance
- 2) Increased focus on ensuring a deep understanding of prevailing guidance and recommendations, including local, state and federal
- 3) Regular updates on measures identified by the CDC for weekly monitoring

SPCSA Staff will **oversee** the implementation of instructional models through

- 1) Review of updated *Re-Opening Plans* and *Instructional Model Overview* documents (see Appendix A) when a school plans to make a change to the instructional model
- 2) Ongoing weekly communication with schools (both one-on-one and via all-school conference calls)

APPENDIX A

School Model Overview Form



*Complete the form below when your school **changes** instructional model.*

| School Campus Name | Expected Date of Implementation | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Use the section below to describe the learning model for each student group. If students have the option to opt into virtual learning, make sure to include a section for students in that category. | | | |
| Group | Student Group <small>Describe the group of students (grade level(s), student population(s), students who opt into virtual learning, etc.)</small> | Number of Students <small>Approximate number of students in this group.</small> | Learning Model <small>Describe the in-person, hybrid, and/or virtual instructional model that the student group will participate in. Include frequency of instructional model and specific dates/times as needed.</small> |
| 1 | | | |
| 2 | | | |
| 3 | | | |
| 4 | | | |
| 5 | | | |
| 6 | | | |
| Who should the SPCSA contact if we have any questions about the school's instructional model? | | | |
| Name | Phone | | |

Email this form to Jennifer King (Jennifer.King@spcsa.nv.gov) and copy your SPCSA COVID-19 Liaison.

School Model Overview Form



*Complete the form below when your school **changes** instructional model.*

| School Campus Name | SAMPLE | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Expected Date of Implementation | March 1, 2021 | | |
| Use the section below to describe the learning model for each student group. Use as many rows as needed | | | |
| Group | Students <small>Describe the group of students (grade level(s), student population(s), students who opt into virtual learning, etc.)</small> | Number of Students <small>Approximate number of students in this group.</small> | Learning Model <small>Describe the in-person, hybrid, and/or virtual instructional model that the student group will participate in. Include frequency of instructional model and specific dates/times as needed.</small> |
| 1 | Students in grades K-5 who opt into hybrid instruction. | 380 | Students in this group are broken into two cohorts, A and B. Students in cohort A attend in-person on Monday and Tuesday from 8am to 3:30pm and learn virtually via synchronous instruction on Thursdays and Fridays from 8am to 3:30pm. Students in cohort B attend in-person on Thursdays and Fridays from 8am to 3:30pm and learn virtually via synchronous instruction on Mondays and Tuesdays from 8am to 3:30pm. All students conduct learn virtually on Wednesday through asynchronous instruction with teachers conducting targeted outreach to students for additional support as needed. Teachers are also available throughout the day to students who need assistance. |
| 2 | Students in grades K-5 who opt to learn virtually. | 105 | Students learn virtually via synchronous instruction on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 8am to 3:30pm. All students conduct learn virtually on Wednesday through asynchronous instruction with teachers conducting targeted outreach to students for additional support as needed. Teachers are also available throughout the day to students who need assistance. |
| 3 | Special education students in grades K-5 who opt into hybrid instruction. | 65 | These students attend in-person on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 8am to 3:30pm. All students conduct learn virtually on Wednesday through asynchronous instruction with teachers conducting targeted outreach to students for additional support as needed. Teachers are also available throughout the day to students who need assistance. |
| Who should the SPCSA contact if we have any questions about the school's instructional model? | | | |
| Name | SAMPLE | Phone | 775-555-5555 |

Email this form to Jennifer King (Jennifer.King@spcsa.nv.gov) and copy your SPCSA COVID-19 Liaison.