



Re-Opening 2020-2021 - FAQ

When will schools reopen?

Sullivan BOCES will be scheduling staff development days on September 2, 8, 9, 10 and 11. School will reopen for students on a hybrid schedule on September 14th.

Health and Safety

Will my child be required to wear a mask/face covering?

Yes, all students that are medically able must wear a mask at all times unless engaged in an activity such as eating that would preclude the wearing of a mask. Mask breaks for students will be determined by the classroom teacher.

Will face coverings be provided to students and does BOCES currently have them available?

Parents are encouraged to provide their child with a face mask prior to sending them to school. We encourage students to bring a spare mask, labeled and sealed in a plastic bag or container, daily, in case the student's mask becomes soiled. Cloth or paper face masks will be available to any student that needs them.

Are there any restrictions on what kind of mask my child can wear at school?

Face masks should either be cloth or of the paper variety. Cloth masks may include anything that covers the nose and mouth.

Can my child wear a plastic face shield instead of a mask?

Students may wear face shields if provided by the parent. Face shields will be available on a limited basis as needed for instructional purposes.

What options do I have if I do not want my child to wear a mask while at school?

Only documented medical exemptions will be permitted with regards to the requirements to wear face masks. If a parent does not want their child to wear a face mask and lacks a medical exemption, a remote learning option is available for students instead.

Can my child wear plastic gloves to school?

Yes, as long as they are provided by the parent.

Will teachers and staff be required to wear masks?

Yes, all staff are required to wear a face mask and/or face shield.

What should parents/guardians be checking before we send our children to school? Will you be sending us a symptom checklist?

People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported - ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. This list does not include all possible symptoms. CDC will continue to update this list as we learn more about COVID-19 at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>.



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People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- 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

Will parents/guardians be allowed to come into the building to drop their children off?

Though parents may drop their children off at school, admittance to the building is by appointment only and without an appointment they will not be permitted entry into the building. Parents/guardians must wear face coverings, complete the pre-screening survey, and have a temperature check by a BOCES staff prior to entering the building for any scheduled appointment. Parents/guardians must wear face coverings if assisting their child during drop off or pick up.

Will daily health screenings be required when students and staff arrive at the campus?

Both students and staff are required to complete a remote screening process prior to coming to campus. Additionally, students will have their temperatures checked using a digital non-contact forehead scanner as they disembark the bus each morning.

What happens if my child fails the screening when he/she arrives at the campus?

Any child whose temperature is 100 degrees or greater will be returned home on the bus. The parents or guardian and the schools districts CSE and transportation department will also be notified. ***It is important not to send your child to school if they have a fever or if they have symptoms listed above.***

How will you help/encourage all students to practice good hygiene?

All students will be taught proper hand hygiene when they return to school. Posters reminding students of the importance of good hand hygiene as well as continual verbal reminders will also be provided.

If there is a diagnosis of COVID-19 in a BOCES building, what will happen? Will parents be notified if a student or a staff member tests positive in a classroom that their child is assigned to?

If a student or employee tests positive for COVID-19, BOCES will uphold that person's right to privacy and confidentiality to the greatest extent possible, while also supporting any contact investigation by the Sullivan County Health Department, which will also help us determine the level of closure.

Cohorting practices will dictate whether a classroom, grade level, wing of a school building, or entire school will close. Those in close contact with the individual who tested positive will then receive instructions from the Health Department regarding testing, quarantine, and a timeline for returning to



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school. Remote learning will allow students who cannot be physically present at school to participate if they feel well enough. If a student is too unwell to participate in remote learning, students receive an excused absence.

What extra steps will BOCES take to keep the school buildings clean?

Sullivan BOCES custodial staff will clean and disinfect communal areas throughout the day and at night following CDC, EPA, DOH, and NYSED guidelines. In accordance with these guidelines disinfectants will not be used in the presence of students. All chemicals will be used by trained individuals in accordance with the product label. CTE classrooms will be disinfected between AM and PM classes. Other classroom spaces may be disinfected throughout the day as needed. Custodial staff has been trained in the proper use of PPE and disinfectants to address areas occupied by individuals suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19. Records will be kept of cleaning activity.

What kind of cleaning supplies will BOCES be using in classrooms?

Sullivan BOCES will use cleaning and disinfectant products listed on the EPA's N list and NYSDEC's list of disinfectants effective against the human Coronavirus.

What if COVID-19 cases in Sullivan County increase or other factors change?

Sullivan BOCES, along with all of the component schools districts, maintains continuous contact with the Sullivan County Public Health Department and monitors the New York Forward Regional Monitoring Dashboard.

If a vaccine becomes available, will it be mandatory to attend school?

Yes, at this time it is anticipated that the COVID vaccination will be one of the required vaccinations to attend schools.

How will BOCES ensure that masks are worn correctly throughout the day?

The wearing of masks by students will be a requirement unless a documented medical exemption is on file with the school. Every effort will be made to educate our students as to the importance of wearing a mask and we will work with the families to resolve any mask wearing concerns. A student's failure to wear a mask will be treated as a disciplinary matter and will be handled accordingly. If a student refuses to wear a mask after all efforts by the staff and family then the student may be put on remote instruction.

Who is responsible for enforcing social distancing?

Students will be instructed in the importance of social distancing. Signage and continually verbal reminders will be provided. In the classrooms the teachers and instructional support staff will be responsible for ensuring students are properly socially distanced. In the hallways and common areas monitors will be assigned to assure proper social distancing.



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Transportation

Will students who ride the bus have their temperatures taken before they get on the bus?

Sullivan BOCES does not provide transportation to or from the home school district. This question needs to be directed to your home school district.

Will my home school district still transport my student to BOCES? How will my home district know when to pick my child up if BOCES is operating in a hybrid-model?

Yes, the responsibility for transportation to and from BOCES will be coordinated with your home school district. BOCES will provide each district with all of their student's schedules in sufficient time to properly plan and coordinate your child's transportation.

Teaching and Learning

Why will Sullivan BOCES open in a hybrid model rather than fully face to face?

Opening in a hybrid model will give BOCES staff the opportunity to implement our new safety practices and procedures with 50% capacity of students. This will allow BOCES staff to train students on new procedures, assess social-emotional and academic needs, and adjust procedures if necessary with limited impact on the students. The reduced numbers will help us to see what needs to be adjusted with a more manageable population size and allow us time to train and acclimate students and staff to this new reality. Upon regular assessment of our protocols and procedures, our goal is to move toward 100% reopening.

What will a hybrid model look like for students at Sullivan County BOCES?

- **Special Education and Alternative Education (all programs)** - Students will be assigned to an A or B cohort group. Students in cohort A will attend school in person on Monday and Tuesday, and attend school remotely on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Students in cohort B will attend school in person on Thursday and Friday, and attend school remotely on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.
- **Career & Technical Education** - Students will be assigned to cohort A or B, depending on their assigned program. CTE Students will follow a regular CTE Schedule: AM (8:00 – 10:35 a.m.) / PM (11:45 a.m. – 2:10 p.m.), Monday through Friday, whether instruction is in-person or remote. Live lesson sessions are from 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. and 11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. on Monday through Friday with Group A students attending in person (Monday/Tuesday) and Group B attending in person (Thursday/Friday) via Google Meet. Students attending CTE in person on their designated cohort days will be focused on completing Work-Based Learning and lab requirements for their respective programming.
 - **Will shuttles still run to off-campus CTE programs?** Yes, there will be shuttle buses between the main campus and off-site programs.



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- **What extra steps will BOCES take to keep shuttle buses clean?** BOCES will be working with its transportation contractors to ensure shuttle buses are cleaned according to the guidelines established by the CDC and DOH.
- **What social-distancing measures will be used on shuttle buses?** Students will be required to wear masks on the bus and will be socially distanced from each other.

How are the student groups being assigned for the hybrid schedule? Will siblings who are enrolled in BOCES classes be able to attend on the same days?

CTE students will be assigned to cohorts based on their respective program enrollment. Special education students will be assigned to an A or B cohort, and siblings will be matched to the same cohort as closely as possible. (Exceptions could be if siblings are enrolled in different CTE courses that fall within different cohort days.)

If BOCES operates under a Full-Time Remote Learning model in the current school year, will it be different than what was used at the end of the 2019-20 school year?

Yes, students will be required to attend daily during designated class sessions. Staff will build on their experiences from the spring closure and will be participating in ongoing professional development to build capacity in providing effective remote instruction. Additional professional development opportunities will be provided over the course of the school year.

What will the full-time remote learning model look like for each program?

- **Alternative Education Program:** Students are required to attend a homeroom meeting daily at 9:00 am. Students attending the Alternative Education will follow their assigned hybrid schedule daily. Students will follow an alternating schedule of AAABB and AABBB with classes assigned in block scheduling for each day (e.g., A=English/Social Studies and B=Math/Science). Students attending CTE Courses will be assigned to their respective programs and be required to attend daily.
- **Career & Technical Education:** Students will follow their daily schedule for CTE and daily attendance will be taken.
- **Special Education and SPARC Elementary programs:** Students will be required to attend a daily morning meet at 9:00 am. Students attending the Special Education and SPARC Elementary programs will follow their daily schedule with scheduled check-in times, student small group or individual conference times, and teacher office hours.
- **Special Education Middle school:** Students are required to attend a homeroom meeting daily at 9:00 am. Students attending the Middle School Special Education Programs will follow their assigned hybrid schedule daily. Students will follow an alternating schedule of AAABB and AABBB with classes assigned in block scheduling for each day (e.g., A=English/Social Studies and B=Math/Science).
- **Special Education High School Programs:** Students are required to attend a homeroom meeting daily at 9:00 am. Students attending the High School Special Education Programs will follow their assigned hybrid schedule daily. Students will follow an alternating schedule of AAABB and AABBB



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with classes assigned in block scheduling for each day (e.g., A=English/Social Studies and B=Math/Science). Students attending CTE Courses will be assigned to their respective programs and be required to attend daily. CAPP students will be assigned remote WBL opportunities as part of their program.

What do we do if our family does not have the technology needed for remote learning or if we do not have internet access at our home?

Sullivan BOCES will work with each family to provide a Chromebook or other similar device when needed. BOCES will also work with the family to facilitate a resolution to their internet access needs whenever possible.

If it is necessary to move to a full-time virtual model for instruction, what criteria will BOCES use to make this decision and how much notice will be provided to parents/guardians so they can plan for this transition?

Sullivan BOCES will monitor and work within the recommendations of the Governor, NYSED and the Department of Health to determine when and if it is necessary to move to a full-time virtual model for instruction. BOCES will provide as much notification as possible. However, it must be understood that due to the fluid nature of the pandemic, the notification window may be small.

What is the maximum number of students BOCES will place in a classroom for in-person instruction in the hybrid model? If the BOCES transitions to a complete in-person model will this number change?

The goal of creating a hybrid model is to reduce classroom and building capacity to 50% occupancy for students. Additionally, teachers will rotate between student groups to help reduce the risk of exposure throughout the building. All classrooms must conform with the guidelines for social distancing as outlined by the CDC.

How will we know when a student is scheduled to attend in-person classes at the campus?

All student schedules will be sent to the parents at least two weeks prior to the opening of schools.

If BOCES is operating under a hybrid or full-time in person model of instruction and I am not comfortable sending my child to school will my child be able to participate in full-time remote learning?

Yes, parents may elect to have their child participate in remote e-learning options.

Will any consideration be given for requests to change a student's schedule?

Any concerns with your child's schedule needs to be addressed to the principal responsible for your child's program.

How will classrooms be set up to ensure appropriate social-distancing?

Most of Sullivan BOCES classrooms are large enough to allow for proper social distancing. In those classrooms that are not big enough furniture and fixtures may be removed from those rooms to maximize the space available or additional space in the building provided to allow for the social distancing.



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What will BOCES do to ensure physical distancing in common spaces like hallways, the cafeteria measures will you have in place in classrooms?

Movement around the building by students will be limited to that which is absolutely necessary. Cafeterias will not be open for food service. Gatherings, events, assemblies etc. will also not be scheduled.

Will students still change classes?

At this time the plan is for students to remain together in their assigned classrooms and not move around the building unless absolutely necessary. Therefore, teachers will rotate to each classroom as necessary and lunch and snacks will be served in the classroom as well.

Will my child still have outdoor recess?

Outdoor recess will be provided on a scheduled case by case basis whenever possible and in conformance with all health and safety guidelines.

Will my child still have specials like art, music, and PE?

Yes, provisions are being made to provide all specials in your child's classroom to restrict movement around the buildings. Some programs may need to be modified to promote health and safety standards.

Will there still be special events like assemblies and concerts?

No, no special events or other gatherings will be permitted at this time.

Where will my child eat breakfast and lunch?

Breakfast and lunch will be served in your child's classroom.

Will water fountains be in use?

No, all water fountains will be turned off. Provisions for freshwater will be made throughout the day. Students are encouraged to bring disposable water bottles to school.

Will students have to share supplies or keep their own?

Every effort will be made to limit the use of shared supplies and materials. In the event that sharing is necessary the items shared will be cleaned in between use according to all required protocols.

How does the BOCES plan ensure that IEP and 504 plan requirements are satisfied for each student?

All students with disabilities are entitled to a free and appropriate public education (FAPE), whether their services are provided in-person, remotely, or through a hybrid model. In order to ensure that FAPE is maintained for students when the health and safety of students with disabilities and those providing special education and related services are compromised, the team of service providers and parents/caregivers will collaboratively create a local service/pandemic plan that outlines any changes in the provision of FAPE that differ from the services originally outlined in the Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Parents/guardians will be asked to approve modifications to the plan prior to implementation.



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The services provided should mirror the actual services outlined on the student's Individual Education Plan (IEP) to the greatest extent possible. When services need to be shifted in order to maintain the health and safety of students, the changes will be discussed with families.

In addition to the provision of in-person, remote, or hybrid service delivery, each team will create a thoughtful and proactive contingency plan for the provision of services in the case of intermittent or extended school closure.

Students receiving special education services in placements outside of the district will continue to receive the provision of services consistent with the recommendations on their IEPs to the maximum extent possible, in order to maintain the health and safety of students.

Students with disabilities will continue to have access to the necessary accommodations, modifications, supplementary aids and services, and technology (including assistive technology) to meet the unique disability-related needs of students.

Will students still use lockers and if so, how will social distancing be maintained when students need to access their locker?

Lockers are in the homerooms at BOCES. Students will remain in their homerooms for the duration of the day. They will be encouraged to only bring items from home that are necessary to participate in learning activities of that day.

What is the expectation for a student driving to BOCES? How can we be sure they have entered the main entrance and had a temperature check?

Driving students will be required to enter either through the main entrance or CTE entrance and will have their temperatures taken prior to entry into the building.