



September 11, 2020

Hello, Scottsdale Unified Families,

Thank you for taking the time to read today's update from the District Office. Before we get into the details of what is happening at Scottsdale Unified, we wanted to share that we recognize this day, 9/11 – also known as Patriot Day – where so many Americans were affected by the events that took place that tragic day and thereafter.

If you've been following our Return to Learn activities, you may have seen that last week, we asked parents of students in Enhanced Distance Learning (EDL) to weigh in on returning to in-person learning. Thank you to the nearly 12,000 of you who responded! The results of the survey were presented to the Scottsdale Unified School District (SUSD) Governing Board on Wednesday, September 9. You can view the presentation with the survey results at <http://bit.ly/0909PPT> and you can view a replay of the video of the discussion and vote at <http://bit.ly/0909Video>.

Here is a summary of the responses:

- The 12,000 survey responses represent 66% of our EDL student population.
- 50% of the respondents indicated they are prepared for their students to return to their schools now, 35% indicated they would like to wait until public health metrics are in 'green' for two consecutive weeks, a vaccine is available (7%) or wait until the end of the calendar year (8%).
- 42% indicated support for a phased-in, full-return option; 34% wish to continue with EDL until the metrics are all in green for two consecutive weeks and the remaining 25% expressed support for the hybrid option proposed to the Governing Board on September 1.

The Board voted to authorize the Superintendent to continue providing the EDL model for those families who choose it through the end of the current semester -December 18, 2020- and to implement a phased-in "full return in person" model, for those families who choose it, resulting in a natural hybrid consistent with the ADHS metrics while the district is in "yellow." Students will return to campus in grade-level cohorts according to this schedule, provided health metrics permit:

- September 14—Special Education Special Programs and Pre-School
- September 21—K-2
- September 29—3-5
- October 5—FALL BREAK
- October 12—Middle School and High School

Next Step for Parents with K-5 Students in EDL: Commit to On Campus or Staying in EDL

Families with students in grades K – 5 who are currently in EDL will need to commit to a preferred method for learning. If you have not already done so, check your email for communication from the school on how to inform us of your choice. We need your decision sent in by 5 p.m. on Sunday, September 13. If you do not submit a commitment form, the student will be placed in the phased-in, full-return model and will follow the scheduled described above according to grade level.

Masks Are Required

As a reminder, students are expected to wear a face mask that covers the nose and mouth throughout the duration of their time on any SUSD campus, school bus or other SUSD property. Principals will inform you of other site-specific rules for their campus. Note that visitors will be allowed on campus by appointment only or if there is an emergency. All visitors and staff are expected to follow the same mask policy as students will follow.

How We Are Providing a Safe Learning Environment

In addition to having a registered nurse on each SUSD campus, we have added new hand washing and hand sanitizing stations, equipped classroom with cleaning supplies, provided staff with personal protective equipment and are implementing other measures to distance as much as each of our unique facilities permit.

ParentVue Acknowledgment

If your student will be returning to in-person learning now or in the future, we need your action to help us ensure campuses can remain open, and to safeguard everyone's health.

1. Log into [ParentVue](#) and complete the COVID-19 Parental Acknowledgment and Disclosure portion of the Uniform Code of Conduct. **This acknowledgement must be completed before students can attend class on campus.**
2. Submit an updated Immunization Record for your student to your school's nurse's office. **Students without this record on file or in hand the first day of school will not be permitted on campus.** See the Arizona Department of Health Services school attendance immunization requirements [here](#). If you need assistance with obtaining immunizations, Maricopa County Department of Public Health offers immunizations free of charge. Visit <https://www.maricopa.gov/1809/Locations> or call 602-506-6767 for more information.

Free Masks

In anticipation of school campuses opening once the metrics indicate it is safe to do so, we encourage families to have a supply of masks on hand for their student(s). ADHS is offering a package of free masks. To see if you qualify and to place an order for your household, visit:

<https://www.azdhs.gov/preparedness/epidemiology-disease-control/infectious-disease-epidemiology/index.php#novel-coronavirus-order-masks>

10 Helpful Tips

The Maricopa County Department of Public Health has created [this helpful guide](#) for parents and guardians with 10 things you can do to help prepare students to return to campus.

Our Current Metrics and Our COVID-19 Response Plan

- Find the current SUSD-specific metrics by zip code and our detailed [COVID-19 response plan](#) available for your review 24/7 at www.susd.org/Metrics

Athletic Updates

The AIA Executive Board voted recently to transition from “phases” to utilizing the metrics from the state as advised by the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee to guide return-to-athletics decisions. As a result, SUSD will continue with high school fall athletics and monitor the metrics to assist in making the appropriate modifications should COVID-19 numbers fluctuate. In an effort to maximize safety, we continue to conduct precautionary measures, including temperature checks, symptoms logs, mandatory mask-wearing and social distancing. Anyone who does not feel well must stay home.

If we are able to have home games for football, volleyball, band and pom/cheer/spiritline, we will limit spectators to the parents of the participants. We are preparing live-streaming options so that those who cannot attend can watch games remotely. Schools will be communicating more information next week regarding spectators and live-streaming instructions.

For those who are able to attend home games, safety protocols will be in place:

- Pre-sale tickets and tickets will not be available at the gate.
- Masks are mandatory for everyone as soon as they exit a vehicle until they re-enter a vehicle.
- Social distancing needs to be observed with space on all sides and in front/back of all spectators.

- Bring plenty of water as we will not allow food or other drinks and concession stands will not be open.
- Spectators will need to stay in the stands unless they need to use the restroom and must exit the facility immediately after the game.

Middle School Athletics will continue to be paused until students return to campus on October 12. We appreciate your understanding while we navigate the ongoing challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic presents to student athletics. If you have athletics-related questions, please reach out to your site coach and/or athletic director.

Nutrition Services Update

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has announced that ALL children under the age of 18 will be eligible to receive FREE meals from SUSD Nutrition Services through December 31, 2020, or until otherwise determined by the USDA. This means that ALL children, both SUSD students and those not enrolled in SUSD, can participate and receive free meals through the following:

- All in-person learners can choose their meal at all SUSD schools, at both breakfast and lunch daily. Meals will be at no charge and no qualification is necessary. Just show up, go through the line and you get a free meal, no questions asked.
- EDL and SOL students can pick up 7 days' worth of breakfasts and lunches at our meal distribution sites each Wednesday from 7 - 9:30 a.m. Parents may pick up the meals and students need not be present. Meals will be at no charge and no qualification is necessary. Just drive up and pick up a week's meal bundle per student.
- Meals will be distributed at no charge and no qualification is necessary. Just drive up and pick up a week's meal bundle per student.

Free meals are available each Wednesday, from 7 - 9:30 a.m. at these locations:

- Oak Campus, 7501 E. Oak St., Scottsdale
- Pima Traditional, 8330 E. Osborn Rd., Scottsdale
- Redfield Elementary, 9181 E. Redfield Rd., Scottsdale
- Tavan Elementary, 4610 E. Osborn Rd., Phoenix
- Yavapai/Hohokam Elementary, 701 N. Miller Rd., Scottsdale
- Mohave Middle, 8490 E. Jackrabbit Rd., Scottsdale
- Sequoia Elementary, 11808 N. 64th St., Scottsdale

If you need more information in between our briefings, here are some places to check on our website with the most requested information:

- www.susd.org/Metrics
- www.susd.org/News
- www.susd.org/Principals
- www.susd.org/Schools

We thank you for your resilience and respect for our thoughtful planning that has brought us to this exciting phase that allows us to once again welcome students back to campus over the next several weeks.

In appreciation for your partnership,

Scottsdale Unified School District [Leadership Team](#)