



January 8, 2021

SLSD Parents and Guardians,

I hope that each and every member of the Southern Lehigh School District Community had a restful winter break and were able to find time to pause and reflect. Now that classes have resumed, I want to thank the members of the SLSD school community who have continued to follow the established mitigation efforts during the holidays in an effort to help ensure that the district is able to maintain in-person instruction. Listed below are updates and reminders.

- **[PDE Instructional Model Update \(1/7/21\)](#)** - On Thursday, the Pennsylvania Department of Education and Pennsylvania Department of Health updated instructional model recommendations by stating that on January 25 a second recommendation of Hybrid Instruction will be added to state recommendations for elementary schools (Grades K-6) in counties with substantial transmission levels. Additionally, PDE is also suggesting that secondary school buildings consider returning “targeted student populations” in-person instruction. Both PDE and the DOH continue to emphasize the importance of the maintenance of the commonly accepted COVID-19 mitigation strategies including universal masking, physical distancing, and enhanced hand hygiene. Subsequently, this change will not yield a significant alteration for the Southern Lehigh School District as the **[Board of School Directors voted on November 23](#)** to complete the **[PDE Attestation Form](#)** and remain open for in-person instruction in the Hybrid Model while Lehigh County remains in the substantial transmission classification for COVID-19.
- **[Hybrid Shift Schedule](#)** - Previously announced in the **[November 13](#)** Superintendent’s Communication, the SLSD will shift in-person instruction during weeks that school buildings are closed on a holiday Monday. As a result, Friday January 22 **[WILL NOW](#)** have in-person instruction for students with last name A-L and remote learning for students with last name M-Z. Additional changes may be shared in future communications.
- **[Speaking with Students About Recent Events](#)** - Yesterday, the SLSD shared the following resources via the District Social Media Accounts:
  - **[Common Sense Media](#)**
  - **[National Association of School Psychologists](#)**

The purpose of these resources is to help support parents/guardians who are seeking information to engage their children in challenging conversations about the events that unfolded at the United States Capitol Building on 1/6/21.

- **[Parenting During a Pandemic](#)** - On Wednesday evening, the SLSD partnered with the Caron Foundation to provide an educational support program to interested SLSD community members. A **[digital recording](#)** of this presentation and a copy of the **[slide deck](#)** can be accessed using those links. Thank you to all those who attended!



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- **Request for Support** - The SLSD School Counselors designed this resource to ensure that our School Counseling teams can support families in our community who have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic. Please do not hesitate to use this resource as a way to connect with your students School Counselor should you need additional assistance.
- **Student Technology Assistance** - All students needing technology assistance can utilize the SLSD digital helpdesk to seek support on all technology related issues or concerns.

The Southern Lehigh School District community continues to collectively do an incredible job of adhering to our established health and safety protocols, however, we must continue to wear face-coverings, comply with quarantine and isolation guidance, social distance, and stay home when we are not feeling well in order to ensure that the SLSD can keep our schools open for in-person instruction.

We have a great deal to be thankful for and optimistic about as we progress through the new year.

Kathleen Evison  
Superintendent