# Southern Lehigh School District PDE / DOH Update - 1/7/21



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- → On Thursday, January 7th, the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Pennsylvania Department of Health updated the joint *Instructional Model Recommendations* for counties identified as having Substantial Community Transmission of COVID-19. (Presently <u>ALL</u> 67 Counties)
- → "Starting January 25, the departments are providing a second recommendation for elementary schools in substantial level counties. In addition to remote learning, now there is an option for blended/hybrid learning for elementary students."
  - PDE & DOH Focus Areas
    - Elementary School Student Population (K-6)
    - Targeted Secondary Student Populations (Individuals with Disabilities, English Language Learners ...)

#### PDE / DOH Update - 1/7/21 Cont.

- → At this time, the updated PDE & DOH Instructional Model Recommendations state that Secondary School (7-12) Students should remain in a Fully Remote Instructional Model.
- → PDE & DOH continue to state that with these updated recommendations, school districts should continue to maintain the established mitigation strategies including;
  - Social Distancing (PDE 6 feet to the maximum extent feasible)
  - Universal Masking (Staff & Student)
  - Enhanced Hand Hygiene

#### PDE / DOH Update - 1/7/21 Cont.

- → This update will not lead to significant changes for the SLSD. As a reminder, on Monday, November 23, the SLSD Board of School Directors voted 9-0 to submit the PDE Attestation Form which allowed the District to remain open while Lehigh County experienced Substantial Community Spread of COVID-19 by committing to the following criteria;
  - Following the Updated Order of the Secretary of Pennsylvania Department of Health Requiring Universal Face Coverings from 11/18/20
  - Following the Updated Recommendations for Pre-K to 12 Schools Following Identification of a Case of COVID-19
- PDE & DOH also state that "In anticipation of future conditions that may allow for an accelerated return to in-person instruction, the Departments will continue to adjust guidance and resources accordingly."

# Southern Lehigh School District Instructional Model Review 1/11/21 Update



→ The SLSD Instructional Model (hybrid vs. remote) enrollment at the Elementary Level (K-6) has remained consistent month over month with only a slight enrollment change. → As a reminder, SLSD Elementary School Buildings Have more physically uniform instructional spaces  $\rightarrow$ Are comprised of grade level focused curricular pathways  $\diamond$ Have separate assigned professional staff who are dedicated to leading **EITHER** in-person instruction or remote instruction.

- → With 6 feet of distancing, few options exist for a return of Elementary Students (K-6) within the existing physical confines of the available K-6 instructional spaces.
- → Kindergarten remains as an area where there is physical space and enrollment would allow for an increase in-person learning without substantial changes to the overall instructional proceedings and the preservation of 6 feet of distancing.
  → With an increase in the number of students attending 4-Days Per week, many instructional spaces are reaching their classroom

maximums at 6 ft., this is particularly true at JPLIS.

→ The SLSD instructional model (hybrid vs. remote) enrollment at the Secondary Level (7-12) has had a larger number of students transition between the hybrid and remote models.  $\rightarrow$  As a reminder, SLSD Secondary School Buildings (7-12) Have significantly fewer physically uniform instructional spaces Are comprised of a multitude of variable curricular pathways Are made up of professional staff who are responsible for leading **BOTH** in-person hybrid instruction and remote instruction in a concurrent manner.

- → At the Secondary Level, there is a significant disparity between enrollment figures depending on grade levels than there are in other grade level.
  - This means that although there has been movement within the Instructional Models, certain grade levels have far more students still attending in the Hybrid Model than others.
- → This disparity is more of a challenge at SLHS since many of the high school courses have enrollment that is not representative of a single grade level.

#### Existing Pre-Pandemic Supports

- → K-6 Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) Team
- → K-12 Building Level Child Study Team
- → Building Level Administrative Instructional Coaching and Observation (Both Formal and Informal Observations)
- → Building Level Advisory Committees (Student & Staff)
- → Student Superintendent's Advisory Committee
- → K-12 Student Assistance Program (SAP) Supports
- → Caron Foundation Student Assistance Program Supports

## SLSD Support Enhancements

- Lehigh Valley Health Network Student Behavioral Health Programing
- → Focused Professional Development Training;
  - Instructional Technology & Trauma Informed Practices
- → Remote IT Support for Student Technology Issues
- → Enhanced Supports for Students with Special Needs
- → Substitute Teacher SLSD Technology Training
- → School Board COVID-19 Building Tours
- → Curriculum and Instruction Meetings Focused on Learning Loss / Gaps
- Synchronous Student Supports on Asynchronous Friday's
- → Building K-12 Staff Town Hall Meetings with the Superintendent

#### SLSD Support Enhancements Cont.

- → 4-Day Per Week Instructional Option for Students with Individualized Education Plans
- → 4-Day Per Week Instructional Option for Students Identified as English Language Learners
- → Enhanced and More Frequent Progress Monitoring Meetings
- Development and Implementation of Individual Targeted Student Learning Contracts
- → 4-Day Per Week Instructional Option for Students following a determination within the Child Study Team Process
- → Community Education Programing (Caron Foundation, LVHN, Other ...)
- → Weekly District Wide Superintendent Community Communications

## Future SLSD Support Enhancements

- → Continued planning for additional SLSD Support Enhancements is ongoing and tentative. This list may not be inclusive of all <u>Future SLSD</u> <u>Support Enhancements.</u>
  - Continue to Plan and Offer Community Education Programing
  - Continue the Monitoring, Tracking, and Planning related to the SLSD Instructional Model Enrollment Data (K-12 - Hybrid vs. Remote)
  - Student Enrichment and Learning Gap Closure Programing
    - Student Remediation / Credit Recovery Programing
    - Transition and Study Skills Development Programing

# SLSD Support Enhancements

Building Administration from each of the Southern Lehigh School District Buildings will share additional information about building specific work that they have been engaged in.