

SPECIAL EDUCATION DISTRICT OF LAKE COUNTY

18160 W Gages Lake Road, Gages Lake, Illinois 60030-1819
847-548-8470 Fax 847-548-8472 VP 224-207-8476
www.sedol.us



Valerie M. Donnan, M.Ed.
Superintendent

SEDOL Return to School Fall, 2020

Q & A - July 24, 2020

General Questions (applicable to both staff and parents)

Who was included in the process to make the recommendation for SEDOL's return to school?

SEDOL's various committees continue to plan regarding procedures for safety, instructional recommendations, and PPE needs to have students return to school as soon as possible. As part of the planning process, 181 families out of 740 families or 24% of our students in classroom based SEDOL instruction completed the survey regarding their feelings about returning to in person learning in the fall. 53% of the 181 families stated that their students would be returning for in person learning in the fall, 10% were not comfortable with sending their student in for any in person learning in the fall, and 37% were undecided at the time of the survey. In addition, 376 staff out of 583 staff or 64% of SEDOL staff completed a survey regarding their feelings regarding returning to in person learning in the fall. 38% of the 376 SEDOL staff members stated they were comfortable with returning to in person learning in the fall, 38% were uncomfortable with returning to in person learning and 24% were unsure at that time of their feelings.

What other factors were considered for the SEDOL return to school plan?

Since leaving on site programming in March, 2020, SEDOL as a community has been communicating and planning regarding how to improve remote instruction and communication as well as how to make each building safe for staff and students to return. Currently, the state of Illinois and Lake County is within the Restore Illinois plan in Phase 4 which includes ISBE and the governor's recommendation to have students return to in school learning in some fashion. Based on the information gathered from the surveys, feedback meetings, instructional planning meetings, and ongoing conversations with both the SEDOL Teachers' Union (STU) and the SEDOL Support Staff Association (SSSA), I am making the following recommendation to the Board for further discussion:

What instructional options are being provided for families with students in SEDOL classroom based programs?

SEDOL will offer parents the option to select between two educational platforms; distance learning (full remote) and a phased-in hybrid option with both in person and distance learning.

1. Distance Learning:

Distance Learning will meet all requirements set out by PA 101-0642 and ISBE's requirements including instruction in multiple formats totaling 5 hours per instructional day.

<https://www.isbe.net/Documents/Fall-2020-Learning-Rec.pdf> Some of our students may not be able to return to school at this moment due to medical conditions as well as families not feeling comfortable sending their children to school. Each family of all SEDOL programs will have the opportunity to indicate if they would like to opt out of in-person learning and choose to remain home for all distance learning. Any family that selects to enroll in the Distance Learning option will do so from the beginning of the 2020–21 school year until Winter Break. At this time, Distance Learning is only an option for the first semester.

2. Phased in Hybrid Option:

Programs that follow the SEDOL's 2020-21 School Calendar including

1. Community and Supported Transition Programs at John Powers Center,
2. ED Alternative EC to 5th grade at Gages Lake School,
3. ED Alternative 9 to 12th grade program at Cyd Lash Academy,
4. Project SEARCH at SEDOL Administrative Building,
5. REACH Programs at Cyd Lash Academy and Seymour,
6. Shaping Appropriate Behaviors (SAB) at Gages Lake School,
7. Vocational Programming at Cyd Lash School

will participate in a hybrid schedule. Students will attend each week as determined by the schedule of three phases (4a, 4b, and 4c). A phased in hybrid option meeting all requirements outlined in PA 101-0642 and ISBE's requirements including instruction in multiple formats totaling 5 hours per instructional day will be offered in the following ways while Illinois is in Phase 4:

Phase 4a: All students will participate in Distance Learning as outlined above.

Phase 4b: 50% of hybrid students in each building will be in attendance for two days a week and students would receive distance learning for three days a week. Students will attend each week as the calendar outlines either on Monday and Tuesday or on Thursday and Friday. Wednesday will be a distance learning day for students and staff. The buildings of these programs will be closed to all students and staff (including clerical and administration) for cleaning and disinfecting purposes. On the days of attendance students will follow traditional school start and end times as outlined by the SEDOL 2020-21 School Calendar.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Group A: In person Group B: Distance	Group A: In person Group B: Distance	Full Day Distance Learning	Group A: Distance Learning Group B:	Group A: Distance Learning Group B:

Learning	Learning		In Person	In Person
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Phase 4c: Students will attend each week as the calendar outlines on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Wednesday will be a distance learning day for students and staff. The buildings of these programs will be closed to all students and staff (including clerical and administration) for cleaning purposes. On the days of attendance students will follow traditional school start and end times as outlined by the SEDOL 2020-21 School Calendar.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Full Day In Person	Full Day In Person	Full Day Distance Learning	Full Day In Person	Full Day In Person

What will the schedule look like for programs following the SEDOL return to school plan?

Community and Supported Transition Programs at John Powers Center, ED Alternative EC to 5th grade at Gages Lake School, ED Alternative 9 to 12th grade program at Cyd Lash Academy, REACH Programs at Cyd Lash Academy and Seymour, Shaping Appropriate Behaviors (SAB) at Gages Lake School, and Vocational Programming at Cyd Lash School

Phase 4a	August 19, 2020 until August 21, 2020	Students will attend remotely and staff will work onsite.
Phase 4b	August 24, 2020 until October 16, 2020	Students would attend two days in person and three days remote. Staff would work in person four days and one day remotely.
Phase 4c	October 19, 2020 until December 21, 2020	Students would attend four days in person and one day remote (Wednesday). Staff would work in person four days and one day remotely.

Project Search

Phase 4a	August 19, 2020 until August 21, 2020	Students will attend remotely and staff will work onsite.
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Phase 4c	August 24, 2020 until December 21, 2020	Students would attend four days in person and one day remote (Wednesday). Staff would work in person four days and one day remotely (Wednesday).
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Fairhaven School

Phase 4a	August 19, 2020 until October 2, 2020	Students and staff will attend and work remotely from an alternate location to allow for the completion of life safety needs at Fairhaven.
Phase 4b	October 5, 2020 until October 16, 2020	Students in specific classrooms would attend two days in person and three days remote. Staff would work in person four days and one day remotely.
Phase 4c	October 19, 2020 until December 21, 2020	Students would attend four days in person and one day remote (Wednesday). Staff would work in person four days and one day remotely.

What will the schedule look like for programs following the member district's return to school plan?

Students participating in DHH EC through high school, Sector Programs, and South School will follow their host districts schedules and instructional remote and hybrid plans. SEDOL staff including teachers, related service staff and program supports in DHH EC through high school, Sector Programs, and South School will follow their host district's schedules. South School and John Powers Center would have additional cleaning and disinfecting happening after school hours at the same level of all other SEDOL buildings.

What will the hour requirements be for Early Childhood for daily learning activities?

Guidance was released from ISBE related to instructional time requirements on July 23, 2020. SEDOL will be developing return to school instructional committees to further define requirements for each program based on ISBE guidance in the near future. See the attached link for additional information. <https://www.isbe.net/Documents/Fall-2020-Learning-Rec.pdf>

What do we do for students that require direct feeding assistance or have specialized

nutrition needs?

Areas where students consume meals will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before and after meals. Staff who are directly involved with feeding assistance will wear appropriate PPE, including gloves and face coverings throughout interaction with the students. Students are able to bring their own lunches, but microwaves and fridges are not available unless medical documentation is on file. Additionally, any food preparation such as blending will require medical documentation to be on file. Food outside of mealtimes should only be consumed if specifically outlined in a student's IEP.

Will SEDOL provide soft positioning devices that can be disinfected if we cannot use traditional pillows for students who require positional changes multiple times per day? How will we support students' regulation needs when many rely on weighted blankets, stuffed animals, pillows, vests...etc?

SEDOL is looking into alternatives to plush materials that are used in the classroom. Students with sensory needs will have individual sensory tools assigned which will be cleaned daily. Students with specific medical needs will be able to utilize the medically necessary equipment with proper cleaning procedures followed.

Will the cleaning products/disinfectants be fragrance-free for staff and students with respiratory issues and/or allergies? All cleaning products/disinfectants are labeled fragrance-free, but actual scents vary. If a student has medical documentation of a medical condition or allergy, please provide written documentation and discuss your individual child's needs with their building administration. If a staff member has a medical condition or allergy, please contact Peggy Lynch to discuss.

Parent Specific Questions

How do families select which plan they are opting into?

An email sent on July 24, 2020 to each family of SEDOL will ask a family to commit to a semester commitment of distance learning or in person learning. Families have until July 31, 2020 to make a decision. Beginning on July 29, 2020 SEDOL administrators will call all families if they have not completed the selection process with a reminder.

Will my student have to wear a mask in school?

All students except those who are unable to independently remove their masks or have medical documentation will be required to wear a mask in school except when eating or when outside and further than 6 feet from any individual. SEDOL will provide daily disposable masks for students.

What if my student is unable to wear a mask in school?

Each situation will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Students who are unable to remove their masks independently or have a medical exemption on file will interact with staff wearing increased PPE. An example may be that a staff member will wear a mask, face shield, and gloves. If a student selects to not wear a mask and there is no intent to harm, the school base team including the parent will meet and problem solve regarding how to support the student regarding required PPE and staff will increase their PPE. If a

student has known intent to harm by not wearing PPE the building administrator will follow the school's handbook procedures regarding student behavior.

Staff Specific Questions

What will the start of the school year look like for staff following the SEDOL calendar?

SEDOL will use the following schedule for the opening of school for professional development for staff:

- August 13, 14, 17 Institute Days (previously scheduled)
- August 18 Remote Learning Planning Day (this day would be counted for student attendance, but will allow teachers an additional day of professional development)
- August 19, 20, and 21 Students will attend school remotely
- August 24 will be the first day of student onsite attendance if in the hybrid option

Will staff have to wear a mask in school?

All staff will be required to wear a mask in school except when eating or when outside and further than 6 feet from any individual. SEDOL will provide 5 cloth masks for staff and daily disposable masks will be available if needed. Staff are able to wear their own mask if they are without words and images and are either made of cloth or a surgical disposable mask. N95s or KN95s will be provided to nursing staff. If staff members have their own N95s that have been professionally fitted, they may wear them. If a staff member has a medical condition restricting their use of a mask, please contact Peggy Lynch at mlynch@sedol.us.

What do staff whose own children are on a different schedule than SEDOL's do if there are days when staff are expected to be at work and their children are on remote at home, or if they are remote at home along with their children who require assistance?

We care about our staff and understand that child care is a concern for some. We have heard that some of our member districts are working on child care options for the students who reside within their district. Please reach out to your home district to see what opportunities they may be providing.

At the end of the school year we submitted introduction letters and supply lists that are to be mailed to parents prior to the start of the school year. Will we have the opportunity to update/modify them based on current plans?

Following the results of both staff and student surveys, student class lists will be adjusted and information will be shared with staff. At that time, teachers will have the opportunity to create a welcome letter for their students and address issues related to hybrid or distance learning.

Are we allowed to wear scrubs to work with students who require close supervision due to personal hygiene and/or behavioral needs?

Staff are allowed to wear personal scrubs if desired. SEDOL will provide masks, gloves, face shields, and gowns (as appropriate) to protect students and staff within the classroom.

Some staff live in WI. What happens if that state becomes a place that is travel restricted? If a state-wide travel ban is put into place, the details of the ban will be reviewed

and the plan will be re-evaluated accordingly.