



Dr. Kelvin R. Adams
Superintendent
Saint Louis Public Schools

July 20, 2020

Parents/Guardians:

Shortly after schools closed in March because of COVID-19, we convened a School Restart Task Force. At that time, August 24, 2020 felt far away, but it was clear there was no time to waste in preparing for the 2020-2021 school year.

Every school district across the country is creating a plan specific to the needs of its families and community, as they monitor the updated data related to COVID-19 cases. The common thread is that each plan comes from an understanding that, no matter how we choose to open schools, we have a responsibility to provide a quality education and support to every student, regardless of the circumstances that surround us.

The School Restart Task Force included representatives from all of our stakeholder groups: parents/guardians, teachers, administrators, board members and community partners. On July 14, 2020, after many discussions with the City of St. Louis Department of Health and other City and Regional health experts, and after reviewing recommendations from the Restart Task Force, I presented the Board of Education with the [Restart School Plan](#). Today, I offer a brief summary of that report, along with a request of you, as you determine what learning model is best for your child.

At this time, we will welcome students back to school with three options for instruction:

- 1) In-person classroom instruction at a bricks-and-mortar school site;
- 2) Virtual instruction via Microsoft Teams/Zoom type video instruction utilizing District teachers and curriculum, and
- 3) Self-guided, self-driven virtual instruction via the District's third-party, website-based online instruction service, Edmentum: www.edmentum.com

The next step is for you to select what option is right for your child. Please complete the District's [2020-2021 Parent Commitment Form \(www.slps.org/SY20-21\)](http://www.slps.org/SY20-21). If you have previously supplied your email address to the District, you will receive a notification that provides information to be used on the Parent Commitment Form. Please check your email account for detailed information. If you have not previously provided an email address, you can contact us at techhelp@slps.org.

We can provide the needed information electronically. Additionally, you can call 314.345.5656, and someone will be able to assist. If you have more than one SLPS student in your family, please fill out one form for each child. We will base our planning around this information, so your input is critical. The deadline to complete the form(s) is midnight on **Thursday, July 30, 2020**.

The next opportunity to reconsider your selection will be at the end of first quarter, October 16, 2020. It's important to note that no matter what option you select, your student will still be assigned to their "home school." This is their current school or the school they were assigned to attend for the 2020-2021 school year.

In the meantime, here are a few highlights of the District's Restart School Plan to help you make an informed decision for your student.

Following the guidelines of the Restart School Plan, SLPS has invested heavily in the following:

Facilities and Operations

- The safety of students and staff is our top priority, and we are working to ensure the highest levels of safety in every school, office and facility.
- The in-person instruction option follows prevailing wisdom and guidelines offered by the Centers for Disease Control and the City of St. Louis Department of Health.
- Aggressive and visible cleaning schedules include sanitizing of high-touch areas, using EPA-approved products that are safe for classroom use.
- Personal protective equipment, including washable cloth masks for students and staff, will be provided, along with instructions on use.

Mental Health and Wellness

- Because we believe it is particularly critical at this time, we have elevated our focus on mental health and wellness. We will work with District social workers and community partners to conduct student needs assessments. Support will be provided to students, staff and families, as needed.

Technology

- We are committed to one-to-one (1:1) technology for all students. Students in grades K-8 will receive iPads. High school students will receive laptops. Students in second grade or higher will be allowed to take devices home. Hot spots will be available for any SLPS family that lacks internet access at home.

Choice in Instruction

- Please reference this chart for options available to our families:

Enrollment Options	Grade Level	Additional Information	
IN-PERSON <i>Families may leave in-person enrollment and enter virtual learning at the end of each quarter. First quarter ends Oct. 16, 2020.</i>	Elementary	Student assigned a homeroom teacher and course schedule.	Student enrolled at bricks-and-mortar school and attends school based on the SLPS 2020-2021 Academic Calendar.
	Middle		
	High	Individualized schedule is created to meet the student's needs and credit requirements.	
VIRTUAL <i>Families may leave virtual enrollment and enter in-person learning at the end of each quarter. First quarter ends Oct. 16, 2020.</i>	Elementary	Student assigned homeroom teacher and schedule, which may include teacher-led live lessons, recorded lessons, class discussion and individualized activities.	Student enrolled at bricks-and-mortar school but engages in all learning virtually at home.
	Middle		
	High	Teachers are accessible during established office hours.	
ONLINE <i>Families choosing this option will <u>remain in online for the entire semester.</u></i>	Elementary	Self-driven learning experience administered exclusively online from website-based content that the student may access at any time. All courses and grade-level standards required by Missouri DESE are offered.	Student enrolled at bricks-and-mortar school, but online learning through Edmentum offers a standards-based curriculum with a support facilitator. There is minimal connection to an SLPS physical school or support services.
	Middle		
	High		

As you make your decision, please understand the information in this letter, including our start date of August 24, 2020, is subject to change based on the progression of COVID-19 and the advice of medical experts in our community. There is a possibility that the District may begin the year fully virtual for all students based on COVID-19 data, and if that occurs you will be notified. Even so, we are hopeful that our work over these past few months, and valued contributions by those who served on our Restart School Task Force, has laid the foundation for classes, of all platforms, to begin.

The District is doubling its efforts to communicate with parents during this time. Please make sure your school has updated contact information for you, so we can keep you informed and reach you, should plans change. We also encourage you to visit the District website regularly, www.slps.org, in addition to your school site. The District website is your direct link to all aspects of the restart, including the latest on fall athletics.

We remain hopeful that our plans will be able to move forward with the understanding there will likely be adjustments required along the way. Our students need and deserve the support, structure and intellectual stimulation school provides. Again, if you have any questions while completing the 2020-2021 School Year Commitment Form, please call the Restart Schools information line at 314.345.5656. (The phone lines will be manned 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., now through July 31, 2020.)

Thank you, in advance, for completing the form and for being a part of the Saint Louis Public Schools community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kelvin R. Adams", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr. Kelvin R. Adams
Superintendent
Saint Louis Public Schools