



Safe Return to School: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Key Points:

- Safety is our priority.
- High-quality teaching and learning will occur through Distance Learning or Blended Learning.

Question: When and how will Santa Fe Indian School start school year 2020-21?

Answer: Students will not be on campus. SFIS will start on August 24, 2020 with only our Distance Learning Model.

Q: What does Distance Learning at SFIS look like?

A: Each student will receive a SFIS issued Chromebook that will allow students to experience a variety of teaching and learning through videos, special apps for doing math, textbooks, and so forth. For students without Internet, SFIS is working with communities to identify places for students to access Internet. Students will need to be connected to an Internet hotspot for about 15 minutes a few times a week to download or upload assignments, or to communicate with teachers. Students can do their work on their Chromebooks at home off-line (without Internet).

Q: When will students be able to return in-person to the SFIS campus?

A: We'll move to Blended Learning Model when we are able. SFIS continually monitors what is happening in our communities, as well as state and federal recommendations and guidelines. Our Pueblo Governors are vital for insights. Parent input is also gathered through surveys.

Q: What does Blended Learning at SFIS look like?

A: Students will be learning both in-person on campus and off campus Distance Learning. For Blended Learning, 25% of our students will attend in-person once a week, and then up to having 50% of students attending twice a week – adding more as the situation allows. There will be face-to-face instruction from teachers in small classes, while social distancing, sanitizing, and safety measures are in place. Students will stay in one classroom and teachers will rotate. Sanitation will occur often and meals will be delivered to students. Weather permitting, students may eat outside with social distancing. When not receiving face-to-face teaching, students will continue Distance Learning at home or in the dorm the other days in the week.

Q: When will transportation for Day students start and what precautions will be taken?

A: When Blended Learning starts, we plan to provide transportation to Day students. Students riding the bus will have screening (temperatures taken, screening questions) and sit socially distanced. Buses will be sanitized between routes.

Q: Will Athletics be offered for the Fall semester of 2020?

A: Right now, SFIS has all Fall sports on hold because we are starting school only in the Distance Learning Model. To keep our athletes engaged and motivated, coaches will send practice/conditioning recommendations that can safely be done at home. SFIS is continuing to work with the NM Athletics Association in monitoring which sports will be competing in the state during SY2020-21. (See more detail on the SFIS website.)



Q: When will the Dorms open?

A: If conditions allow during Blended Learning, dorms will serve 7-day students who live more than 60 miles from Santa Fe, and each student will have his or her own room. For Blended Learning, Dorm students would attend in-person classes on different days than Day students. An example might be, Dorm students might attend on Mondays and Tuesdays and Day students on Wednesdays and Thursday, with all students Distance Learning on Fridays. On days Dorm students are not in class, the Student Living staff will support them doing the Distance Learning.

Q: Will clinical counseling services for students continue?

A: Counseling services for students will continue through Telehealth during Distance Learning. When students are on campus during Blended Learning, some in-person counseling sessions may occur during lunch-time, after-school, or while students are in the dorm but not in classes.

Q: How will you be sure students are learning?

A: Regardless of whether or not students are on-campus, high-quality teaching and learning lesson plans are in place. Students learn subject matter content and our SFIS curriculum. Teachers are creating detailed syllabi over the summer that will be accessible to all students, even if the student has an IEP or if students don't have good Internet access at home. Each teacher will be paired with a student living staff member so students will have extra support. Student living staff will continue to teach a Wellness course, with the support of the teacher. All SFIS staff are receiving training/professional development specific to their job roles and are ensuring preparation and plans are in place for when students return to campus.

Q: How will parents be kept informed?

A: For emergencies and urgent information, texts and emails are sent to all parents and Pueblo governors through our messenger system. During the school year, an online newsletter is sent weekly to parents, tribal departments of education, and tribal leaders. The newsletter and other information are also available on our website: www.sfis.k12.nm.us. Our SFIS team monitors the COVID-19 situation constantly, with monthly formal reviews. Once a recommendation is made to have students return to campus and is approved by the Superintendent and SFIS Board of Trustees, at least two weeks' notice will go to tribal leadership, parents, and the rest of our school community. However, **once students are on campus, if the situation changes dramatically** – for example a positive COVID19 case on campus, **SFIS may immediately revert to 100% Distance Learning until our students can return to campus** as safely as possible.

Q: What is your safety process?

A: SFIS will move through four phases as our Safe Return to School process:

Phase I: Distance Learning Only

Phase II: A small percentage of students on campus – Blended Learning with a small percentage of students face-to-face with teachers and most days students at home (or possibly in the dorm) doing Distance Learning

Phase III: A larger percentage of students on campus with Blended Learning, still some Distance Learning at home or in the dorm

Phase IV: Broader expansion continues until we achieve a full re-opening with all our students back on campus.