



SANTA FE INDIAN SCHOOL

Office of the Superintendent

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July 23, 2020

Good day to our Students, Parents/Guardians, and Communities,

The Santa Fe Indian School (SFIS) would like to provide some updates regarding our plans for the start of the new school year in August. We are committed to the safety of our Students, Staff, and Guests on Campus. We know our communities have been impacted greatly. Our prayers continue for all of our School family. SFIS will work hard to provide strong educational opportunities for our students to continue their learning. We are also working on the campus buildings to provide a safe environment for when a safe return to campus is initiated.

1. SFIS is planning to **start school for all students on August 24, 2020** using our Santa Fe Indian School Distance Learning Model. Santa Fe Indian School will provide Chromebooks for students.
2. The **SFIS Campus will remain closed.** This means that only “On-site Essential and Approved Staff” may enter campus.
3. As long as the SFIS Campus is closed, **athletic programs will be unable to participate in the Fall Seasons.** The New Mexico Activities Association (NMAA) has given guidance regarding Fall Sports being modified or delayed. We will post this guidance on our SFIS website.
4. If there are changes to our School Plans, we will communicate the current guidance to our students, parents, and staff.

We know that deciding on the option that is best for your student and family is a difficult one for many families. With guidance from our Pueblo Governors, Tribal Leaders, our Board of Trustees, and key SFIS staff, we cannot bring students to school in-person at this time. We realize that this creates concerns about planning for childcare and other needs, but the 400 parents who responded to our Health and Safety Survey this month affirmed that the safety of our students and communities is the most important consideration. We have developed a “[Safe Return to School Plan](#)” and a “[Frequently Asked Questions](#)” (both are attached). Our Principals will be sending out further guidance to students and staff in the near future.

As we work through the complexities that this COVID-19 Coronavirus Pandemic presents, we want to thank our students, staff and families for your patience, support, and partnership in support of the health and safety of our learning community. We know this has impacted everyone and together we will get through this. Stay Strong! I also encourage our parents/guardians to support your student with this Distance Learning Model and communicate closely with your Principals and Teachers. **Thank You!**

Respectfully,

Roy Herrera
Superintendent
Santa Fe Indian School



SANTA FE INDIAN SCHOOL
Safe Return to School Plan: SY2020-21

SFIS Distance Learning Model Off Campus Start date: 8/24/20	SFIS Blended Learning Model Start date: TBD
If necessary, move back and forth: Distance Learning Model; Blended Learning Model	
I. Students are off campus II. All students have Chromebooks III. Students download/upload assignments (at home or at community Internet hotspots) IV. Students work offline at home V. Students have regular access to teachers and Student Living staff	I. Only 25-50% of students on campus one or two days per week II. Students continue Distance Learning at home on days that they are not on campus III. Social distancing, sanitizing, and safety measures in place IV. Students in one classroom and teachers rotate; lunch brought to students
VI. Dormitories closed VII. Student Living staff work with teachers to support Distance Learning Model	V. Dormitories may open with single rooms only for 7-day students who live 60+ miles from SFIS VI. Transportation (social distancing, sanitizing, safety, and screening measures in place)
VIII. Counseling through Telehealth	VII. Counseling through Telehealth or in-person during lunch or after school when students are on campus
Distance Learning or Blended Learning I. Include the same high quality teaching and learning expectations – including accessibility for all students II. All SFIS staff have roles to support students in academics, social-emotional wellbeing, and health and safety III. Staff receive training, prepare for students’ safe return, work on long-term curricular planning, develop new initiatives (like an on-campus garden for cafeteria use in the future)	
Safe Return to School Process I. SFIS has outlined four phases that move from Distance Learning to Blended Learning and further expansion and eventually to full re-opening. Monthly reviews occur with exact dates shared two weeks before a change . II. Decisions are based on analysis of: a. Tribal, state, and federal guidelines b. LANL’s predictive spread modeling and mitigation recommendations for our unique student population c. Capacity for testing, contact tracing, and medical care d. Tribal Leadership, Board of Trustees, and Parent feedback and input III. Once students are on-campus, Distance Learning could be triggered by data or positive cases	



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.