



# SUPERINTENDENT'S Brief



SUPERINTENDENT ANIBAL SOLER, JR.

WEEK ENDING AUGUST 13, 2021 | VOLUME 1 ISSUE NO. 5

## SUPERINTENDENT'S NOTE: We look forward to welcoming you back in-person on September 9

At the August 18 Board of Education Meeting, I presented our district's plan for reopening our schools safely for in-person learning. We are excited to welcome everyone back and look forward to seeing you in person.

### What you need to know

All students will attend school in-person except for those who are approved to attend virtual school *due to medical reasons*. If you requested this option, your child's principal will contact you regarding the required medical documentation and more details.

All of our schools will be open for in-person learning with health and safety protocols in place. Classes, configurations, programs, and services will return to how they were prior to the pandemic. Transportation will be provided to those who are eligible. Breakfast and lunch will be provided in school to all students.

**The health and safety of our students and staff is a top priority.** Our district will follow the guidance provided by the health experts, including the Center for Disease Control (CDC), American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), Schenectady County Public Health (SCPH) as well as New York State Education Department (NYSED). Our strategies are a tiered approach informed by the guidance provided by these agencies as well as the local [rate of infection, as provided by the CDC](#).

### Protocols include the following:

- Mask-wearing is required of students, staff, and any visitors inside any district school.
- 3-feet social distancing will be implemented whenever possible.
- Rigorous hygiene and hand-washing protocols are required.
- Modified cafeteria plans are in place for breakfast and lunch.
- Students will have assigned seats in classrooms, cafeterias and on school buses.
- Mask-wearing is required on all school buses and public transportation.
- Whenever there is a positive case, contact-tracing will be conducted, and all directives of Schenectady County Public Health will be followed.
- Pooled testing and screening will take place when necessary.

Here are two documents that outline and summarize our COVID protocols to start the school year. These will be implemented beginning the first day of school.

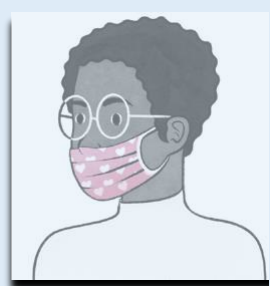
### PROTOCOL CHART

Schenectady City School District Mitigation Protocols				
Mitigation Protocol	Low Community Transmission	Moderate Community Transmission	Substantial Community Transmission	High Community Transmission
1 COVID-19 Visitation	Encouraged	Encouraged	Encouraged	Encouraged
2 COVID-19 Testing	No Surveillance Testing	Surveillance Testing at 10% per week	Surveillance Testing at 20% per week	Surveillance Testing at 30% per week
3 Face Masks (Persons)	Encouraged to all when 3 feet distancing cannot be met	Recommended to all when 3 feet distancing cannot be met	Required by all at all times	Required by all at all times
4 Monitoring Community and School-Based Transmission	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing
5 Social Distancing (Persons)	3 feet distancing encouraged	3 feet distancing required when 3 feet distancing cannot be met	3 feet distancing or other barrier required when 3 feet distancing cannot be met	3 feet distancing and other barrier required
6 School Visitors	No Restrictions	Minimal Restrictions	Moderate Restrictions	Strict Restrictions
7 Handwashing, Hand Sanitizer, and Respiratory Etiquette	Encouraged and Expected	Encouraged and Expected	Strongly Encouraged and Expected	Strongly Encouraged and Expected
8 Contact Tracing and Quarantine	3-4 feet close contact (average for more than 10 minutes)	3-4 feet close contact (average for more than 10 minutes)	3-4 feet close contact (average for more than 10 minutes)	3-4 feet close contact (average for more than 10 minutes)
District shall engage in contact tracing with DOE and follow	For Fully	For Fully	For Fully	For Fully

### SUMMARY OF PROTOCOLS

Readers in the Schenectady City School District will return to in-person learning for the 2021-2022 school year. Visit our website or visit here to learn about COVID-19 related mitigation protocols to begin the 2021-2022 school year. The following is based upon guidelines and recommendations provided by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), New York State Department of Health and the New York State Education Department (NYSED).

- MASKS**
  - Masks are required to be worn by all individuals inside any in-person gathering or meeting.
  - Masks must be pulled over the nose and under the chin.
  - Masks should be changed or replaced when they become wet, soiled, or damaged.
  - Masks should be stored in a clean, dry container.
  - Masks are not required outdoors.
  - Individuals wearing masks should wear a mask in crowded indoor settings or when 3 feet social distancing is not possible.
  - Face shields or other face coverings are not required.
- CLEANING & SANITIZING**
  - Checklist of cleaning and sanitizing measures. The district will provide a checklist of cleaning and sanitizing measures to all schools.
  - Hand sanitizer and soap are available in all schools.
  - Behavioral issues and items will be cleaned and sanitized.
  - High-touch surfaces will be cleaned and sanitized.
  - Disinfectants will be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- SOCIAL DISTANCING**
  - Individuals should maintain a minimum of 3 feet of distance between themselves and others.
  - Individuals should avoid large group gatherings.
  - Individuals should avoid close contact with others.
  - Individuals should avoid sharing personal items.
  - Individuals should avoid handshakes.
  - Individuals should avoid hugging.
  - Individuals should avoid kissing.
  - Individuals should avoid sitting on the same surface.
  - Individuals should avoid sitting on the same chair.
  - Individuals should avoid sitting on the same bench.
  - Individuals should avoid sitting on the same table.
  - Individuals should avoid sitting on the same desk.
  - Individuals should avoid sitting on the same floor.
  - Individuals should avoid sitting on the same wall.
  - Individuals should avoid sitting on the same ceiling.
  - Individuals should avoid sitting on the same ground.
  - Individuals should avoid sitting on the same air.
  - Individuals should avoid sitting on the same water.
  - Individuals should avoid sitting on the same fire.
  - Individuals should avoid sitting on the same earth.
  - Individuals should avoid sitting on the same sky.
  - Individuals should avoid sitting on the same sun.
  - Individuals should avoid sitting on the same moon.
  - Individuals should avoid sitting on the same stars.
  - Individuals should avoid sitting on the same planets.
  - Individuals should avoid sitting on the same galaxies.
  - Individuals should avoid sitting on the same universe.
- SPORTS & ACTIVITIES**
  - Masks and required to be worn by athletes and staff.
  - Individuals should maintain a minimum of 3 feet of distance between themselves and others.
  - Individuals should avoid large group gatherings.
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- TRANSPORTATION**
  - Masks must be worn when on buses for any use on the bus.
  - Individuals should maintain a minimum of 3 feet of distance between themselves and others.
  - Individuals should avoid large group gatherings.
  - Individuals should avoid close contact with others.
  - Individuals should avoid sharing personal items.
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- COMMUNICATION**
  - All communication and all updates will be posted on the district website.
  - Parents will be notified via email and text.
  - Parents will be notified via phone.
  - Parents will be notified via social media.
  - Parents will be notified via community meetings.
  - Parents will be notified via town hall meetings.
  - Parents will be notified via focus groups.
  - Parents will be notified via surveys.
  - Parents will be notified via polls.
  - Parents will be notified via quizzes.
  - Parents will be notified via games.
  - Parents will be notified via contests.
  - Parents will be notified via prizes.
  - Parents will be notified via rewards.
  - Parents will be notified via incentives.
  - Parents will be notified via motivators.
  - Parents will be notified via encouragers.
  - Parents will be notified via supporters.
  - Parents will be notified via cheerleaders.
  - Parents will be notified via fans.
  - Parents will be notified via followers.
  - Parents will be notified via subscribers.
  - Parents will be notified via members.
  - Parents will be notified via partners.
  - Parents will be notified via affiliates.
  - Parents will be notified via associates.
  - Parents will be notified via collaborators.
  - Parents will be notified via contributors.
  - Parents will be notified via creators.
  - Parents will be notified via producers.
  - Parents will be notified via designers.
  - Parents will be notified via developers.
  - Parents will be notified via testers.
  - Parents will be notified via users.
  - Parents will be notified via customers.
  - Parents will be notified via clients.
  - Parents will be notified via partners.
  - Parents will be notified via affiliates.
  - Parents will be notified via associates.
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  - Parents will be notified via contributors.
  - Parents will be notified via creators.
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  - Parents will be notified via designers.
  - Parents will be notified via developers.
  - Parents will be notified via testers.
  - Parents will be notified via users.
  - Parents will be notified via customers.
  - Parents will be notified via clients.



CLICK ON LINK ABOVE DOCUMENT TO OPEN



We are in the process of scheduling a virtual Town Hall or live social media event to discuss reopening and so that I can answer your questions. Details will be emailed to staff and families and posted on our website and social media pages. Please watch for that information.

You will be receiving a letter from me with any important information regarding the start of school very soon. You will also be receiving back-to-school information specific to your child from your child's teacher and school. If you have questions, [click here](#) and select your child's school from the list. Your question will be directed to the appropriate person.

If your child is transported by bus, you will receive the transportation schedule and bus stop location in the mail prior to the start of school.

I understand you may anxious or concerned with the return to in-person schooling just around the corner. Please be patient. We will be sure that you have the information that you need for the start of the school year.

Again, please know that we are putting the health and safety protocols into place to ensure that our schools are a safe place to learn and work.

Keep in mind that our plans are subject to change depending on the circumstances with COVID-19 and the guidance provided by the health experts and New York State. Be sure that your school has the correct contact information on file, including email address, so that we can quickly communicate with you when there are updates and changes. Updates and information will also be posted on our [district website](#).

**Only 20 days until the first day of school!**

I hope you are as excited as we are. I look forward to seeing you soon,

Anibal Soler, Jr.  
Superintendent

**#SchenectadyRising**

## SHOUT OUT!

Thank you to Katy Perry (Mobile Fabrication Lab Coordinator and STEAM Coach), Dave Preston (Cohort Principal Class of 2024) and Shaquala Taylor (Schenectady High School Student) for making our district shine when they presented at the International Digital Fabrication Conference "Fab 16." Their presentation, "Stories Told Thru Making," highlighted the social emotional and culturally responsive aspects of making and makerspaces. Ms. Perry and Mr. Preston shared projects that Schenectady students engaged in and Shaquala spoke about the stories she told through "making," including complete an ELA project in makerspace about Trans Right.

## Building Our Team

On Wednesday, August 18, the board of education approved five administrative appointments as follows.



**LYNNE RUTNIK**  
DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT

**CARLOS M. COTTO JR., ED.D,**  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF INNOVATION, EQUITY AND ENGAGEMENT

**SHAUN M. MASON, ED.D.**  
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF PLANNING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

**ANDREA TOTE-FREEMAN**  
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

**JOSEPH R. DICAPRIO**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Click [here](#) to read the announcement and profiles.



## IN THE NEWS



**Spectrum News**  
[Reopening tops priority list for new Schenectady superintendent](#)  
August 16, 2021

Daily Gazette: [Schenectady City School District appoints 5 new administrators](#), August 19, 2021

Daily Gazette: [Oneida School student anti-racism club needs help to win grant](#), August 18, 2021

Times Union: [Schenectady middle school antiracism club in line to win \\$25,000](#), August 17, 2021



## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Superintendent Soler met with Police Chief Eric Clifford and Commissioner Eugene Devine for the first time this week to talk about a positive partnership between the Schenectady Police and the school district.



## Oneida's OSAR Program in Running for \$25,000 Grant

**YOU CAN HELP**

Oneida Students for Anti-Racism (OSAR) is in the running for a \$25,000 grant from State Farm Neighborhood Assistance. You can very easily help our students win by casting your vote for them. Learn more about the program and how the money would be used to create additional experiences for the students by [clicking here](#). Voting is open through August 27. You can vote up to 10 times each day...and with one swift click.



Earlier this week Superintendent Soler met with members of the SCSD Educational Foundation Board of Directors to learn about the important work that they do and to strengthen our partnership. Did you know that they have awarded more than \$130,000 in grant funding to Schenectady teachers for unique projects and opportunities? The grants are made possible because of the generosity of donors. To learn more about the SCSD Educational Foundation or to make a donation, [visit the website](#).



LEFT TO RIGHT: JIM MASI, AGNES PHILLIPS, ANIBAL SOLER, GORDON ZUCKERMAN, BILL SCHULTZ



Superintendent Soler met with Shane Bargy, executive director of the Boys & Girls Club of Schenectady, an important partner of the district.



Superintendent Soler made a visit to Steinmetz Career & Leadership Academy this week. Left with Mr. Soler: Bill Pickett, Assistant Principal and Gregory Fields, House Principal.



WOODLAWN KNOWS HOW TO WELCOME THE SUPERINTENDENT