Executive Summary

Virtual Learning Options for 2020-2021

STRATEGIC GOAL 1: TO ENSURE ALL STUDENTS ARE COLLEGE AND CAREER READY

Due to the increasing number of events, including but not limited to natural disasters, inclement weather, and other emergencies that result in school closures, it has become necessary for school districts to create a robust virtual learning model of instruction. Doing so allows districts to overcome setbacks in student learning associated with school outages when in-person instruction is lost. Having an online learning platform is a critical success factor necessary to provide structured academic learning opportunities for students during periods of school closure and beyond.

The Savannah-Chatham County Public School System has a virtual learning plan that addresses various scenarios where a shift from the traditional brick and mortar learning environment to a remote learning environment is needed. The virtual learning plan is adaptable to address any scenario that requires distance learning. This shift may fluctuate depending on the scenario-based need. The virtual learning plan requires SCCPSS teachers to use the district learning management system wherein they would house lessons and provide instruction to students, while also using various technology tools for enhanced virtual communication (i.e. Google Classroom, ZOOM, Goggle Chat, etc.) for a given period.

In addition, the Savannah-Chatham E-Learning Academy (SCELA) is a stand-alone school that uses an online instructional model as its major approach; thereby providing families with flexibility and choice regarding their learning experiences. The curriculum is provided through a state aligned, high-quality online learning platform and supported by certified teachers who also provide direct instruction. SCELA is a competency-based program in which students can demonstrate mastery of the content as they become proficient.

<u>**SCELA Key Points:**</u>

- The Savannah-Chatham E-Learning Academy serves grades 3 – 12.
- The enrollment capacity for year one will be 900 (300 per grade span 3-5; 6-8; and 9-12) with room for growth.
- Online registration will open for the Savannah-Chatham E-learning Academy beginning July 1, 2020. A website is under design and an informational campaign is forthcoming.
- Days of operation will align with the adopted school year calendar.
- School hours of operation will be 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
  - Students will participate in learning activities in accordance with the adopted school year calendar. The number of hours per day planned for instruction/online teaching and learning, and for completing class assignments and activities are (listed by grade span):
    - 3rd through 5th grades: 4 - 4.5 hours per day
    - 6th through 8th grades: 4.5 - 5 hours per day
    - 9th through 12th grade: 5 - 5.5 hours per day
- School Staff: Principal, E-Learning Specialist, Information Specialist, Teachers, and School Counselor.

- Direct instruction is provided by teachers as well as through a digital content program aligned to the Georgia Standards of Excellence.
- Services will be provided for students identified as needing support in the following areas: Individualized Education Program (IEP), Remedial Education Program (REP), Early Intervention Program (EIP), English Language Learners (ELL), and gifted.
- Students will have courses in the four core content areas as well as options for Advanced Placement, Dual Enrollment, World Languages, CTAE, and specials/electives.
- Instruction is offered online, with identified days for face-to-face lab participation if needed.
- All teachers are fully certified and credentialed in their respective grade spans/subject areas.
- Students in grades 3 – 12 must have a responsible adult who serves as the point of contact for the classroom teacher(s).
- Chromebook/Laptop devices are provided to students when they enroll. Internet service is the responsibility of the parent.
- Students in grades 6 – 8 will be eligible to participate in Esports. Students in grades 9 – 12 will be eligible to participate in Esports as well as on District Teams (golf, swimming, tennis).

While not the chosen modality of learning for our students in grades K – 2, virtual learning opportunities are under development should conditions dictate the need to provide continuity of learning for our youngest population.

Fiscal Impact:

The objective is to use available resources, including human resources, to staff the school.

Chromebooks to be issued to enrollees will be included in the current allotment, thus are not considered an additional cost.

There will be a cost associated with the purchase of a learning management system for use in the Academy and across the district. This cost cannot be totally attributed to the SCELA as it will be used districtwide. The purchasing process for this system is currently underway.

Supplies/Materials for labs and other hands-on instructional activities must be purchased per course/subject requirements.

More information on Savannah-Chatham E-Learning Academy (SCELA) will be made available as details are finalized.