

Dear Parents,

We know that many of you have had questions regarding the upcoming school year and how the district's plans will affect SCORE and the students directly. We hope that this letter will help to clarify some of the concerns you may have. This letter also contains postponed spring announcements due to school building closures.

The Salt Lake City School Board has approved a remote only schedule starting Tuesday, September 8 until Friday, October 30 or until the transmission rate in Salt Lake County declines to a safe level. After which time the district will move to a hybrid model, with students only coming once or twice a week for in person lessons and the rest would be remote learning. The hope is that we will eventually return to our daily functions prior to the school building closure in March. We realize that each student and family will have different views and concerns about when they feel it is safe to return in person and what our protocols should be when that happens. In the following paragraphs, we will provide you with a general idea of what the remote, hybrid and regular learning schedules will look like.

New Location

We are excited to inform you that SCORE has found a new home within the district. We will now be located at Bennion Elementary at 429 South 800 East. We will be moving into our new location sometime this month and it will be equipped with all the facilities we had before, plus some additional space and features. Once we move to in-person services during the hybrid schedule, they will take place at this new location. Students will register with Bennion and registration is currently open online at <https://registration.slcschools.org>. If you need help with registration please contact us and we can set up an appointment to help you.

Remote Learning

The school building closures last spring suddenly disrupted our regular routines. We learned some things that work, some things that do not work, and other things that we have yet to figure out. However, we hope that this time we will be able to maintain a consistent schedule.

Our first goal will be to ensure every student has access to internet, an electronic device (computer, laptop, iPad, or tablet), and is familiar with Canvas and Zoom. If you are in need of any of these items, please let us know so we can help find those resources for you. We realize that parents are essential in this process and we will provide training for you and your student prior to September 8th. Part of this process will be to ensure we have your correct contact information (address, phone number, email).

Individual student schedules will look different. Some students will receive instruction multiple times a day, once a day or only a few times a week. We want to develop with each family and student a schedule that will be best for them. Again, though each student's individual services will look different we would like to develop a schedule that is consistent each week. Because many of the students had IEP goals pertaining to riding public transit or working at businesses, we may be conducting IEP meetings to adjust some of the goals that might change due to our current virtual teaching format.

Students will receive instruction from a teacher or one of the job coaches/assistants that work with SCORE. The staff that will be working with your student will be more consistent than it was in the spring. If a staff member is unable to teach on their designated day for any reason, we will seek to find someone to cover that lesson and notify you promptly of any changes prior to the scheduled lessons. We ask that you notify your student's main teacher (Ben or Carrie) if you are unable to make a daily class.

Hybrid Schedule

The District has proposed different models for elementary, middle school and high school. For SCORE, we will be following a schedule similar to the middle schools that will provide two in-person days and three remote learning days. We will divide students into two groups, A and B, so that the in-person classes are smaller. Groups will be determined later and we will survey parent input. We feel this will be better for our students and provides more in-person time than the high schools that receive only one day of in-person services.

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
In-Person	A Group	B Group	Virtual/Individual Small Groups IEP Meetings Teacher Prep	A Group	B Group
Virtual	B Group	A Group		B Group	A Group

The District has designated Wednesdays for the entire district to provide individual support to specific students or to bring small groups in to target specific skills. This will also be our day to conduct IEP meetings, connect families with adult agencies, drop off any resources to homes, and for teacher training and prep.

SCORE is designed to be a community-based program, but because of the current potential health risks we face, we will be scaling back our community access opportunities. It will be a gradual return to what we did formally, such as, riding public transit, entering businesses, eating in public spaces, etc. We will not be returning to these activities until we receive guidance from district and health officials that it is safe to do so. If at any time you feel uncomfortable with your student being in a certain situation, please notify us so we can make adjustments.

SCORE staff will follow the same safety precautions as the rest of the district, namely, wearing facemasks and/or face shields, gloves, temperature checks, social distancing, and staying home when experiencing symptoms or awaiting COVID-19 test results. We will ask students to follow similar safety measures, but understand not all students will be able to follow some of the measures, such as, those who have an aversion to wearing facemasks or performing tasks where social distancing is impossible. Please notify us if any of the safety measures we implement will be challenging for you or your student. The classrooms and high contact surfaces will be cleaned and sanitized daily.

Transportation will be provided to those who choose to use their services. Bus drivers and attendants will be required to follow similar safety measures as school staff. If you choose to drive your student to school, we ask that you notify us upon your arrival and we will come outside to meet you. We ask all parents or guardians not to enter the building without notifying us prior. We will be stricter about visitors into our class.

Regular Schedule

We will return to our regular schedules when the district and health officials are confident that we can return to our regular school schedules safely. However, the SCORE schedule will be different once we are able to do so. The change in schedule was going to be announced in spring, but we delayed it after the school building closure due to the uncertainty of when we would be returning. The following paragraphs are from that letter and we are giving it to you now, even though we are uncertain when we will be able to implement it.

Change in Schedule

We have an upcoming change to our schedule that we are excited to share with you that has been in development over the past year. We believe these changes will directly benefit the success of your student. We created SCORE because there was not an adequate program that helped to transition students and families successfully from school services to adult services. When students exited the school system after receiving hours of services from multiple providers, not to mention meals and care, for the majority of the day, families discovered their lives feeling empty and students had nothing to do. It was a dramatic change in schedules and routines, something that can be very difficult for our students. Many of you experienced this first hand when schools closed in March and we had to shift to remote services almost overnight. This is the type of “dramatic change” we hope to avoid.

With student success in mind, next year SCORE will follow a Monday through Thursday 9:00am - 2:00pm schedule. We acknowledge that this change may seem difficult, sad or even frustrating to some of you, but we want to let you know how we came about to this decision. When this program began, we traveled to multiple transition schools in Utah, as well as to Seattle, Washington, a leading state for transition services, to learn and understand what makes a successful transition program. We learned a great deal of what was valuable for students and parents and what leads to successful outcomes. One common factor was a day dedicated to focus on staff training, individual student plans (IEP meetings), business and work site development, and one on one training with families and students.

We even had the opportunity to meet with parents in some of these programs. Though there was hesitation at first, families reported that it helped them better prepare for their student’s future. They used this day to develop routines and find services that would replace the time they used to be in school. When these students exited the school system, it was a smoother transition because they were already participating in employment opportunities, day programs, community education, and leisure activities. This allowed for a new schedule to be gradually introduced, rather than a sudden change in routine.

Our goal at SCORE is to ensure that all students have a plan for what life will be like when they exit the school system at the age of 22. That plan may include employment, respite care, independent living, community education, social networks, access to leisure and anything else that adds value to the student’s life. You are part of that plan and we want to improve how we help individual families with the transition as well. To do this, we are not simply eliminating a workday, but rather creating a day focused more on families and students. The following is a list of activities that will occur on Fridays.

- IEP meetings

- Home visits
- Assist families with applying for adult services (DSPD, VR, SSI, DWS)
- Administer transition assessments
- Collaborate with businesses and community partners
- Develop additional worksites
- Provide one on one employment, transportation or independent living skills to students
- Hold employment meetings with families and community agencies
- Staff trainings

If you are wondering what about all the leisure activities we did on Fridays, we will be incorporating those throughout the Monday through Thursday schedule. It is our objective that with this new schedule, we can better prepare our students and families for what adult life will be like after they exit special education and school services. We are excited to work more collaboratively and individually with each of you this coming year. We hope that you see the benefits in choosing this schedule for you and your students. Please feel free to reach out to us with questions.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
SCORE 9:00am-2:00pm	SCORE 9:00am-2:00pm	SCORE 9:00am-2:00pm	SCORE 9:00am-2:00pm	IEP Meetings Home Visits 1:1 Lessons Teacher Prep

Sincerely,

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No district employee or student shall be subjected to discrimination in employment or any district program or activity on the basis of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, genetic information, national origin, pregnancy, race, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status. The district is committed to providing equal access and equal opportunity in its programs, services and employment including its policies, complaint processes, program accessibility, district facility use, accommodations and other Equal Employment Opportunity matters. The district also provides equal access to district facilities for all youth groups listed in Title 36 of the United States Code, including scouting groups. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries and complaints regarding unlawful discrimination, harassment, and retaliation: Tina Hatch, Compliance and Investigations, 440 East 100 South, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111, (801) 578-8388. You may also contact the Office for Civil Rights, Denver, CO, (303) 844-5695.