

Monarch School

What we know and what comes next

Update for families on temporary operations, environmental findings, remediation, and return-to-campus safeguards



Our priorities throughout this disruption

Our decisions are guided by three commitments.

1

Protect health and safety

Use qualified environmental professionals, complete corrective work, and independently verify results before reoccupancy.

2

Maintain educational continuity

Keep students learning and families supported through temporary operations.

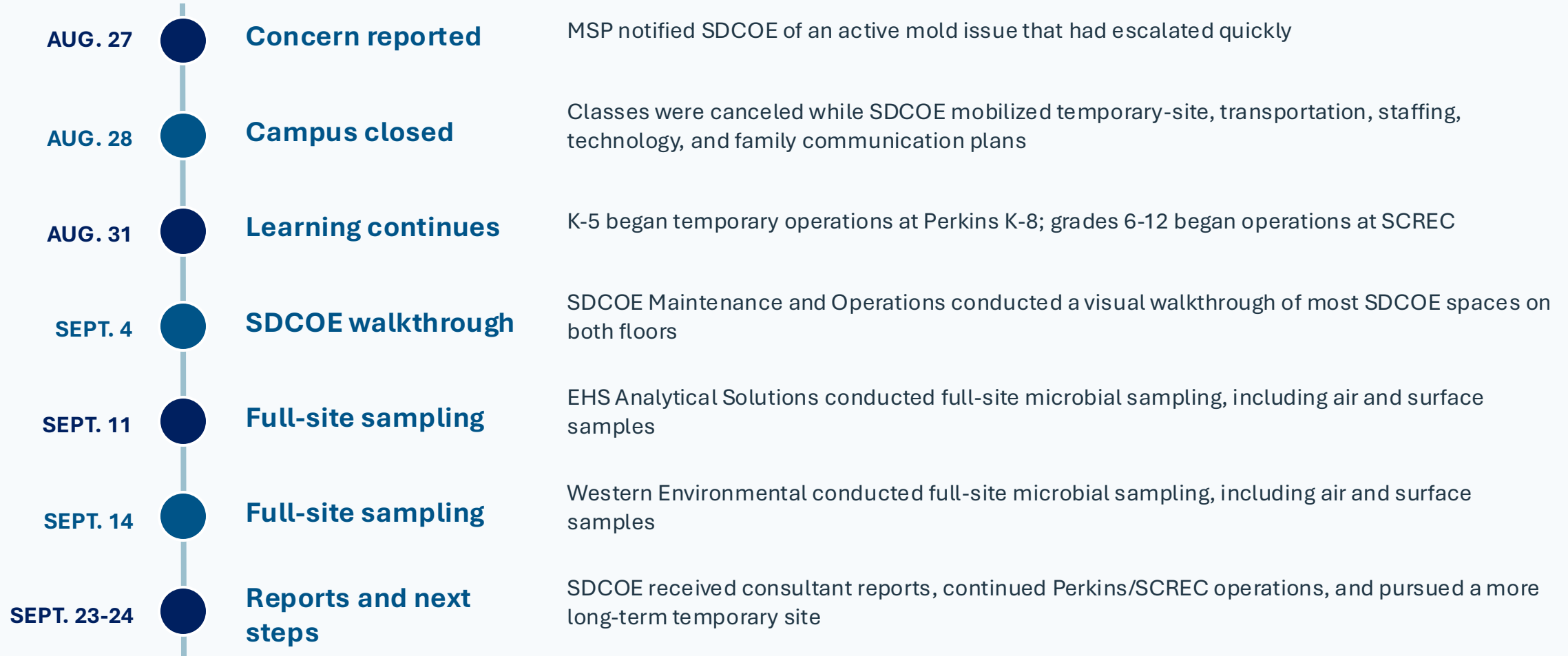
3

Communicate transparently

Continue bilingual, multi-channel updates and share testing results with families and staff.

Key milestones: Aug. 27 to present

From initial notification and campus closure to temporary operations, independent testing, and planning for a stable next location.



Present status: temporary operations remain in place while SDCOE advances facility planning, remediation oversight, and verification requirements.

How the building surveys were conducted

1

Visual observations

Consultants inspected building conditions and noted visible or suspected growth, moisture impacts, condensation, and affected materials.

2

Indoor air sampling

Indoor air samples were collected in essentially every room to evaluate indoor air conditions and identify any patterns or areas for further review.

3

Outdoor comparison samples

Outdoor air samples were collected to provide a reference point for comparison with indoor samples and to help evaluate overall indoor conditions.

4

Targeted surface sampling

Surface samples, including tape lift samples, were collected from selected locations where observed conditions warranted further evaluation.

The initial surveys were non-intrusive: They did not open ceiling spaces or inspect inside HVAC ductwork.

What the environmental surveys found



● Sampling results

Sampling conducted on Sept. 11 and Sept. 14 identified multiple mold types, with elevated spore counts observed in several interior areas.

● Moisture and HVAC conditions require attention

Both consultants observed high humidity, condensation, and staining of ceiling tiles around supply vents. These observations strongly suggest that HVAC conditions are most likely a contributing factor and require further evaluation.

● More investigation is needed

The surveys did not include inspection of the interior of ductwork, areas above ceilings, or destructive testing of inaccessible or concealed areas. Additional investigation of these areas may be warranted to further evaluate conditions not visible during the initial surveys.

What was found across the building

The surveys found variation by room, along with enough building-wide evidence to support a broad response.



Confirmed or suspected impacts

Mold growth, elevated indicators, or moisture-related conditions were identified in multiple areas throughout the building.



Room-to-room variation

Some rooms showed elevated indicators or visible growth; other sampled rooms had low or non-detectable spore levels at the time of testing.



Consultants' overall conclusions

EHS concluded that fungal amplification was present. Western recommended treating the building as broadly affected by airborne spores and active growth.



Building-wide response

Western recommended building-wide remediation and cleaning rather than limiting work only to rooms with elevated readings.

What this means for health and safety

Mold exposure affects people differently, and the presence of mold does not mean everyone will experience health effects.

**Eye, nose, or throat
irritation**

Coughing or wheezing

Headaches

**Worsening asthma or
allergies**

If you believe your child is experiencing symptoms:

Families who have concerns about their child's health or who believe their child may be experiencing symptoms should consult a healthcare provider.

For support in accessing medical care, please contact your Monarch School counselor or Principal Baeza.

What remediation and verification will involve

Correct the source, remove or clean affected materials, then verify that the work was effective.

1

Investigate

Evaluate HVAC, moisture sources, concealed spaces, and the full scope of affected materials.

2

Correct

Address water intrusion, condensation, humidity levels, HVAC issues, and other contributing conditions.

3

Remediate

Contract with a professional company to remove damaged materials; clean and sanitize rooms, contents, vents, grilles, ductwork, filters, and other affected surfaces.

4

Verify

Conduct post-remediation sampling through qualified environmental professionals before reoccupancy.

If testing shows more work is needed, we will address those issues before students and staff return to the building.

Cleaning and handling classroom items

Qualified remediation professionals will assess classroom contents and determine what can be cleaned and what must be removed.

1

Assess each item

Books, furniture, classroom materials, and personal belongings will be evaluated based on their condition and the remediation plan.

2

Clean when possible

Items that can be effectively cleaned will be handled according to the recommendations of qualified remediation professionals.

3

Remove when needed

Materials with visible or suspected mold growth will be cleaned, removed, or otherwise addressed. Items that cannot be effectively cleaned may need to be discarded.

4

Give staff clear guidance

Staff will receive direction after the remediation contractor determines which classroom and personal items can be saved and which should be removed.

Temporary operations and the path forward



Stability now, careful preparation for the next site, and no return before remediation is verified.

Now

K-5 at Perkins K-8; grades 6-12 at SCREC for at least two more weeks.

Next

SDCOE is working to lease the Central Elementary campus in Imperial Beach for the full K-12 student body. We expect to move in the next two to three weeks.

Transportation

We anticipate offering bus transportation for all students from the Newton Ave. campus to Central Elementary.

Stability

The plan is to remain at Central Elementary through winter break, regardless of remediation progress.

Return

The Monarch campus will reopen only after corrective work and qualified post-remediation verification confirm acceptable conditions.

What students can expect at the new campus

A new location with familiar teachers, classmates, services, and support.

1

Familiar people

- Same teachers
- Same classmates

2

Continued support

- Counseling and mental health services
- Special education services and IEP meetings

3

Daily essentials

- Breakfast and lunch
- Age-appropriate classrooms and supplies

4

Activities and connection

- Expanded learning
- Extracurricular activities and athletics
- Family events

Transportation

We recognize that every family's circumstances are different.

What is planned

- Transportation for all K-12 students from the Newton Ave. campus to Central Elementary
- Transportation for extracurricular activities and events

How we will support families

- Routes and pickup times will be shared when confirmed
- Families may bring students directly to Central if that works better
- Staff will work directly with families to understand individual transportation needs
- Support for late arrivals is being developed

Our team will work directly with families to understand their transportation needs and develop plans that support consistent access to school.

Staying informed and connected

Transparent communication helps ensure that families can rely on verified information rather than rumors or incomplete information.

1

Text messages

2

Email updates

3

Family meetings

4

Online FAQs



Questions or concerns?

- Contact the Monarch School team
- Attend upcoming family events
- Review the latest FAQs on the SDCOE website

Frequently Asked Questions

Find answers to questions you might have regarding the testing and next steps under these topics:

**Temporary
Operations and
School Facilities**

**Student Health
and Safety**

**Educational
Program and
Student Services**

**Scope of the
Problem**

**HVAC and Building
Conditions**

Remediation

**Accountability and
Prevention**

Review them all
on the SDCOE
website at
[sdcoe.net/Monarch-
Updates](https://sdcoe.net/Monarch-Updates)



Questions?

We welcome your questions and will continue sharing updates as more information becomes available.



?

Ask your questions today

Please share your questions in the chat so we can address what we know and identify where follow-up is needed.



FAQ

Find answers on the SDCOE website

Get the latest posted FAQs and related information.

www.sdcoe.net/Monarch-Updates