



South Park School District  
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## South Park School District

December 8, 2020

South Park Elementary Center Families:

When we updated you last week on the operational status at South Park Elementary Center, we emphasized that the district reviews its instructional model decision on a day-to-day basis. Since our last update, the district has seen significant changes ***which could impact*** its operational decision at the elementary center in the coming days or weeks. While we continue to prioritize in-person learning, especially for our youngest learners, these and several other factors ***could force*** the district to transition the elementary center from its hybrid model. **At this time, there is no change being made at the elementary center.**

While the number of active cases at the elementary center is currently below the threshold for closure set by the Pennsylvania Departments of Education and Health, the Allegheny County Health Department reports a nearly 23% increase in COVID-19 cases in the township over the past week and a positivity rate over the last seven days of nearly 48%. The most recent incidence rate per 100,000 residents in Allegheny County is 339.6, and the PCR percent positivity rate in the county is 12.6%, according to the state's [COVID-19 Early Warning Dashboard](#). As you can see, Allegheny County remains at the substantial level of community transmission, and these key metrics continue to move in the wrong direction.

Additionally, the district faces critically low levels of staffing at the elementary center due to staff members isolating after positive COVID-19 tests, quarantining after exposures to cases outside the district, and sick leave and family leave. While we have been able to creatively cover the staffing vacancies so far this week, we are nearing the point where we cannot operate the building efficiently and effectively.

***While we are not making a change to our instructional model at South Park Elementary Center at this time, we are sharing this information with families to encourage them, once again, to have contingency plans in place should the district need to quickly move the elementary center to a remote instructional model. This temporary transition could occur at any time.***

We understand the hardships a change to our operational model causes for our families. We continue to ask for your understanding as the district works through the challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Should a change at the elementary center need to occur, families will be notified as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Wayne P. Gdovic  
Superintendent of Schools  
South Park School District