



Students Rise. We All Rise.

Partner Engagement during Second Semester Updated 2/7/21

Detroit Public Schools Community District students are fortunate to be supported by many partner organizations. As the district prepares to reopen the Learning Centers there are many questions about how these valued partners can continue to provide their services while keeping students and staff safe and healthy as we work diligently to create "COVID-preventative" environments. Minimizing the number of visitors in school buildings is a key part of our response to the pandemic. Below are answers to the most common questions that the district has received from principals and partners.

Can partners still work with students this year?

Absolutely! We are tremendously grateful for everything our partners do to enrich students' lives, and we do not want learners to be deprived of the wonderful opportunities and experiences that partners provide for them. That said, we are committed to continuing partner services only in a safe and responsible way.

Will partners be allowed in school buildings?

With principal support, certain partners will be allowed to operate face-to-face (F2F) provided that they adhere to the district's strict COVID-19 policies

and protocols. This means submitting a detailed reopening plan for approval by the Office of Partnerships and ensuring that all affiliates visiting schools follow the same rules as district staff members (i.e., verifying a negative COVID-19 viral test result from February 2021 or later, completing a daily symptom and temperature check, wearing a mask at all times within the building, etc.).

Can partners be approved for F2F engagement in schools during the 2nd semester, once the Learning Centers reopen?

Yes. Any partner that was approved for F2F engagement in the Fall may return to the school starting the week of February 22, provided the principal approves and the partner adheres to their plans submitted, including the submission of a negative COVID test from February 2021 or later. If a partner that was not approved this fall believes that its physical presence in a particular school is essential, it should reach out to the school's principal to discuss the approval process.

What options exist for partners that will not be able to engage F2F?

Many of our partners have been working on innovative plans to deliver their programming online. If a partner is planning to connect with students in a physical classroom and under the direct supervision of a DPSCD staff member, no additional arrangements are needed outside of the existing memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the partner and the district. For example, someone from a partner organization video-calling into a live classroom environment during a lesson would be treated as a virtual guest speaker for the class.

If a partner wishes to engage directly with students through an online platform outside of the direct supervision of DPSCD staff (e.g., providing tutoring support for learners whose families selected the virtual school option for the year) they will need specific permission from the principal. Once that permission has been obtained (per the instructions sent directly

to principals), the partner will be invited to sign a simple amendment that provides for virtual programming. The organization will then need to have its program staff complete LiveScan background checks (\$64.50/person) and provide the District with signed parent/guardian consent forms for online engagement. Any virtual amendments executed in the First Semester are still valid for Second Semester.

Are partners operating F2F allowed to conduct virtual services as well?

Not necessarily. The processes for F2F and virtual engagement are completely separate. If a partner wishes to operate both F2F and virtually, they will need to complete both processes. **Please note that principal approval is the first, but not the only, step for both.**

What if I have other questions?

Please feel free to email the Partnerships Office at dpscd.partnerships@detroitk12.org.