



Students Rise. We All Rise.

How do partner organizations fit into the district's reopening plan?



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Detroit Public Schools Community District students are fortunate to be supported by many partner organizations. As the district prepares to reopen this fall, 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, 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 Fall semester?

Yes. Principals have received instructions for approving partners who will then be invited to submit F2F reopening plans for the beginning of the year. If a partner believes that its physical presence in a particular school is essential, they should reach out to the school's principal to discuss the approval process. Approved partners must adhere to the COVID protocols outlined in the directions that the principal will share.

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.

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 about volunteers and organizations without MOUs?

No volunteers or organizations without MOUs will be permitted in DPSCD buildings for at least the first quarter of the school year.

What if I have other questions?

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