



# Southern Westchester BOCES

## THE BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

CENTER FOR SPECIAL SERVICES  
1606 Old Orchard Street, White Plains, New York 10604  
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August 26, 2020

Hello Center for Special Services Families,

As the summer draws to a close, and we approach the reopening of schools, we are working hard to be sure we have all safety measures and instructional programming in place to make this year an enriching experience for all students.

To ensure strict adherence to guidance from Department of Health and the New York State Education Department, September schedules for **all SWBOCES Center for Special Services schools will be hybrid models** that have students coming to school 2-3 days per week, which includes both in-person and remote “at-home” learning each week with approximately 50 percent of our students in schools at any one time. Students at each of our schools will be divided into two groups or cohorts that will follow alternating schedules to limit interaction on a larger scale. The schedules for all school programs will be available on our website and sent directly to you by your school principal. Our anticipated start date for students is Monday, September 14, 2020.

Critical to the success of this plan is the need for adherence to multiple layers of safety practices, including physical distancing, wearing masks, and personal hygiene. Parent support to help monitor our students’ health, and your communication with us regarding any concerns, will also play an essential role. If students begin to experience symptoms or are exposed to COVID-19, including during or outside of school hours, please report this information by using the following designated email, [healthupdates@swboces.org](mailto:healthupdates@swboces.org). An administrator will monitor this email and a response will be sent accordingly. You will also be asked to complete a form weekly, on Wednesdays, to attest to your child’s health. Principals will share the link to that form and it will also be available on our website.

The full [SWBOCES Reopening Plan](#) remains posted on the SWBOCES website along with the Remote Learning, Testing, and Contact Tracing plans, providing answers to many questions. I encourage everyone to review this information.

While we hope to see all students participate in our hybrid models of instruction, gradually reintroducing them to the in-person school environment, we understand that some students may be medically vulnerable, and their families may prefer to begin the school year in a remote-only environment. A critical next step in our planning process is to solicit information from those parents regarding their intention have their children in remote-only learning to start the year. Please use the following link starting today and closing at 4PM on Thursday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, to indicate your intention so we can confirm this information with the Districts.

[Parent-Guardian Form for Remote Only Learning](#)

We will continue to post additional information on our websites and there will be ongoing communication from each of our school programs directly to families to ensure that we remain connected, share pertinent information, and answer questions as they arise.

Thank you again for your support as we continue to work as a community to support the safe reopening of our schools.

Sincerely,

*Andrea Byrne*

Andrea Byrne  
Director of the Center for Special Services  
Southern Westchester BOCES