

DORCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT FOUR

500 Ridge Street
St. George, SC 29477



Kelvin Wymbs, Ed.D.
Superintendent

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Reentry Plan Update

Students, Teachers, Parents, and Community Members:

The sense of a family culture in Dorchester School District Four is one of our greatest assets and the health and well-being of our children is our greatest priority. We have adopted the term “wellness” over “safety” while planning for the 2020-2021 school year. We have an obligation to ensure that we meet the social, emotional, and physical needs of our students and we believe the term “wellness” helps capture that obligation. This will be true for the 2020-2021 school year and beyond. We are thankful for the recommendations from [AccelerateED](#), [DHEC](#), and the [CDC](#). They provide a wealth of information in terms of safety planning for students potentially returning to school; however, we recognize the culmination of implementing all of these recommendations will be a challenge. We are planning to adhere to these guidelines to the best of our ability.

Based on our current COVID-19 rate of infection, we are preparing for two virtual scenarios for opening schools on September 8, 2020: a hybrid learning model with online instruction provided by DD4 teachers, on the school-schedule and incorporating virtual collaboration with other DD4 classmates; and a full virtual model through the DD4 virtual academy that will be on a flexible daily schedule for students but still provide a rigorous curriculum aligned to state standards and supported by DD4 teachers. Parents have the option to choose which of these two models will best meet the needs of their child(ren). We recognize the lack of internet as an obstacle for many of our students to learn remotely and understand that we need to provide instruction in various forms to remote learners. Additionally, we are working to establish more internet support district-wide.

- If choosing the hybrid learning model, internet is required and students will be enrolled in a DD4 class and attend all instruction in an online format. They will be following the flow of the school day online and will be able to communicate with their teacher(s) and peers throughout the day. The hours of instruction will mirror the hours of the school of enrollment.
- If choosing the virtual learning model, internet is required and the instruction will be guided by the learning platform. Students will have the ability to login daily at the time that best suits their needs, however, attendance is required daily and rigorous course expectations will be provided.

I expect you still have a lot of questions. We will continuously update our plans as we receive new information about the spread of the virus and receive further guidance from

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DHEC and the South Carolina Department of Education. Updates will be provided on our district webpage, school websites and all social media sites.

Based on this information and insightful feedback we received from our surveys, the Dorchester County School District Four Reopening School Task Force continues to work diligently to finalize a reentry plan for the 2020-2021 school year.

In terms of athletics, DD4 administrators, the Athletic Director, principals, and coaches have been working carefully to develop a well-planned, intentional document that includes best practices for minimization COVID-19 transmission during workouts, training, or competition aligned to the High School League recommendations; however, due to the increase of COVID-19 cases in our community and state, Dorchester County School District Four is postponing the start of athletic practices and workouts. Any potential start dates for athletics will be released as soon as they are determined.

We appreciate your patience as we continue to work through developing educational opportunities for our students. We look forward to engaging, empowering, and enriching our students through the learning process in the very near future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kelvin Wymbs".

Dr. Kelvin Wymbs,
Superintendent