



Portrait of a Graduate



PRELIMINARY PROPOSAL TO LAUNCH: THE SPRINGFIELD VIRTUAL SCHOOL FOR 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

Presented May 2021

DISTRICT VISION AND RATIONALE FOR A VIRTUAL SCHOOL

- The District has been considering launching a single-district virtual school for several years.
- The District is now better positioned to launch this program effectively based on the lessons learned from remote learning during the 2020-2021 school year.
- **Goals:**
- Long-term: create an excellent virtual school that is an alternative option for students/families who believe it is the right choice for them.
- Short-term: provide a rigorous and engaging option in the coming year for students/families unwilling or unable to attend school in-person for reasons related to COVID.



SURVEY TO GAUGE COMMUNITY INTEREST

NUMBERS OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS

- Online survey promoted on website and social media, with postcards sent to non SPS-enrolled Springfield residents.
- 742 responses, 99 percent of whom are the parents/guardians of children who reside in Springfield.
- 87 percent of families currently have children enrolled in the Springfield Public Schools.
- 399 families, or 54 percent of respondents, indicated they would be interested in sending their children to a virtual school offered by SPS.
- Another 160 families, or 22 percent of respondents indicated they would consider the option if offered.

Number of Students by Grade Level in Families Expressing Interest in Sending their Children to a Virtual School offered by the Springfield Public Schools	
Preschool	56
Kindergarten	50
1 st	60
2 nd	68
3 rd	71
4 th	73
5 th	67
6 th	100
7 th	72
8 th	80
9 th	109
10 th	85
11 th	63
12 th	45



SURVEY TO GAUGE COMMUNITY INTEREST PROGRAM FEATURES

The following program features were of the greatest interest to families responding to the survey:

- Flexible schedule/hours for students
- One-on-one advisor/mentor assigned to every student
- Small group crew/advisory to serve as each student's core group of peers
- Early college option for high school students (opportunity to take college courses and earn college credit while in high school)
- Majority of the school day occupied with live (virtual) teacher-led instruction
- Opportunity to learn a foreign language during elementary and middle school
- Student progress evaluated based on a portfolio of their completed work and projects
- Optional in-person extracurricular activities
- Opportunities for internships and workplace learning (grades 9-12 only)



PROPOSED ENROLLMENT FOR 2021-2022

- Enrolling students in Kindergarten through 12th grade – up to 50 students per grade level
- Enrollment open to Springfield residents only
- Online enrollment process – similar to high school balloting
- If more students apply than there are available seats, the District will run a lottery for admission with preference provided to students with the following circumstances:
 - Students with medical needs requiring a home or hospital-setting;
 - Students who are pregnant or have a child;
 - Students with physical or other needs that make it difficult for them to attend school in person; and,
 - Students with social and emotional needs that make it difficult for them to attend school in person.



LEADERSHIP AND STAFFING

- Administration:

- Principal (Instructional Leadership)
- Associate Principal (Operational Leadership)

- Staffing will include:

- Core subject/homeroom teachers
- World language, arts, health/wellness, and computer science educators
- ELL/ESL educators
- Special Education educators
- Dedicated IT technician
- School Guidance Counselor
- School Adjustment Counselor
- City Connects Coordinator
- School Nurse
- Dedicated IT technician



TEACHING AND LEARNING CORE PROGRAM

- Schedule – focus on synchronous, live instruction from teachers
- Curriculum – using SPS adopted curricula in all subjects
- Assessments – using the same District diagnostic and formative assessments (Achievement Network and iReady)
- Tiered academic interventions for students needing additional support



TEACHING AND LEARNING INNOVATIONS

- Design around delivery of ELA and Social Studies in a co-led Humanities block and Math and Science in a co-led STEM block
- Emphasis on project-based learning with all students having a weekly project block
- Computer and information sciences focus with all students taking computer science
- Integrated Wellness block that includes health, physical education, and social-emotional learning
- Portfolio-based assessment
- Progress reports for students, in addition to Report Cards, aligned to student progress toward the Portrait of a Graduate



STUDENT MENTORING AND ADVISING

- Every student assigned to a Faculty Advisory and Crew
 - Faculty advisors have contact with the families of their advisees at least once per month
- Crew meets daily
 - Crew is focused on student goal-setting, relationship building, social-emotional growth, and peer support
- Student-led goal setting structure implemented with Faculty Advisors
 - Students set annual goals and quarterly goals to mark progress toward annual goals
 - Students meet weekly one-on-one with their Faculty Advisor to review progress toward goals and set goals for the coming week
 - Parents participate in goal-setting process and students self-reflect on progress and growth
- Younger students are assigned a peer mentor from among older students in the school



STUDENT SUPPORTS AND ACTIVITIES

Supports:

- Coordinator of Wellness and Culture
- Advisory and crew structure
- Student orientation
- Multi-Tiered Systems of Supports:
 - Guidance and Adjustment Counselor
 - City Connects Coordinator
 - Tiered interventions
- Possible community partnerships – physical locations in the community where students can receive necessary in-person services and/or participate in virtual school

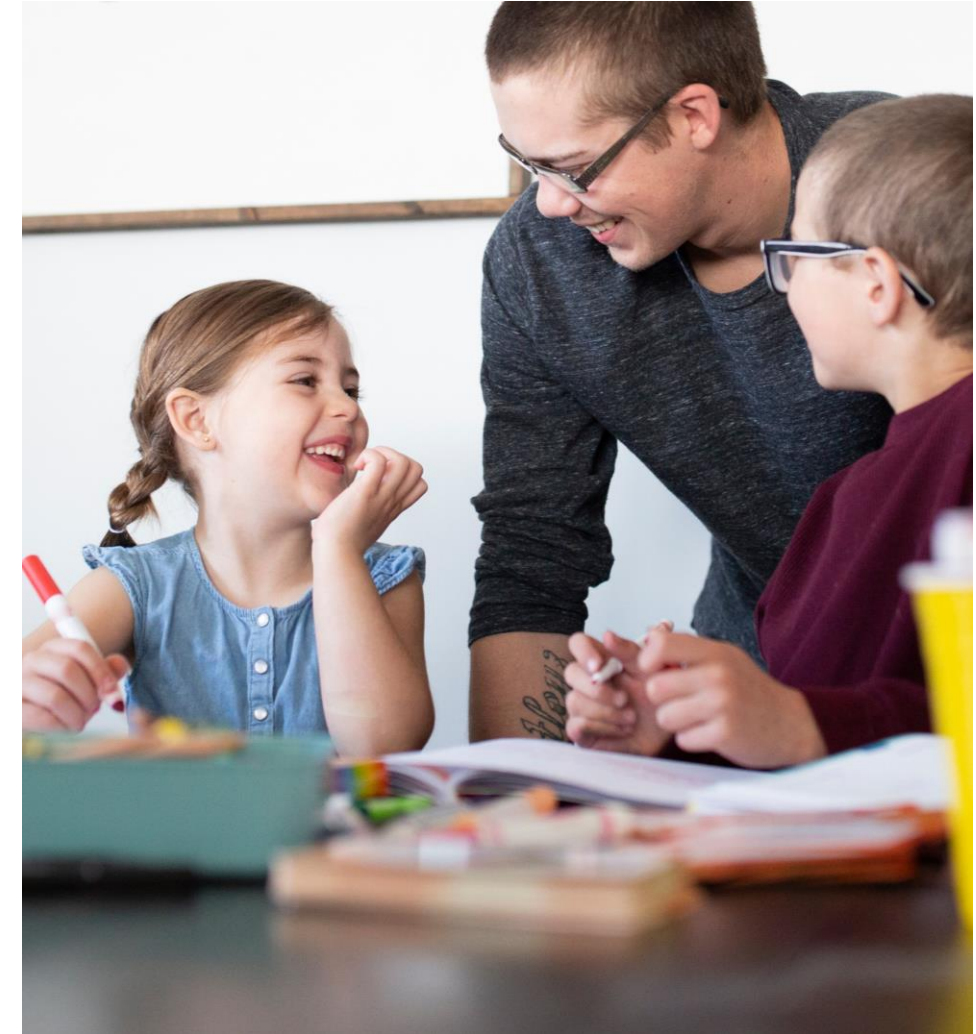
Activities:

- Sports – optional participation in sports with another SPS school
- Virtual and in-person extracurricular offerings



FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

- Parent Facilitator
- Parent orientation
- Specific courses for virtual school parents through Springfield Parent Academy
- Virtual School Parent Advisory Council
- Participation in the Parent-Teacher Home Visit Project
- Monthly communication with student's Faculty Advisor
- Participation in student goal-setting and reflection activities



TECHNOLOGY

All students will be provided with:

- Laptop computer
- Noise cancelling headphones
- Mobile internet hotspot

Virtual school will use the same software platforms already adopted in SPS:

- PowerSchool – grades, attendance, enrollment
- Schoology – learning management system, online assessments, and student portfolios
- Microsoft Teams – video conferencing, chat, and collaboration
- DyKnow – student monitoring
- Office 365 – productivity applications and file storage OneDrive



TECHNOLOGY

Technology supports:

- Dedicated Systems Technician
- Technology training during orientations (parent and student)
- Possible drop-in center
- Phone/chat student help desk
- Home visits from a technician (as a last resort)

