

As a public school in the state of South Carolina we are required to follow the guidelines as determined by our state legislature. Although we as the community of Tall Pines STEM Academy may have differing views on these guidelines, we as a school will follow what is passed down to us through our governing bodies.

Due to these guidelines, Tall Pines STEM Academy will participate in classroom instruction for five days per week, we will not participate in dual-modality instruction, and will allow for parental choice in mask wearing at school.

The Bills from the South Carolina General Assembly concerning these guidelines are below:

Five-day, in-person classroom instruction mandate https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess124_2021-2022/bills/704.htm

SECTION 1. For the 2020-2021 School Year, every school district in the State must offer five-day, in-person classroom instruction to students no later than April 26, 2021. For the 2021-2022 School Year, every school district in the State must offer five-day, in-person classroom instruction to students.

- Per pupil funding can also be decreased by 47.22% if the school does not follow the five day face to face schedule and has more than 5% of students participating in a full virtual model. <https://www.scstatehouse.gov/amendments.php?KEY=30080>

Dual-modality instruction requirements, limitations https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess124_2021-2022/bills/704.htm

SECTION 3. (A) Due to the need for ongoing, high-quality instruction to address learning disruptions associated with COVID-19 for the 2021-2022 School Year, school districts are prohibited from assigning a teacher to deliver instruction to students simultaneously in-person and virtually, an approach often referred to as "dual-modality instruction", unless it is reasonable and necessary due to extreme and unavoidable circumstances in order to ensure that all students have access to highly qualified instructors.

- *TPSA will not be offering virtual instruction as provided last year. However, there will be an option to view instruction online for math and ELA. This will only be for viewing and will not be interactive for students.*

Parental choice for mask wearing in school https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess124_2021-2022/bills/4388.htm

SECTION 1. The decision of whether an individual public school student will wear a mask or other face covering, for medical reasons or otherwise, while in a public school facility or on a school bus is in the sole discretion of the parents of the student. The decision of whether an individual public school employee, except for a school cafeteria worker, will wear a mask or other face covering, for medical reasons or otherwise, while in a public school facility or on a school bus is in the sole discretion of the employee. A public school, a public school district, the State Board of Education, and the State Department of Education may not:

- (1) require a student or employee to wear masks or other face coverings in public school facilities or on public school buses;
- (2) punish, separate, or stigmatize a student for wearing or not wearing a mask or other face covering in public school facilities or on public school buses; or
- (3) stigmatize or retaliate against an employee for wearing or not wearing a mask or other face covering in public school facilities or on public school buses.

Tall Pines STEM Academy is fighting COVID-19 through the following steps:

- 1) The school strongly encourages students and staff to wear masks when they are indoors.
- 2) The school strongly encourages those who are eligible to participate in the COVID-19 vaccination.
- 3) If you suspect your child of being positive for COVID-19 then keep them home and have them tested.
- 4) Even if your child is fully vaccinated, it is strongly encouraged that you follow the same procedure as unvaccinated students as transmission and exposure are still possible concerning the Delta variant.
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/delta-variant.html>
- 5) Spread students out in the classroom to aid in social distancing and reduce the chance of exposure.
- 6) Group students throughout the day and use seating charts to assist in contact tracing.
- 7) Disinfecting classrooms daily and in between classes.

Remember our PACKS!

Practice Patience

- We are all doing the best that we can!
- Contact tracing is a time sensitive process which includes: contact tracing, phone calls, documentation, calculating dates and quarantine options, double checking close contacts, and notifying parents through email and phone.

Act Responsibly

- Your attendance is your responsibility. Beginning Monday, August 30, 2021, only those who are officially quarantined due to testing positive or being a close contact will be coded as SC-COVID through attendance. (Example: siblings who are not direct close contacts will attend school in person or be marked absent)

Convey Respect

- Respect the views and decisions of the school as we make decisions that are in the best interest of our students, family, and staff.
- We all have our own views, but are limited in many of our decisions due to local laws and ordinances.

Know and Care for Our Community

- Think about others when making decisions about sending your child to school.
- If your child has any symptoms associated with COVID-19 please use your best judgement when deciding whether or not to send them to school.

Strive for Greatness

- It is our goal to help all of our students to be the best that they can be.
- We want our students to be healthy and grow both academically and emotionally.
- Let's strive to keep our doors open and our students in school.