



## FAQs for the SCSB Distance Program Form

### **Are the SCSB Distance Program Form and the USBE School Reopening Plan the same thing?**

No. The SCSB Distance Program Form is a short 3 page form that indicates to the SCSB that an LEA is going to operate a distance or blended learning program, outside of their approved charter agreement, for up to two years in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The USBE School Reopening Plan is for LEAs to communicate requirements and recommendations from their own local plans to stakeholders, to safely reopen schools for in person learning this fall.

### **How are the two forms different from each other?**

The SCSB Distance Program Form provides notification the SCSB, as your school's authorizer. The form is short and should be easy to complete. It is due by June 30, 2020, though if you need an extension, let us know.

The USBE School Reopening Plan provides notification to your school's stakeholders. LEAs are required to develop comprehensive reopening plans that are approved by the charter school governing board in an open and public meeting and made available to the public on the LEA's website(s) by August 1, 2020.

### **Why can't the USBE and SCSB use the same form for this?**

These forms are asking for two different types of information, and both the USBE and SCSB hold different but important roles with your LEA. The USBE is a constitutionally established, elected body that exercises "general control and supervision" over the public education system in Utah, including establishing the state educational core standards, state educator licensing policies, and state high school graduation requirements. The SCSB is an authorizer, which is an entity approved by the state legislature to bring charter schools into existence. Charter schools are accountable to their authorizers. An authorizer decides if a charter school can operate, defines expectations and monitors performance of a charter school, and determines if a charter school needs to be shut down. The USBE form is exercising "general control and supervision" over the safe reopening of your LEA in the fall by asking for this School Reopening Plan. The SCSB form is "defining expectations and monitoring performance" of distance or blended programs that are being implemented by charter schools in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

### **Does our school have to fill out the SCSB Distance Program Form?**

Yes. If your school is going to offer a distance or blended learning program in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, and it is not approved in your current charter agreement, you will need to submit the SCSB Distance Program Form.



### **Why would a school choose to not fill out the SCSB Distance Program Form?**

If a school does not want to offer a distance or blended educational program during SY2021 and SY2022, they would not need to fill out this form. Also, current online schools or schools with a distance program approved in their charter agreement do not need to fill out the form.

### **The USBE School Reopening Plan requires us to create a process for students/families and staff to identify as high risk for severe illness due to COVID-19 and have a plan in place to address requests for alternative learning arrangements, remote learning or instruction, or work reassignments. Isn't that the same thing as a distance or blended program?**

No. This requirement of the USBE School Reopening Plan seeks to address individual student and staff concerns, much as you normally would through a Home and Hospital Policy, Individualized Education Plan, 504 Accommodation, or IDEA Accommodation. The accommodation for alternative learning arrangements, remote learning or instruction, or work assignments would not necessarily be the same for each individual. It will be the responsibility of the school to have a plan in place to address these requests and provide the individual accommodations needed. The SCSB Distance Program Form allows the operation of an additional high quality educational program to be provided to all students and staff who would like to participate.

### **What if the Health Department or USBE requires our school to not meet in person? Will we need to fill out the SCSB Distance Program Form?**

No. Schools are required to meet any mandates required by the Health Department or USBE, as was the case in the spring of 2020. Waivers were applied to all schools, and the At Home Learning that occurred was of an emergency nature, in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Emergency At Home Learning may be necessary in SY21 or SY22 based on what the COVID-19 Pandemic does. The SCSB Distance Program Form is for LEAs who are implementing a deliberate distance or blended learning program option, rather than an emergency At Home Learning mandate.

### **Are the USBE waivers from SY20 still in effect for SY21 and SY22.**

Only if they were specifically stated to be continued. Otherwise, waivers for SY21 and SY22 should not be planned on as certainties unless and until they are approved by the USBE.

### **Does completion of the SCSB Distance Program Form automatically add distance or blended learning to our charter agreement?**

No. The completion of the form communicates to the SCSB that you will be offering a deliberate distance or blended learning program for SY21 and SY22. At the completion of SY22, schools that have successfully met measures of program success as outlined by the SCSB will automatically be allowed to



add their distance or blended learning program to their charter agreements, in addition to their in-person, on-site programs.

**I have additional questions about these forms that have not been answered here.**

**Who should I contact?**

For questions about uploading the SCSB Distance Program Form, please email SCSB Office Specialist Jenna Magnetti at [jenna.magnetti@schools.utah.gov](mailto:jenna.magnetti@schools.utah.gov)

For questions or concerns regarding the content the SCSB Distance Program Form, please email SCSB Authorization and School Support Specialist Marie Steffensen at [marie.steffensen@schools.utah.gov](mailto:marie.steffensen@schools.utah.gov)

For questions or concerns regarding the USBE School Reopening Plan, please email [coronavirus@schools.utah.gov](mailto:coronavirus@schools.utah.gov)