



Supporting Return to School (SRS) Toolkit

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Frequently Asked Questions About SRS

On August 14, Fairfax County [announced the new Supporting Return to School \(SRS\) program](#) developed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and this year's virtual return to school. SRS will provide full-day programming to support children's active and engaged learning during the FCPS virtual academic day and will provide opportunities for children to explore, engage, relax and enjoy activities based on the program curriculum, The Great Outdoors: Road Trips Through the Americas.

Here are answers to frequently asked questions about the program:

Who is offering the program?

The program is being offered by Fairfax County Government through the [Office for Children](#), which provides educational care for students before and after school through the SACC program. OFC teachers will be staffing the SRS program.

Where will the SRS program be located?

The SRS program will be offered at 37 Fairfax County Public Schools, including 35 elementary schools and the Key and Kilmer Centers. Enrollment will be limited in order to maintain physical distancing and health protocols.

What are the SRS program dates?

The SRS program begins Sept. 8, 2020. As FCPS updates to online and in-person instruction occur, the program's status will be reevaluated.

What are the SRS program hours?

SRS will operate Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. to accommodate parents who are working outside the home or may need full-day services. All current CDC health and safety guidelines, including the use of face coverings, physical distancing protocols, and enhanced cleaning and disinfecting practices will be implemented.

How many children will be served at each location?

The program will be able to accommodate approximately 60 children per site. Each classroom will have a group of no more than 10 children who will stay together each day, along with consistent staff to support their online learning and in-person connections.

How will the program support my child's virtual learning?

FCPS is working in partnership with SRS to provide professional development in virtual learning technologies for SRS staff. SRS staff will collaborate with families on an ongoing basis to align support for children's virtual learning schedules and will provide a space conducive to supporting children's learning during the academic day.

Will the program provide academic instruction?

SRS staff are employees of the Fairfax County Office for Children, not Fairfax County Public Schools. SRS staff will support children’s virtual learning but will not provide academic instruction. The program is not designed to replace or duplicate virtual learning, but to support it by ensuring students are able to access the FCPS academic day and have the technical support and engagement they need to succeed.

What health and safety protocols will be in place?

The safety of both staff and students in the SRS program is of utmost importance. The SRS program will follow current CDC health and safety guidelines, as well as guidance from the Fairfax County Health Department. Additionally, the following measures are in place:

- Students will be in groups of 10 or fewer per classroom.
- Students will stay together as a group the entire day with the same staff members.
- Scheduled cleaning of high-touch areas will occur throughout the day.
- No visitors will be admitted.
- A daily check-in will include taking staff and students’ temperatures and asking a series of health questions before staff and students may enter the building.
- Children and staff will be required to wear face coverings throughout the day.
- Physical distancing of at least six feet will be supported.

Can I still enroll my child if the SRS program is not offered at my base school?

Yes, regardless of your base school, you may choose to attend the SRS site that is closest or most convenient for you.

Are there any requirements for program eligibility?

Yes, the SRS program serves children in Kindergarten through sixth grade. Families must reside in Fairfax County or the City of Fairfax.

Do families have to be working in order for their child to participate?

No, the SRS program does not have a work requirement for eligibility.

Is financial assistance available?

A sliding fee scale is available for income-eligible families. Additional financial assistance is also available. Families who may need additional financial assistance or transportation should communicate their request when enrolling so that registration staff can best provide assistance.

Why is enrollment limited?

The SRS program has limited enrollment in order to accommodate full-day programming, as well as physical distancing guidelines, and to support additional health and safety procedures. The program is designed to help families with the greatest need, who may not have access to other resources, and to mitigate opportunity gaps that may widen without in-person instruction.

How is this program different from SACC?

The SACC program is not currently being offered. SRS will be staffed by OFC teachers and provide a safe environment for students to learn. SRS is a full-day program supporting virtual learning during the academic day, with a before- and after-school care component. When children in the SRS program are not engaged in their virtual academic school day, they will have opportunities to explore activities based on the program's curriculum, The Great Outdoors: Road Trips Through the Americas.

May I enroll on a daily, weekly, or as-needed basis?

No, the program is designed to provide consistent care and support for children's virtual learning on a monthly basis only. Students must be enrolled for the full five-day-per-week program.

May I enroll my child for just the academic school day if we do not need the before-and after-care components?

No, the SRS program is a full-day program providing support for children during the academic day as well as before and after care. When children in the SRS program are not engaged in their virtual academic school day, they will have opportunities to explore activities based on the program's curriculum, The Great Outdoors, Road Trips Through the Americas.

Will meals be provided?

Yes, breakfast, lunch, and afternoon snack will be provided in conjunction with FCPS Food and Nutrition Services.

Will transportation be available?

County and FCPS staff will work to ensure that transportation will not be a barrier to families' participation in the SRS program. Families who need transportation should communicate their request when enrolling.

Will laptops and Internet access be provided?

Students must bring their personal or school-issued laptops. Wireless Internet access will be provided at all SRS sites.

Can my child who has special needs participate, and will he or she receive specialized instruction?

Yes, all SRS sites will accommodate children with special needs. Additionally, the Key and Kilmer Center sites will specifically serve children and youth ages 5-21 with multiple disabilities. SRS staff will collaborate with families on an ongoing basis to align support for children’s virtual learning schedules and will provide a space conducive to supporting children’s learning during the academic day.

What are the fees for the program?

Supporting Return to School (SRS) Program SY 2020-2021
The fees below are billed monthly.

Adjusted Household Income	One Child
\$131,000 and above	\$1,472
117,900 - 130,999	\$1,272
104,800 - 117,899	\$1,076
91,700 - 104,799	\$876
78,600 - 91,699	\$676
65,500 - 78,599	\$476
52,400 - 65,499	\$280
52,399 and below	\$80

Reduced rates are applicable for families with two or more children enrolled. The discount for the second child is 10%; the third child and each additional child receive a 20% discount.

Additional financial assistance is also available. Families who may need additional financial assistance or transportation should communicate their request when enrolling so that registration staff can best provide assistance.

How do I enroll?

Enrollment begins the week of August 24, 2020. For additional information and to register, call 703-449-8989 or visit Fairfaxcounty.gov/OFC. Translation services are available.

Registration Information

- Information is available online <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/office-for-children/supporting-return-school-program>.
- Space is limited. To register, call 703-449-8989.
- Current CDC health and safety guidelines will be implemented.
- Sliding fee scale available for income eligible families (see below).
- Breakfast, lunch, and afternoon snack provided.

Sliding Fee Scale

Supporting Return to School (SRS) Program SY 2020-2021	
The fees below are billed monthly	
Adjusted Household Income	One Child
\$131,000 and above	\$1,472
\$117,900 - 130,999	\$1,272
\$104,800 - 117,899	\$1,076
\$91,700 - 104,799	\$876
\$78,600 - 91,699	\$676
\$65,500 - 78,599	\$476
\$52,400 - 65,499	\$280
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Reduced rates are applicable for families with two or more children enrolled. The discount for the second child is 10%; the third child and each additional child receive a 20% discount.

Additional financial assistance is also available. Families who may need additional financial assistance or transportation should communicate their request when enrolling so that registration staff can best provide assistance.

Excerpt from Chairman McKay's Weekly Email Newsletter

Subject: SACC – Supporting Return to School

Date: August 12, 2020

To the Fairfax County Community,

If you are a parent, I understand the stresses relating to child care and virtual learning that you are probably experiencing. This stress is particularly difficult for those who must leave home for work. I'm a parent of two. I wasn't ready for the challenges of virtual learning either. However, it is time to prepare, to move forward, and to put ourselves in the best possible position for the upcoming school year.

The Board of Supervisors is committed to supporting FCPS in their decision to begin the year virtually. One way we are doing so is by launching a new program with a SACC component called Supporting Return to School. With this program we hope to partially fill the need for Fairfax County families regarding child care and providing a safe education environment for the kids who need it. More on this program follows the COVID-19 data update.

See below for the full August 12 edition of my newsletter. For the resources mentioned in past newsletters, visit my [website](#). If you have a friend who would like to sign up for this newsletter, they can do so [here](#).

School Aged Child Care (SACC) - Supporting Return to School (SRS)

- Following the success of our Camp Fairfax program (see the above video for a Camp Fairfax hand washing song!), Fairfax County is offering a new program with a SACC component for families.
 - The purpose is to support children's online learning and to engage kids in a curriculum that will support their growth and development.
- The SRS program will be offered at 37 FCPS locations.
 - Sites are primarily Title I funded schools or are FCPS food distribution sites.
 - Two locations will serve students ages 5-21 with special needs.
 - Program operating hours: Monday-Friday, 7:30am-6pm.
 - An adjusting sliding fee scale will be provided.
- Program details are still being finalized, registration will be available soon.
- I recently visited Camp Fairfax to see the safety measures put in place and know that as we move forward with SRS that we need to continue to put strict safety measures in place. Therefore, the program will have limited spots due to distancing protocols. We are also hoping it will help families with no other choice but to go to work and have no way to support their children who may be at risk of falling behind academically.

[View the email newsletter online.](#)

Comments by Chairman McKay to WJLA ABC News 7 (08/13/20)

- "I've heard literally from hundreds of parents who, like me, support the school division's decision to do virtual learning, but also are very concerned about how they're going to juggle that with their own jobs when we get to September."
- "We've always considered this not to be just a school problem. This is a community problem that will take the schools and the county working together to solve."
- "What our Board of Supervisors has been clear on is that the county has an important role to play in narrowing the achievement gap and helping our working families to be able to go back to work without having to be concerned about not working, not being able to pay the bills because they have to take care of and help their kids get logged on and learn during the day."
- "This is not going to solve everyone's problems, this is not going to be the great equalizer, but I think it is going to be a tremendous help to families in need in Fairfax County."
- "We're talking about a much smaller population of children, we're talking about being able to spread out in multiple rooms in school buildings. We're talking about protocols for checking temperatures and interviewing everyone before they come in the building."
- "It's really designed to help kids with the greatest needs. So we've begun outreach for at-risk youth, we're working with our schools. We have a database of children whose families receive free and reduced price lunches already, and we're reaching out to all of them to get an idea of whether they would be interested in enrolling in this program."
- "We know that our at-risk children have greater challenges with internet connectivity, and may not have the kind of support structure so what we're attempting to do in this program is not duplicate any of the online learning, but frankly have staff there to make sure kids are online and have the technical support that they need."

[See the full story online.](#)

News Release: Fairfax County’s New “Supporting Return to School” (SRS) Program Bolsters Virtual Learning

August 14, 2020



Supporting Return to School (SRS) is a new Fairfax County program developed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and this year’s virtual return to school. The program will provide full-day on-site programming for children in Kindergarten through sixth grade, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. – 6 p.m. The SRS program reflects the County’s and [Fairfax County Public Schools](#)’ (FCPS) joint commitment to [One Fairfax](#), and to ensuring that all families have equitable access to the services they need

to support children’s virtual learning.

SRS will provide support for children’s active and engaged learning during the FCPS virtual academic day and promote children’s social, emotional and physical development. In addition to participating in distance learning, children will have opportunities to explore, engage, relax, and enjoy activities that follow the SRS 2020-21 program curriculum, ***The Great Outdoors: Road Trips Through the Americas***. What a perfect time for a virtual journey and to spend real time outdoors!

The SRS program, located in 37 Fairfax County Public Schools, will serve children of families residing in Fairfax County or the City of Fairfax. A sliding fee scale will be available for income eligible families. Each classroom will have a group of no more than 10 children who will stay together each day, along with consistent staff to support their online learning and in-person connections. Current CDC health and safety guidelines will be implemented.

Enrollment for the SRS program begins August 24, 2020. Space is limited. Additional information on fees and enrollment, including an online registration option, will be available soon at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/OFC or you may call 703-449-8989.

[View release online.](#)

PDF Documents

Flyer: SRS – English (.pdf)

[Download the flyer in English as a PDF document.](#)

Flyer: SRS – Spanish (.pdf)

[Download the flyer in Spanish as a PDF document.](#)