

## Reopening Your Pathway to Success: Frequently Asked Questions

### What is Steel Center's plan to reopen school for the 2020-2021 school year?

On August 11, 2020, the Steel Center Joint Operating Committee (Board) approved the "Reopening Your *Pathway to Success*", our 2020-2021 Health and Safety/Reopening Plan. Using our *Pathway to Success* vision for students, we created the following two "Lanes" (options) as we begin this school year:

- Lane 1 "Hybrid Learning": Students will attend in-person classes at Steel Center **on days that they attend in-person classes at their high school**. On Wednesdays, and on days they are participating the remote learning offered by their high school, they will also participate in Steel Center's remote learning. Students opting for Lane 1 will have the opportunity to participate in Kinesthetic (hands-on) learning and lab activities. Adjustments will be made if students attend their high school on Wednesdays.
- Lane 2 "Remote Learning": Students will participate in learning activities 100% virtually outside of Steel Center and have access to educational support activities remotely Monday thru Friday. Students opting for Lane 2 will also have the opportunity to participate in Kinesthetic (hand-on) learning activities, to the extent that they can be delivered safely at home.

We understand that our students and families would likely prefer to be here learning at the school five days a week. We would prefer that too, but until the circumstances allow for a full return to the campus for in-person learning for all of our students, this is the best option we have.

### Is it possible to change the option I selected (from Lane 1 Hybrid to Lane 2 Remote or vice versa) after the school year starts?

Yes, it is possible to change your Steel Center Lane (option). That process starts by requesting to do so with your high school. You must also inform the Steel Center Student Services Department who will notify you when the change can take effect.

### Can students who selected Lane 1 Hybrid attend classes at Steel Center on days in addition to the one they are scheduled to be here?

No, not at this time. Once the school year has begun and we have successfully established all of the required health and safety components of our plan, we will reevaluate this, and consider making adjustments. If we able to afford opportunities for students to attend classes in person at Steel Center in addition to the assigned days, we will notify you. But for now, students are to **only come here on assigned days**.

### How will Steel Center work to ensure the safety of students and staff while on campus?

Components of "Reopening Your Pathway to Success" plan include appropriate strategies developed by the Steel Center administration and "Pandemic Team" that address comprehensive Health and Safety concerns. We will be following all county, state, and federal orders and guidelines regarding social distancing, facial coverings, cleaning, and sanitation. The entire plan as presented and approved by our Joint Operating Committee (School Board) on Tuesday, August 11, 2020 has been submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Education and can be viewed on our website [www.steelcentertech.com](http://www.steelcentertech.com).

**May I use my sending school issued device (Laptop, iPad, etc.) for use at Steel Center?**

Yes. Whether choosing Lane 1 or Lane 2, all students will be using the Canvas learning platform to participate in their Steel Center class. Students can bring and use their sending school issued device for their courses here which may help to reduce the risk of transmission of germs from one user to another. But Steel Center has a Chromebook for every student to use here as well.

**If my school is “all virtual” and Steel Center is open for students to attend in-person learning, will I still be able to attend Steel Center?**

We are continuing to collaborate with each of our 10 sending high schools on these details. It is really up to your school district. You can check with us, but also you must check with your sending school administration regarding this should your school go 100% remote.

**When is the first day of school for Steel Center?**

Our first day for student learning is August 31, 2020. However, students will be following their high school schedule for Steel Center in-person classes which means that you may start after that date. That is OK, absences will not be held against you if are not in attendance those first couple of days if your district is not in session either. We will be reaching out to the students who are not in-person that day using multiple means including Canvas as well as Blackboard Connect. While our very dedicated teachers and staff are working tirelessly to prepare to continue to provide a high-quality career and technical education, we expect there will be some bumps in the road as we start up school this year. Please be patient with us and know that we will attend to your concerns and learning needs as efficiently as possible.

**May I bring a water bottle to school?**

Yes. Staff and students are encouraged to bring water in a water bottle to school for use during their time at Steel Center. Water fountains will not be accessible to students or staff.

**How did Steel Center create the plans for reopening school?**

Over the summer, our leadership team worked closely with committees of Steel Center staff members, leaders from our member school districts, and a network of Career and Technical Education leaders from western Pennsylvania to examine the options available to reopen school. We also closely monitored the ever changing information, guidance, and mandates coming from county, state, and federal agencies along with our member school districts. While our member school districts were planning and now implementing a variety of plans on returning to school, we identified the strategies that we believed would best meet the needs of our students. We also sought input from student and families through two surveys concerning various aspects of reopening. We are continuing to work with our member school districts to finalize details and respond to changes in their plans. This situation is fluid and plans across our member districts are subject to change. Please continue to check our website for the most up-to-date information.

**How can I find out the latest information regarding Steel Center’s start of the school year?**

The most up-to-date information can be found on our website at: [www.steelcentertech.com](http://www.steelcentertech.com) and on our social media pages: Twitter @SteelCenterCTE and Facebook @steelcenterforcte. If there are critical or time sensitive updates, we will utilize the Blackboard Connect© system to inform all students and their families as well as staff.

**How will transportation be handled for students?**

Each of our 10 sending high schools will provide transportation to and from Steel Center under the Lane One option on days that they are attending in-person classes at their high school (or as designed based on their school district’s plan for reopening. Please contact your district school for more detailed information on how they are handling transportation.

**Can families make other transportation arrangements?**

Parents do have the option of dropping off/picking up their students at Steel Center, only on the days that they are scheduled to attend in-person learning at Steel Center. As described above.

**May students drive to Steel Center?**

Yes. Students will be able to drive to Steel Center with the proper permission forms completed and signed by both a parent/guardian and sending school administrator. Parking pass fees for the 2020-2021 school year will be waived. Parking passes are limited due to available spaces and will be offered on a first come first served basis. Parking pass applications are being administered on our website [www.steelcentertech.com](http://www.steelcentertech.com). Steel Center also has permission forms available that can be completed for students who wish to carpool with other students. This form requires a parking pass and the approval of sending school administration and a parent/guardian for each student.