

Reopening 2020-2021 Frequently Asked Questions (6.22.2020)

Instruction

Q: What will the schedule look like for my child? Will my child have the same schedule day to day?

A: As of today, the schedule for elementary children will have each student in school, for daily attendance, at their school (PK-6). The secondary students (7-12) will alternate days in attendance and days in remote attendance (via live online instruction). The schedules for students will be consistent but may need adjustment depending on the course of guidelines.

Q: What are you going to do about lost time in school for the recent closure?

A: Reopening will focus on reading, writing, math, science, and social studies. This will be a priority.

We are working on enrichment and remediation opportunities for the fall. I expect that we will be able to offer an 8-week After School Enrichment Program.

During the summer we have also issued multiple opportunities for our students and families that can be found here: <https://sites.google.com/rsd6.org/lpsrsd6extendedlearning/home>

Q: What if my child is unable to return to school for health reasons?

A: We are developing plans for children who have health issues and may not be able to return. Please contact your school principal so that this issue is known and included in the planning.

Q: What will happen if we need to close the buildings again?

A: This is a reality for which we are planning. Our goal is to have limited disruption should we need to close again. We also don't have the intention to go back to Facilitate Distance Learning (FDL). While we are proud of our students, parents, and staff, for all the hard work this past spring with FDL we also are aware of the feedback, and need for more live interaction. Should we be forced to have a facility close in the future our goal is to be able to provide that live interaction and education as possible.

Transportation

Q: What if we don't get enough transportation waivers? Will we still open?

A: Transportation waivers are vital right now (particularly for elementary schools) for reopening. However, we are working on a Plan B should we not get enough waivers. This Plan will try and utilize all transportation equipment across both districts. I will be speaking with the BOE about this further in July.

Q: If the guidelines change can families change their mind on the transportation waiver?

A: Yes, if the guidelines become more relaxed then we will allow families to option out of the waiver. Please note that at this time there is not clarity on when, or if, we will receive updated transportation guidelines.

Operations

Q: Will the buildings and school transportation be disinfected daily?

A: Yes, commonly used areas of buildings (including surfaces) will be disinfected daily. School buses will also be disinfected daily. This process became our protocol before the closure and will continue for the foreseeable future. Additional cleaning supplies have already been approved for order in advance of the 2020-2021 school year.

Q: Will children have their own desk (elementary)?

A: Yes, when we reopen elementary students will have their own workspace in a classroom. The goal is to limit student movement and sharing of physical space.

Q: What will be the status of student technology for 2020-2021?

A: We are finalizing a change to student technology. I expect that this will be ordered in July. The plan is for students in grades 2-12 to have their own chrome book that will need to travel back-and-forth to school. Students in grades K-1 will have their own i-pad. More details will be forthcoming in July.

Q: Will you have changes to drop off and arrival at the schools?

A: This will be a requirement of reopening under the current guidelines. This will be different building-by-building based on facility entry / exit. This information will be forthcoming from each school as we get closer to the start of school.

Q: Will my child eat lunch in the classroom? What about allergies?

A: This is still a work in progress. We are planning, should guidance not change, to provide food service in classrooms and also account for student allergies. Please contact your school with any known allergies. More information will be forthcoming from schools in July on this topic.

Q: Will the school have a traffic pattern for student movement?

A: It appears that student movement will be limited in the initial phases of reopening. Student movement in each building will follow a pattern based on the current guidelines. The hallways will also have signs and arrows to follow. This will be different for each building based on the facility.

Q: Will my child need to wear a mask everyday? What if they forget a mask?

A: As it stands today students will be required to wear a mask (but it should be noted that the exact requirements are still pending). I have already approved an purchase order to ensure that students have an extra mask at school.

Athletics

Q: Will there be high school sports in the fall?

A: We are working closely and monitoring the requirements set forward by the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC). The expectation is that schools will return to play with guidelines (that will impact facilities, operations, and transportation). In July, I will announce a "Return to Play Committee" that will ensure that CIAC guidelines are followed by students, coaches, and schools.

Q: Will there be middle school sports in the fall?

A: This is less certain than high school sports. The CIAC does not govern middle school sports. The current limitations on transportation will make this a challenge. It is not out of the question but has more uncertainty.