



Livingston Public Schools Planning for the 2020-2021 School Year

August 10, 2020

Our Charge

- Submit to the Department of Education a plan for reopening schools for in-person education in the fall.
- Checklist for submission received by the district one week ago today.
 - Implement a schedule for the 2020-2021 school year that includes in-person instruction in some capacity and provides public school facilities for at least 180 days.
 - Incorporate a policy regarding full time remote learning services, in accordance with the Department's guidelines.
 - Ensure, that each student is provided at least four hours of instructional contact time per school day, or one continuous session of two and one-half hours for kindergarten students (such instructional time may be achieved through in-person, synchronous remote, or asynchronous remote activities).
 - Prepare for a potential shift back to entirely remote learning models by implementing measures to strengthen remote learning capabilities.



Considering the Balance

Best Model - All students in school working together with social interaction and support of in-person educators. We hope to end up here as soon as it is safe and possible.

Safest Model - All students and staff virtual and physically distancing.

Need to balance safety with in person connection.



Our Challenges

- Messages about congregating in indoor spaces.
- Human Resources - outstanding educator team.
- District plan variations.
- Different views about the virus and safety.
- Supply chain impacted by pandemic.
- Logistics - Screenings, temperature checks, mask wearing, social distancing - all new - what will it be like.
- Teaching in multiple modes simultaneously.
- Transportation.
- Special Services.
- Financial Implications.



Our Preparation



- Disposable masks for students and staff.
- N95 masks for nurses and custodians.
- Cloth masks for staff.
- Face shields for staff.
- Hand sanitizer for each classroom.
- Sanitizer stations for throughout each building.
- Multiple non-contact thermometers for every school.
- Bus driver shields.
- Nurse isolation room supplies.
- Portable HEPA Filters for all nurses stations.
- MERV 13 filters (high density) for all univent systems.
- Finalizing contract with commissioning agent to retest all ventilations systems in all schools.
- Plexiglass for office spaces throughout the district.
- Signage for floors marking out six feet and hallway directions in every building.
- Tents to create outdoor spaces for all nine schools.
- Disinfectant cleaning wipes for all schools.
- Ample supply of cleaning solutions and sprays for custodians in compliance with CDC Guidelines.

Budget



- We have spent approximately \$208,000 on our preparations to make all schools safer.
- We received approximately \$80,000 in Cares Act money - we have now spent \$128,000 above & beyond what we received, which means it will impact our budget.

Upcoming

- Extra custodial time.
- Continual ordering of masks, gloves, sanitizer, and other PPE.
- Other purchases as needed due to CDC and state requirements and monitoring as necessary.
- Storage for furniture as we re-configure classrooms.



Our Continued Tasks

- Refining Remote Learning Plan - this is well underway.
- Preparing for In-Person Instruction.
- Creating a plan that is likely to be sustainable but can be flexible over time.
- Providing excellent educational experiences five days per week.



In line with *The Road Back*, we must:

- Encourage physical distancing.
- Encourage healthy hygiene practices.
- Consider the mental health and wellness of students, staff, and school community.
- Adhere to Center for Disease Control guidelines
- Ensure mask wearing of students and staff (Governor's declaration last week).



Resources

- District Physician.
- Infectious Disease Specialist.
- Other local medical professionals.
- Local health officials.
- Certified HVAC experts and architects.
- Policy experts.
- Legal Advisors / Insurance Advisors.
- Created a central repository of articles and information.
- Community Feedback - Remote Learning.



Recommendations

Guiding principles we have held to in our planning:

- Universal masking (now required for ALL New Jersey school districts).
- Eye protection for all staff.
- Enhancement of air filtering and ventilation.
- Regular hand washing and sanitizing.
- Increased cleaning protocols.
- Six feet of physical distancing.
- More frequent in-person classes for younger students.
- More remote classes for older students.
- Separate cohorts on different days.
- Use of large spaces for instruction, when possible.
- Provide outdoor experiences, when possible.
- Use of daily screening tools to separate community members with symptoms.
- Single direction hallway movement, when possible.
- Staggered use of restrooms.



Various Plans Discussed

- Full classrooms with students and teachers present.
- Expanded facilities to create new sections.
- Multitude of hybrid model schedules.
- All remote.
- AM / PM schedule.



This is the **August 10th** plan.
It may change between now and the opening of school.

PIVOT



**A Hybrid Plan,
a Staged Approach,
and an Option for “All Virtual.”**



**Opening with what is
manageable should allow us
to create something that is
sustainable.**



**Synchronous - Teachers and students learning together at the same time.
“Real time learning.”**

**Asynchronous - Students learning independently with teacher support.
Recorded, or guided independent learning through other means.**



Staged Transition Back to School

- New procedures, new environment, new expectations.
- September like no other.
- Created a plan, not just for September and early October, but one that can be flexible for the school year.
- We need to ease concerns about returning to school, in-person.
- Need to support another new paradigm for instruction.



Staged Approach

Full Virtual	Hybrid Start	Hybrid Next Steps	Full Traditional
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 100% remote learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Single Session● 50% Capacity - Elementary● 25% Capacity - Secondary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Potential longer day● Potential increased capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 100% in person learning.

Criteria for Change (in development):

- Public health issues / Change in virus status.
- School-based health concerns / reduced concerns.
- State and Local Health Department Guidance.
- Ability to comply with reopening guidelines.
- Health screening logs.
- Learned behaviors related to physical distancing, hand washing hygiene, and mask wearing.



Elementary Instruction

- Students are grouped into A or B cohorts.
- Cohorts will attend in-person school two days in a row (AA; BB, etc).
- The remaining day will rotate between the two cohorts.
- School days will operate on a partial day schedule to begin the school year.
- Students will attend school, in-person, two to three times per week.
- Siblings within the elementary schools will be on the same cohort schedule.
- At least 50% of students remote each day.
- Structured schedule of synchronous and asynchronous learning.
- Live teacher led lessons in each content area daily.
- Student access to digital and traditional school materials.
- Structured specials schedule daily with specials teachers.



Secondary Instruction - Stage 1

- Schedule created and recommended by school administrators, teachers, and supervisors.
- Based in remote to begin. Most students remote each day.
- Morning - More synchronous / less asynchronous.
- Afternoon - Asynchronous instruction, with teacher support.
- Teachers will be provided with common planning time.
- Face-to-face office hours daily, open to all students.
- Students will have opportunities to connect with all of their teachers each week.
- We want to make sure each step in the process is functioning well before moving to the next step.
 - This is new and complex, and we want to get it right.
 - Schedules will change as we move through the stages and if we look to increase in-person time.

Secondary Instruction - Stage 1 (Cont'd)

- The full week of period 1-4 then period 5-8 classes is a part of the Stage I approach to returning to school.
- Clustering by full AM and PM rotations allows for continuity and greater flexibility and options in the delivery of instruction; so while students will be expected to log in to class daily, classroom instruction, assignments, and projects can be differentiated and extended by cohorts.
- Schedule allows for synchronous and asynchronous learning in a better way than flipping classes every other day, creating opportunities for stronger focus and time management as students are mostly remote.
- With a full week in a class, there will be greater consistency, rather than the choppiness of a day on and day off approach, to master concepts and skills for higher levels of understanding.
- Teachers of “non-meeting classes” will provide pre-learning and extension experiences and be available for individual and small group support each day.
- Departments need to look to focus on skills, themes and standards rather than content as a whole. This applies to AP classes as well.

Additional Information About Instruction

- Teaching students in-person and online simultaneously will be a new paradigm for teachers.
- We need to provide opportunities for professional development, teacher collaboration, and implementation of new and creative ideas. These schedules provide for teacher common planning time to allow this to happen.
- Synchronous lessons from the classroom will look similar to remote instruction from last year. Asynchronous learning at home paired with teacher live office hours will allow for students to move forward in all areas of study.
- Curriculum modifications and assessment plans for hybrid learning.



Personal circumstances may necessitate a family deciding not to do in-person instruction.

CHOICE



The Choice

On August 14, 2020, all Livingston families will receive a survey from the district asking them to make a choice whether their child(ren) will attend the in-person sessions in the hybrid model, or will begin the school year selecting the remote-only option.

Staff will also be surveyed and asked to indicate their intentions for September 1.



Fully Remote Model

...if we need to go “all remote”

- Guide for “all remote” model is currently being developed based on feedback from surveys, focus groups, staff and administrator collaboration.
- Guide will serve as a resource for staff, students, and parents in a fully remote learning environment.
- Provides for a full day schedule.
- More time for synchronous instruction, a structured schedule by class, and regular class connection opportunities.
- Grade levels would be on the same schedule.
- If possible, some in-person extra-curricular activities may continue.



Please take another look at our August 5 *Reopening Information Overview*

A lot of information on many topics related to our plan including (but not limited to):

- Special Education
- Athletics
- Facilities
- Schedules
- Program
- Student Services
- Technology



More Information to Come

- Our principals are developing, and will be providing, relevant and more detailed information regarding the reopening in their schools or levels.
- Principals have been and will continue to meet with members of their school community as we get closer to the opening day of school.



Moving Forward

- August 14th survey to parents regarding remote or hybrid selection for next year.
- August 14th survey to staff.
- Surveys will be due August 17th.
- Continued communication including building-level planning groups with principals.
- Updates and more planning with committees.



Questions?

