



Livingston Public Schools
March Hybrid Model Update
March 3, 2021

Where we have been...

- Facilities have been open for hybrid learning since the fall despite many challenges and setbacks.
- Very successful and enjoyable fall and winter athletic season and fall season of outdoor activities.
- Made a pivot to two cohorts at High School and Middle Schools on February 1st.
- Vaccines to become available to staff March 15, 2021.



Factors impacting in-person learning plan:

- September - Getting our staff and students back in.
- November - “Orange” or “High Risk” by the Department of Health motivating changes to our contact tracing and quarantine protocols. Now seeing some relief.
- Due to medical leaves, family leaves, and quarantines we are still managing some staff absences. This has steadily improved.
- The winter weather and lack of sunlight has ended most in-person outdoor after school activities.
- New CDC Guidelines came out on February 12, 2021, but the NJDOH has not updated their guidelines. Many thoughts and opinions as to what is safe and what is best practice.



Recent information sharing opportunities:

- Conducted a joint forum with the Board of Education and the Town Council on December 16th.
- Held a Forum on Reopening with the Board of Education on Jan. 11th.
- Held four focus groups over the past two weeks at each level with members of the Board of Education.
- Attended multiple meetings with our local health officials including one with the Physicians Advisory Board appointed by the town.



Steps to re-evaluate in-person program:

- Engagement of our secondary students in feedback groups to best gauge the student experience.
- Re-examination of our daily, weekly instructional and cohort schedules by multiple educators.
- Planning and preparation for the implementation of teacher professional development to refine our hybrid instructional practices.
- Elementary and Secondary families asked to re-commit to either in-person hybrid or all-remote learning in order to reassess cohort structure.



Recent Developments

- Return to in-person instruction - January 19th
- More students request to return to in-person learning at elementary level making it difficult to assess space and cohort size.
- Beginning of two cohort model at secondary schools - February 1. Students increasingly return, but attendance does not match commitment form.
- First decrease in risk reported by State regional report moving us back towards decreased risk designation - January 29
- Lower risk designation based on CDC Matrix
- Winter Break - Parent Focus Groups - February 18-March 1
- New commitment form filled out by elementary families - Feb 23-March 1st
- Teachers informed they will be eligible for vaccine - March 1
- Plan for additional instruction released - March 3



Cohorting by the numbers elementary:

Students Participating In Person:

Elementary In-Person September 30, 2020	Elementary In-Person December 23, 2020	Elementary In-Person February 1, 2021	Elementary In-Person March 1, 2021
68%	63%	71% (est.)	82%

Increase particularly significant at upper grades.



Cohorting by the numbers secondary:

Students Participating In Person:

Secondary In-Person January 19, 2021	Approximate Attendance In-Person February 28, 2021 MPM	Approximate Attendance In-Person February 28, 2021 HMS	Approximate Attendance In-Person February 28, 2021 LHS
60%	45%	30%	30%

We have had more students request to access in-person learning and are working to grant those requests and are monitoring those numbers.

Impossible to plan a pivot that maximizes in-person attendance at secondary without real numbers.



Now...the light at the end of the tunnel



Spring Forward at LPS - Elementary



(K-2)

March 15, 2021: All students who have indicated a Hybrid Learning option on last week's commitment form **will return five days per week for in-person learning from 8 a.m until 12:45 p.m.**

(3-5)

April 5, 2021: All students who have indicated a Hybrid Learning option on last week's commitment form **will return five days per week for in-person learning from 8 a.m until 12:45 p.m.**



Spring Forward at LPS (K-5)

- **No Later Than May 10, 2021:** All in-person elementary students will move to a full-day, five day per week schedule.
- There will be **one more opportunity to choose the Hybrid Learning** option by May 3; however, it will be based on space availability.
- **Elementary School parent/teacher conferences will be postponed until the week of April 26, 2021** in order to allow for smooth operation during the transition associated with our new hybrid model.
- We will be looking to do more in-person activities in the afternoons at all levels since we can be outside more.



Spring Forward at LPS - Secondary



- **March 4, 2021:** Secondary Commitment Form will be sent to families.
- **March 8, 2021:** Commitment Form submissions are due.
- **Week of March 15, 2021:** The Secondary Plan will be communicated to students and parents.
- **April 5, 2021:** Implement new plan.* Some options being considered:
 - Increase the number of students in school each day by overlapping cohorts
 - Move to an AM/PM cohort schedule

***Keep in mind that the commitment form results are essential in making this decision.**



Spring Forward at LPS - Secondary

- We already have two plans ready to go to bring in students even more.
- Need to know the numbers of students accessing in-person instruction in order to know which plan will be most effective at maximizing in person time.
- Next “pivot commitment form” is going out tomorrow.
We need real, honest data; this will inform logistics of our final pivot.
- Sports, the spring musical, and other activities are coming.
We need to be careful about cohort sizing because increasing capacity in a room can lead to more quarantining. Activities important for SEL, and we want to avoid quarantining students if possible.



Factors We Are Considering

1. Teachers will have had the opportunity to be vaccinated;
2. Windows will be able to be opened in classrooms more comfortably;
3. We will supply desks dividers at the elementary level to create additional layer to our mitigation efforts, which is recommended by the CDC;
4. Time for community and regional cases to decline further;
5. Tents will return to our schools in April providing additional opportunities for outdoor learning, snacks, and mask breaks.



THE PIVOT CONTINUES

Since this past summer, we have discussed the need to “pivot” this school year as circumstances and guidance changes related to the pandemic.

We are excited that the **Spring Forward LPS 2021** plan will move us much closer to school as we knew it before.



Questions?

