



Return to School Education Plan - Phase II Frequently Asked Questions

Reminder – As we have learned over the past seven months, the circumstances related to COVID-19 evolve constantly. Therefore, we will update our plans as necessary based on guidance from national, state and local sources.

How many students will be in a typical classroom?

While class size will vary depending on grade level and building, preliminary results from the parent survey indicate that classrooms will be at approximately 80% capacity. (For a typical classroom of 20 students, approximately 16 students would be present)

When will the new 5 Day/Week, In-Person Learning Model begin?

In order to provide time for proper planning and to finalize all first 9-week grades, the new model will begin on Wednesday, November 4, 2020.

Which EF students will have the 5 Day/Week, In-Person Learning Model option?

Only students in grades Kindergarten through 5th Grade will have the option of attending school 5 day/week. The district will continue to monitor health data and work with local and state health officials to evaluate the possibility of extending this option to our secondary students.

Will students continue to follow 6-foot social distancing guidelines?

In nearly every classroom, enrollment will dictate that students are seated less than 6 feet from one another. Every effort will be made to ensure that students are separated by the maximum extent feasible when possible.

Will students remain with their current teacher?

Based on preliminary survey results, staffing changes will be required. Some students will experience a teacher change. These changes would impact both in-person and remote learners.

Will we return to a hybrid model if case counts increase?

Pivoting directly back to a hybrid model from a 5 day/week model would present too many challenges to be feasible. If there were increasing case counts in any building, the district would work closely with the Allegheny Department of Health to determine the safest course of action. A hybrid model would only be possible after a prolonged closure resulting in district-wide full-time remote learning for all students.

Will the rules for face covering change?

The face covering rules will remain in place. Because students will not be able to be separated by 6 feet in the classroom, mask breaks will be limited.

When will the classroom and other areas be cleaned?

In the hybrid model, Wednesday has been used for cleaning purposes since the beginning of the year. In the 5 day/week model, public spaces will be cleaned during the day and classrooms will be thoroughly cleaned each evening.

What other mitigation steps will be followed in the elementary schools?

There will be no changes to mitigation steps at the elementary schools. This includes the limiting of outside visitors, the use of symptom screening procedures, the implementation of cleaning and sanitizing procedures, and all steps included on the district's Health and Safety Plan.

How long is the district asking parents to commit to a learning model?

Based on information gathered from the first two months of school and the information provided regarding the 5 day/week, in-person learning model, the district is asking parents and guardians for a commitment for at least one 9-week grading period.

What will lunches look like for elementary students?

Students will be able to separate by 6 feet while eating and drinking. Elementary buildings will utilize multipurpose rooms and other locations to accommodate this requirement. Plexiglass partitions have been added to all cafeteria tables as an added safety measure. Please note that the USDA is extending flexibilities to allow for free meals to continue to be available to all children throughout the entire 2020-2021 school year.

What will transportation look like for elementary students?

Buses may double their current occupancy. This will be dependent on the number of students that are driven to school. This will mean that students may be required to sit two to a seat. Students will be required to wear their masks for the entire trip. Masks will become more important as the average temperature continues to fall and the ability to keep windows open is no longer possible. Students will follow the current loading and unloading procedures.