

Opening the 2020-2021 School Year with a Hybrid Model

July 23, 2020



The School District of Haverford Township

Planning Guidance remains the same



Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE)

Updated 7/16

Chester County Health Department - Updated 7/6 -
under revision again (notified 7/22)

American Academy of Pediatrics

Mid-Atlantic Regional Educational Laboratory
(REL) "Considerations for Reopening
Pennsylvania Schools"

World Health Organization (WHO)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
(CDC)*

Environmental Consultants, Inc.

*Awaiting updated guidance documents

Why the change from 5 days to Hybrid:

- The district presented for the board's consideration a model allowing all schools to open 5 days a week for all students. Following that meeting, a presentation about a hybrid model was scheduled for 7/16
- The decision to focus solely upon a hybrid model was made upon receipt of the 7/16 PA Department of Education Guidance stating that schools should provide a minimum of 6 feet of distancing between students and staff to the maximum extent possible. Three feet social distancing is okay when six is not feasible - does NOT mean 3' in the majority of classrooms is okay
- Variables that influence the possibilities include:
 - Square footage of classrooms
 - Class sizes (grades K-5 we have classes of 26-29 students)
 - Number of adults assigned within a room
 - Number of excess spaces within a building

Why Hybrid?

Classroom set up - middle school level
6 feet distancing



Classroom set up - middle school level
3 feet distancing



Hybrid and Haverford Online

Helping families make a decision

- Employees of the District want to provide families with as clear a picture of each environment as possible - in some cases we do not know the answers to all of the questions.
- The School District of Haverford Township - the culture, climate, the sense of community were built and created over time. And it is the goal of each and every employee to create the culture, climate and sense of community within either model
- Live meetings: (Haverford Online - 198 participants on Tuesday 7/21)
 - Hybrid Model Information Session with Q/A
 - Elementary - Tuesday 7/28 at 5:00-6:30 PM
 - Middle School - Tuesday 7/28 at 7:00-8:30 PM
 - High School - Wednesday 7/29 at 5:00 - 6:30 PM
 - Pupil Services Information Session with Q/A (Special Education, Gifted, English Learners, 504)
 - Date to be identified - will be communicated to families 7/24

Hybrid researched by PA Department of Ed

- PA Department of Education commissioned a study
 - To study the number of days in school before the school experiences 5 infections (This does **NOT** indicate a school will close once 5 infections occur)
- Dividing student population in half with each half attending 40% of the available days, is predicted to slow the spread of the virus substantially (5 x as many days before the school experiences the fifth occurrence)

Hybrid Models Considered:

Two cohorts attending 6 day rotation (3 days in, 3 days at home learning)

PROS

- Developing and sustaining relationships
- Increases opportunity for in person learning

CONS

- Transporting to over 100 locations will be complicated by this rotating type of schedule
- Not one of the REL recommended approaches

Hybrid Models Considered:

Two cohorts attending M/W and T/Th

PROS

- Contact with teacher spread throughout the week
- Virtual Fridays allow for teacher to bring the entire class or small groups together

CONS

- Interruption to learning
- Coordination of lessons for A and B groupings

Hybrid Models Considered:

Two cohorts attending M/T and Th/F

PROS

- Two days in a row of instruction
- Day of cleaning in between cohorts

CONS

- Three school days lapse before student sees the teacher again
- Three school days and a weekend pass before counselor, support staff see student

Cohort Models Considered:

Cohorts identified by neighborhood

PROS

- Neighbors already supporting one another can continue to do so

CONS

- Potential to divide the student body by demographics
- Possibly alienate families who are not connected and don't have support
- More difficult to keep families together - if numbers do not work out for class sizes

Cohort Models Considered:

Cohorts identified by alphabet

PROS

- Keep families together
- A variety of students placed in the class
- Our system is set up to accommodate this scheduling

CONS

- Class sizes may be uneven
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Recommendation:

Hybrid Model:

- Monday/Wednesday for one group of students and Tuesday/Thursday for the second group of students

Cohort Model:

- By alphabet

Parent Preference Form Responses 6:00 PM – 7/23/20

Total Responses = 2,894

Selecting Hybrid attendance = 2,444

Selecting Haverford Online = 450

Expect to use SDHT Transportation = 651

Expect to use SDHT Food Services = 311

Timeline

Week of July 27: Information sessions to be held (Tuesday and Wednesday)

July 30: School Board expected to vote to approve opening plan

Aug 1: Parent Preference Response Due