

STONINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Dear Parents and Families,

This evening at the Board of Education's regular meeting I will be sharing the district's plan to reopen school on September 8th with a hybrid model of instruction that allows students to attend school two days in-person and three days online from home. Parents will have a choice to select this model of instruction whereby their child will be assigned to an in-person/distance cohort (A or B) and a schedule based on their last name **or** to opt into a full five day distance learning model where all learning and related services will be delivered remotely.

Model	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Hybrid model In-person by cohort	Cohort A (in-person)	Cohort A (in-person)	All students and staff in (distance learning)	Cohort A (distance learning)	Cohort A (distance learning)
	Cohort B (distance learning)	Cohort B (distance learning)		Cohort B (in-person)	Cohort B (in-person)
Full Distance Learning Model	All students and teachers in a Full Distance Learning Model according to the school schedule				

Exceptions to cohort assignments **will only** be made to accommodate those students who reside in the same household and have different last names or to meet specific programming needs identified by the administration. It is not possible for us to meet cohort requests and maintain the balance of class size and the optimum mitigation requirements recommended by the Center for Disease Control (CDC). PreK students will follow their traditional four/five day in-person schedule and **high needs** special education students may be recommended for additional in-person days under the hybrid model.

Families selecting a full distance learning model for their child (ren) should know they are responsible for the supervision, engagement, and regular attendance of the child (ren) in learning as scheduled by the school and assigned teacher. The assigned distance learning teacher may or may not be their classroom teacher when they return to school in-person. Also, the remote learning program may not result in a 1:1 match of instructional hours to the in-person model, even though students attending in-person and online will follow the same school schedule. The distance learning model **is not** the same model your child experienced in the spring. It is the responsibility of the family/parents to ensure the child(ren) attend all synchronous learning classes, remain supervised and engaged in both synchronous and asynchronous learning activities, and adhere to all school policies. The model is structured to make transitions from the full distance learning model back to the in-person model as seamless as possible.

It is important to note this "opt in" choice for full distance learning may be terminated at any time by the Connecticut State Department of Education who will consider public health data in determining when a full in-person return to school is safe. Families who "opt in" to the full distance learning model may change their minds at any time. The district requires one week's written notice of the request for a student to return to school in-person in order to prepare for the student's reentry.

The district reopening plan also provides information about facilities including classroom layout, ventilation, and new health protocols. Families will also find information about academic programs and extracurricular offerings in the district plan. Each school has provided additional information specific to that building about reopening details.

A review of the plans will help inform you to make the best choice for your child (ren)'s return to school this fall. I encourage you to take a few minutes to read the plans before completing the final reopening survey that will be sent to you tomorrow. I ask you to return your survey response(s) by **Monday, August 17th at 5:00 PM**. Your responses will be used to assign students to teachers and cohorts. Just a reminder, there is no model that allows for an a la carte model whereby a student enrolls in some in person classes and others remotely. To review the district/school plans please visit the district [website](#).

Dr. Van Riley, Superintendent