

# ANSONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2020-2021 FALL REOPENING PLAN

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# ANSONIA STRONG - Introduction

As you view this presentation, it is important to understand that the decision to open school is difficult for all communities. The Governor and the Commissioner of Education have directed that all school districts must open in one of two formats: for all students every day or a hybrid model. With this understanding, the work Ansonia Public Schools reopening committee was to study, understand, and then plan for how to accomplish this very difficult and important task within the guidelines issued.

Additionally, the requirement that all students and staff will use face coverings is not a local decision. We must require this as directed in the guidance documents. We know that this will be difficult for many. We are sensitive to this and will do everything we can to keep students and staff members comfortable while always being mindful of safety.

The greatest challenge in creating and implementing this plan is the wide spectrum of opinions and fears about COVID-19. Neither this plan nor any other will be able to allay all possible concerns and fears held by some members of the community. This is normal and natural. We are working to create a productive and safe atmosphere while continuing to work with our district medical advisor and the Naugatuck Valley Health District. Together, we will continue to remain Ansonia Strong.

Thank you for your cooperation,

*Joseph DiBacco*

Superintendent of Schools



# CT's 3-Tiered System Based on Risks

## LOW - TIER 1

Schools operating up to 100% capacity, students/staff with underlying medical conditions should consider restrictions and blended/distance learning

Buses up to full capacity with bus monitors recommended, facial coverings in place during transit, controlled loading/unloading of riders

Face coverings for students and staff while inside school buildings

Identification/isolation of sick students/staff

Cohorting of students encouraged, particularly in younger grades, restrictions on congregating

Maximize spacing of seating up to six feet when feasible

Increased cleaning and sanitization protocols

## MODERATE - TIER 2

Schools operating at reduced capacity, with more reliance on hybrid model, blended/distance learning, prioritize access to school building for students who need the more learning support, including but not limited to those receiving special education, ELs or limited access due to devices or connectivity issues

Buses at reduced capacity with bus monitors strongly recommended, facial coverings in place during transit, controlled loading/unloading of riders, spaced seating between unrelated riders

Face coverings for students and staff while inside school buildings

Maximize spacing of seating up to six feet or more when feasible with reduced class sizes

Identification/isolation of sick students/staff

Cohorting of students, restrictions on congregating, staggered start/stop times and hallway transit

Indoor extracurricular activities should be suspended, sports and other outdoor activities should consider restrictions on activities

## HIGH - TIER 3

Schools closed, 100% distance learning, bus transportation suspended, extracurricular activities, including sports, should be suspended

**Tier 1: *Open for All Students Each Day***

# Re-Entry Committees Primary Resources (August 2020)

- [Adapt, Advance, Achieve: Connecticut's Plan to Learn and Grow Together \(CSDE\)](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)
- [Connecticut Department of Health \(CDPH\)](#)
- [COVID-19 Planning Considerations: Guidance for School Re-entry](#)

# We All Can Do Our Part

- If you, your child or anyone in your home are showing any symptoms of illness, please stay home.
- Parents are encouraged to check their child's temperature each morning before they leave the house.
- Students who show symptoms at school will be placed in an isolated area and supervised until they can be taken home.

**COVID 19**  
CORONAVIRUS DISEASE

## SYMPTOMS OF CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019

Patients with COVID-19 have experienced mild to severe respiratory illness.

**Symptoms\* can include**

- FEVER**
- COUGH**
- SHORTNESS OF BREATH**

\*Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure.

Seek medical advice if you develop symptoms, and have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19.

For more information: [www.cdc.gov/COVID19-symptoms](http://www.cdc.gov/COVID19-symptoms)

CDC

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# All Connecticut Schools are Mandated to Open in Tier 1: *Open for All Students Each Day.*

## **In-person Learning**

- All classrooms will have distancing maximized to the greatest extent possible
- Frequent hand washing and hand sanitizing
- Frequent reminders and signage about "Stop the Spread"
- Masks/Face Coverings over mouth and nose **required**. "Mask breaks" will be given to students when six feet of distancing is possible and safe. Parents may present a note from a licensed medical provider if wearing a mask is hazardous for a child.
- Enhanced, frequent cleaning and disinfection of surfaces
- Specials in elementary and middle schools will be modified (Band, Chorus, PE, etc.)
- Cohorting of Groups (ES/MS)
- Extra-curriculars offered as possible by executive order and guidance from the state
- Backpacks encouraged and locker use restricted
- Grading of work done as usual

## **For parents who choose not to send their child to school:**

- Remote learning will be available
- We ask that you make this decision for at least the length of a marking period to provide predictability for your child, other students, and teachers

# Tier 1: Transportation

- Buses will be thoroughly sanitized each day
- Touch points on buses will be cleaned between each bus run
- Adult(s) and students must all wear a face covering at all times
- Buses will operate at typical capacity
- Bus arrival and dismissal times may be altered slightly to ensure safe drop-off and pick-up at school to reduce congestion in hallways
- Bus considered one "cohort" and the classroom another
- Typical bus routes and stops will be used
- Parents may still choose to transport their children.
- High School students with permission to drive to school may still do so



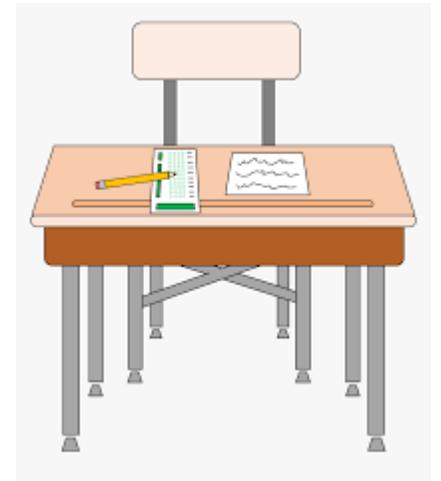
# Tier 1: Arrival & Dismissal

- Each school will designate additional drop-off and dismissal doors (where possible) to spread out congestion.
- Arrival and dismissal will take longer in order to spread this out over time.
- Parents who choose to transport their child are asked to cooperate with instructions sent home by your school's principal.



# Tier 1: What will the classroom look like?

- All unnecessary rugs and accessories will either be removed or put out of use to the side of the classroom
- All student desks will face forward. If two students share a table, they will be at opposite ends of the table
- Desks will be spaced as far apart as possible within the available square footage of the classroom
- Teachers may remove their masks when distanced more than six feet from a student for direct instruction
- Small-group instruction may not take place or may be greatly reduced with necessary safety measures. (Awaiting further CSDE guidance on this)



# Tier 1: What will the classroom look like? (contd.)

- Reduced/restricted sharing of resources: art, music, Chromebooks, etc.
- Most specials in ES and MS will be delivered in the regular classroom
- Special Education "pull-out" and "push-in" services will continue wherever safe and appropriate
- "Mask breaks" will be allowed and encouraged whenever social distancing can be safely accomplished
- Teaching practices will need to change, most especially at the elementary level. Strategies such as gathering kids on the rug for whole-class instruction, reading/math groups, partner work, will all be difficult under these guidelines

# Tier 1: School Meals

Each school has its own possibilities and challenges in using the cafeteria. Each school will implement more than one of the following practices as permitted by the conditions at each building:

- Use extra, nearby spaces (gymnasium, etc.) to spread out students
- May use classroom desks in cafeterias to increase spacing
- Increase the number of lunch waves to reduce the total number of students in a single lunch wave
- Less choice will be available at each meal



## **Tier 2: *Hybrid Learning***

# Tier 2: Hybrid Learning

If public health data trends toward a higher infection rate, State officials may deem it necessary for schools to enter "Tier 2". Tier 2 reduces the total number of students in a school on a given day by implementing an alternating schedule. Students would be assigned to either Cohort A or Cohort B.

- Siblings would be placed into the same cohort
- Number of students on busses and in classrooms will be reduced by approximately 50%
- All other protocols of Tier 1 continue to apply



# Ansonia Public Schools - Hybrid Schedule

<b>Model</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
Hybrid Model (Onsite by cohort)	Cohort A (Onsite)	Cohort A (Onsite)	All Students Distance Learning	Cohort A (Distance)	Cohort A (Distance)
	Cohort B (Distance)	Cohort B (Distance)		Cohort B (Onsite)	Cohort B (Onsite)
Distance Learning Model (Optional)	Distance Learning				

# **Tier 3: *Distance Learning***

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# Tier 3: *Distance Learning*

If public health data on COVID-19 shows continued spread, State officials may order that schools close and enter distance learning. Based on our experiences in the Spring of 2020 and input from many parents, teachers and administrators, we will make substantial improvements in our distance learning format.

Students will experience a minimum of 90 minutes per day; four days per week of synchronous learning with their teacher(s). During this time, all students and teachers will log onto a Google Meet together for live instruction. Remainder of the day will be asynchronous (scheduled flexibly). On Friday (flex day) students may meet with the teacher for extra help or in small virtual groups for support.



# Tier 3: Synchronous Learning

Our goal is to provide the classroom experience at home to the greatest extent possible.

Synchronous learning means that students will be able to see and engage with their class all together online at the same time. In order to support this effort, Ansonia Public Schools is in the process of developing a 1:1 Chromebook policy for students in grade K-12.. Ansonia Public School has also purchased technology to maximize the at home experience and most deeply engage the remote learner.

# Tier 3: Asynchronous Learning

- Teachers may produce recorded videos through Screencastify or Youtube for distribution among students
- Teachers may post assignments through Google Classroom
- Students may collaborate on projects remotely
- Teachers may meet with students via Google Meet

FURTHER DETAIL

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# Face Coverings



## Face Covering

A cloth, paper, or disposable face covering that covers the nose and mouth; may or may not be medical grade



## Face Shield

A clear plastic shield that covers the forehead, extends below the chin, and wraps around the sides of the face

- All people in the building will be required to wear a cloth mask which covers the nose and mouth at all times that they are not eating or drinking. Face coverings with exhaust vents are not acceptable. Also, “Gaitor Face Coverings” are not permitted. Face coverings with more than one layer are recommended
- Frequent mask breaks as developmentally appropriate will be provided (when possible) outside or where social distancing of at least 6 feet can be provide
- School/community members with legitimate health concerns that would make the wearing of PPE dangerous or harmful may present the Superintendent with written proof of such from a licensed medical provider

# Maximized Social Distancing

- Students and staff members will exercise social distancing to the greatest extent feasible
- Hallway traffic will be organized one way to the greatest extent feasible
- To the greatest extent feasible, student cohorting will be practiced within the classroom, in common areas, and while on playgrounds
- Age appropriate signage reminding school community members to social distance posted throughout the schools and offices

# Self-Protective Measures

- Hand sanitizer stations are available throughout all school buildings
- Scheduled hand washing/sanitizing times
- Age appropriate signage will be posted for “Stop the Spread” hand washing, face coverings and social distancing throughout all school buildings
- Each teacher, head custodian, and principal/admin will meet in each classroom to design layout and distancing. Mark floors for exclusion zone and social distancing reminders

# Enhanced Cleaning Protocols

- Cleaning methods, cleaners, and frequency per CDC guidelines
- Custodians will continuously circulate, sanitizing touchpoints, lavatories, and high-traffic areas
- An extra custodian will be added to each building to focus solely on touchpoints
- Bathrooms will be cleaned at least twice a day. Where possible, we will consider designating separate bathrooms for different classes or setting shifts for classes to use the bathroom
- Implement use of cleaning log to track cleaning frequency
- Age appropriate signage will be posted for Stop the Spread, hand washing, face coverings, social distancing throughout all school buildings
- Each teacher, head custodian, and principal/admin meet in each classroom to design layout and distancing. Mark floor for exclusion zone and social distancing reminders

# Lunch Protocols

**Examining the safest practice at each school - options available to each school:**

- Food Services will be operational
- Possible alternative options include:
  - Additional lunch waves
  - Plastic partitions where feasible
  - Expanded spaces
  - Grab & Go bagged lunches
- *Free breakfast and lunch will continue to be provided*

# Cohorting

**Cohorting** is the strategy of limiting interactions between individuals to mitigate the spread of the virus and aid in contact tracing if indeed there is a positive individual. State of Connecticut guidance recognizes the balance between cohorting and providing an educational experience that more closely resembles typical education at each developmental level.

- Cohorting of students will occur in Elementary and Middle School and where possible at High School
- Restrictions on congregating
- Maximize spacing of seating in classrooms to the greatest extent possible

# Transportation

## Low Transmission Risk - Tier 1

- Re-work route times to lessen large groups of buses arriving at school at once
- Buses at or near capacity
- Face coverings required to be worn for all students and adults
- Cleaning protocols in place between bus runs
- Stagger release of each bus of students to avoid congestion in hallways during both the start of the school day and at dismissal

## Moderate Transmission Risk - Tier 2

- Buses operate at a significantly reduced capacity
- Bus passengers will be spaced with family members sitting together.
- Social distancing of non family members to the greatest degree possible with fewer riders per bus
- Face coverings required to be worn for all students and adults
- Cleaning protocols in place between bus runs
- Stagger release of each bus of students to avoid congestion in hallways during both the start of the school day and at dismissal



### **Safe Status**

Bus transportation can operate with no restrictions.



### **Low Status**

Bus transportation can operate up to full status with mask requirements and loading and unloading restrictions.



### **Moderate Status**

Bus transportation can operate with seating and spacing restrictions, mask requirements, and loading and unloading restrictions.

# Health Practices and Protocols

- Students will be trained on social distancing, cleaning protocols, and hygiene practices. This training will be repeated during the first months of school opening
- Instruction on social distancing, respiratory and cough etiquette
- Frequent handwashing and use of sanitizer
- Mandatory use of face coverings
- Enhanced cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces
- Age appropriate signage of standard public health practices used to prevent the spread of diseases will be posted throughout school buildings and offices
- Age appropriate signage to encourage social distancing
- Cleaning methods, cleaners, and frequency per CDC guidelines
- Hand sanitizer stations are available throughout all school buildings
- Adequate soap, hand sanitizer, paper towels, tissues

# Health Practices and Protocols (contd.)

- The number one rule is if you are feeling sick, STAY HOME!
- Individuals who report symptoms during the day will be quarantined within the building and sent home for monitoring
- If an individual tests positive for COVID-19, we will engage the health department in contact tracing and quarantine individuals as necessary
- If a child or staff member who has been present in school is diagnosed with COVID-19, the school will notify families and staff about the exposure (protocols are in place around information sharing while respecting privacy expectations). The district will inform impacted families that a potential contact has occurred but the name of the potentially COVID-positive person will not be shared

# Special Education Services

These students' needs will be addressed on an individualized basis through our Student Services Department.

# Additional Actions:

- Lavatory visits will be structured to minimize grouping and allow for cleaning
- Filters on HVAC systems will be upgraded to better capture particulate
- HVAC ventilation of fresh air will be greatly increased
- Visitors will only be allowed to enter schools if absolutely necessary and approved by building administration by appointment
- Doors will be propped open to the degree allowed by fire code
- Secretaries and other support staff will be provided clear plastic partitions where possible and appropriate
- Student passing in the corridor will be coordinated to the degree possible to reduce congestion



# Elementary Schools - Mead and Prendergast

## LOW - TIER 1

### Increased Focus on-

- Social distancing
- Frequent hand washing and use of hand sanitizer,
- Use of face coverings that completely cover the nose and mouth,
- Respiratory and cough etiquette,
- Enhanced cleaning/disinfection of surfaces

### Social Distancing:

- Remove rugs, small tables, non essential items to maximize social distancing
- Separate desks to the greatest extent possible (face forward)

### Sanitizing:

- Frequent handwashing in the classrooms. Install soap/sanitizer dispensers
- Face coverings required
- Respiratory/Cough Etiquette lessons

### Instruction:

- In person with supplementally Instruction delivered digitally for those not In school.
- Kids log Into Google Classroom for day/lessons.

### Materials:

Personal Supply, bins, BYO headphones, materials.  
Use of online books where possible. Extra supplies for students on hand.

Cohort: Classroom remains static

## MODERATE - TIER 2

### Increased Focus on-

- Social distancing
- Frequent hand washing and use of hand sanitizer,
- Use of face coverings that completely cover the nose and mouth,
- Respiratory and cough etiquette,
- Enhanced cleaning/disinfection of surfaces

### Instruction:

- A/B Rotating Schedule (1/2 student population (A) in school while 1/2 student population (B) is home learning remotely then switch)
- Mon, Tue, Thur, Fri daily rotation
- Wed flex day with teacher office hours. Deep cleansing of buildings.
- Kids log into Google Classroom for live lessons.
- Supplementary instruction delivered digitally (webcam)
- Virtual and in-person attendance

## HIGH - TIER 3

Schools closed, 100% remote learning

### Instruction:

- Minimum of 90 Minutes of synchronous learning 4x's per week. (M, T, W, TH)
- Flex Day (F)

# Ansonia Middle School

## LOW - TIER 1

### Increased Focus on:

- Social distancing
- Frequent hand washing and use of hand sanitizer,
- Use of face coverings that completely cover the nose and mouth,
- Respiratory and cough etiquette,
- Enhanced cleaning/disinfection of surfaces

### Social Distancing:

- Rooms to adhere to guidelines (20 desks per room).
- Separate desks to the greatest extent possible (face forward)
- Arrival/Dismissal Staggered

Cohort: Classroom remains static

### Sanitizing:

- Frequent handwashing in the classrooms. Install soap/sanitizer dispensers
- Face coverings required
- Respiratory/Cough Etiquette lessons per nurse

### Instruction:

- In person with supplementally instruction delivered digitally for those not In school.
- Kids log Into Google Classroom for day/lessons
- Specialists provide virtual Instruction for students to access while they stay In cohort
- Modify Schedule for lunch waves

### Materials:

- No shared materials. Use of online books where possible. Extra supplies for students on hand.

## MODERATE - TIER 2

### Increased Focus on-

- Social distancing
- Frequent hand washing end use of hand sanitizer, use of face coverings that completely cover the nose and mouth,
- Respiratory and cough etiquette,
- Enhanced cleaning/disinfection of surfaces

### Social Distancing:

- Rooms to adhere to guidelines (20 desks per room).
- Separate desks to the greatest extent possible (face forward)
- Arrival/Dismissal Staggered Classroom remains static

### Sanitizing:

- Frequent handwashing In the classrooms. Install soap/sanitizer dispensers
- Face coverings required
- Respiratory/Cough Etiquette lessons per nurse

### Instruction:

- A/B Rotating Schedule (½ .student population (A) In school while ½ student population (B) is home learning remotely then switch)
- Mon, Tue, Thur, Fri daily rotation
- Wed flex day with teacher office hours. Deep cleansing of buildings.
- U/A Virtual
- Kids log into Google Classroom for day/lessons.
- Supplementary instruction delivered digitally (webcam)
- Virtual and in-person attendance

## HIGH - TIER 3

Schools closed, 100% remote learning

### Instruction:

90 Minutes of synchronous learning 4x's per week.  
(M, T, W, TH)  
Flex Day (F)

# Ansonia High School

## **LOW - TIER 1**

### Increased Focus on:

- Frequent hand washing and use of hand sanitizer,
- Use of face coverings that completely cover the nose and mouth
- Respiratory and cough etiquette,
- Enhanced cleaning/disinfection of surfaces

### Social Distancing:

- 3 entrances
- Start in period 1
- 7am teacher start time
- Separate desks to the greatest extent possible (face forward)
- Assess Individual classrooms and space
- Relocate large classes

### Sanitizing:

- Frequent hand washing. Install soap/sanitizer dispensers
- Face coverings required
- Respiratory/Cough Etiquette signage
- Enhanced Cleaning

### Instruction:

- In person with supplementally instruction delivered digitally for those not in school
- Google Classroom for day/lessons
- Modify Schedule for lunch waves
- Work to meet needs of IEP's,504's

### Materials:

- No shared materials. Use of online books where possible. Extra supplies for students on hand.

## **MODERATE - TIER 2**

### Increased Focus on:

- Frequent hand washing and use of hand sanitizer,
- Use of face coverings that completely cover the nose and mouth,
- Respiratory and cough etiquette,
- Enhanced cleaning/disinfection of surfaces

### Social Distancing:

- 3 entrances
- Start in period 1
- 7am teacher start time
- Separate desks to the greatest extent possible (face forward)
- Assess Individual classrooms and space
- Relocate large classes
- Sanitizing
- Frequent hand washing. Install soap/sanitizer dispensers
- Face coverings required
- Respiratory/Cough Etiquette signage
- Enhanced Cleaning

### Instruction:

- A/B Rotating Schedule (½ student population (A) In school while ½ student population (B) is home learning remotely then switch)
- Mon, Tue, Thur, Fri daily rotation
- Wed flex day with teacher office hours. Deep cleansing of buildings.
- Kids log Into Google Classroom for day/lessons.
- Supplementary Instruction delivered digitally
- Virtual and in-person attendance

## **HIGH - TIER 3**

Schools closed,100% remote learning,

### Instruction:

- 90 Minutes of synchronous learning 4x's per week. (M, T, TH, F)
- 90 mins per class per week.
- Flex Day (W) (Off.Hours, Feedback, Communication)
- Equity-Intervention