

ROCHESTER COMUNITY SCHOOLS

PRIDE IN EXCELLENCE

Learning Forward Updates

January 25, 2021



Timeline

- **June 2** Dr. Shaner appointed to the governor's COVID-19 Return to School Advisory Council.
- **June 30** Back-to-school safety requirements released in MI Safe Schools: Michigan's 2020-21 Return to School Roadmap.
- **July 27** Members of the RCS task force present complexities and contingencies surrounding learning options during Board of Education work session.
- **July 28** Community town hall meetings address districtwide feedback with input provided through ThoughtExchange.
- Aug. 5 Families are notified that in-person learning will temporarily begin in a remote-learning environment. "Our vision is to transition back to in-person learning as conditions allow. We anticipate being in the remote environment until October 1."
- Aug. 15 School districts are required to submit a Preparedness and Response Plan for the 2020-21 school year, approved by the local school district board and then posted on the website.
- Aug. 20 School districts are required to submit an Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan to the state by Oct. 1 (in addition to the Preparedness and Response Plan) that has been approved by the Board of Education.
- **Aug. 26** School-age care needs assessment provided to the community.



Timeline: Phased-in Approach to In-person Learning

- **Sept. 1** RCS students start school remotely (for in-person instruction) or in the RCS Virtual Campus.
- **Sept. 3** MHSAA reinstated fall sports / RCS phased in high-school athletics, starting Sept. 8.
- **Sept. 14** Special Education teams begin offering in-person student evaluations within the week.
- **Sept. 21** Middle school athletics resume within the week.
- **Sept. 22** General education pre-K programs begin.
- **Sept. 28** RCS presents the district's extended COVID-19 Learning Plan to the Board for approval.
- Oct. 5 Some students enrolled in special education programs attend half day, starting Oct. 5. Programs include Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE), Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Cognitive Impairments (CI), Severe Multiple Impairments (SXI), Emotional Impairments (EI), and Adult Transition Programs and Services (ATPS).
- Oct. 8 Elementary students attend half day by cohorts. Cohort A: Half-day, in-person instruction; Cohort B: Asynchronous learning.
- **Oct. 9** Elementary students attend half day by cohorts. Cohort A: Asynchronous learning; Cohort B: Half-day, in-person instruction.
- Oct. 12 All elementary and middle school students return full day by cohort. Some special education students enrolled in ASD, CI, SXI, and EI programs attend full day.
- **Oct. 14** High-school seniors attend for SAT testing.
- **Oct. 19** All high school students attend by cohort.
- **Oct. 26** Facility rentals begin, starting with swimming pools.



Timeline

- Oct. 26 RCS presents the district's extended COVID-19 Learning Plan to the Board for approval.
- Nov. 2, 3, 11, 12, 17 Technology device deployment.
- **Nov. 5** Students enrolled in transitional kindergarten through 12th grade (TK-12) in-person learning, ECSE, and ATPS return to an enhanced remote learning environment due to the Oakland County Health Division (OCHD) risk-level determination. In-person enrichment programs pause until in-person learning resumes. Pre-K programs pause.
- **Nov. 9** In-person pre-K programs resume.
- **Nov. 15** MDHHS announced new statewide restrictions: Public and private high school students will learn in a remote environment from Nov. 18 through Dec. 8. All organized sports and extra-curricular activities will be postponed Nov. 16 through Dec. 8. This includes all in-person activities at the middle- and high-school levels.
- **Nov. 18** COVID-19 Preparedness Response Plan is revised to reflect new guidance from the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA) regarding remote work.
- **Nov. 19** RCS informs families that the district will continue to serve children in a remote learning environment through Jan. 15, 2021.
- **Nov. 30** RCS presents the district's extended COVID-19 Learning Plan to the Board for approval.
- **Dec. 14** RCS presents the district's extended COVID-19 Learning Plan to the Board for approval.



Timeline – Phased-in Approach to In-person Learning

- Jan. 25 Elementary and Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE), Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Cognitive Impairment (CI), Severe Multiple Impairment (SXI), and Special Education Adult Programs and Services (ATPS) students return to in-person learning by cohorts using a hybrid approach.
- **Jan. 25** RCS presents the district's extended COVID-19 Learning Plan to the Board for approval.
- **Feb. 1** Middle school students return to in-person learning by cohorts using a hybrid approach.
- **Feb. 8** High school students return to in-person learning by cohorts using a hybrid approach.



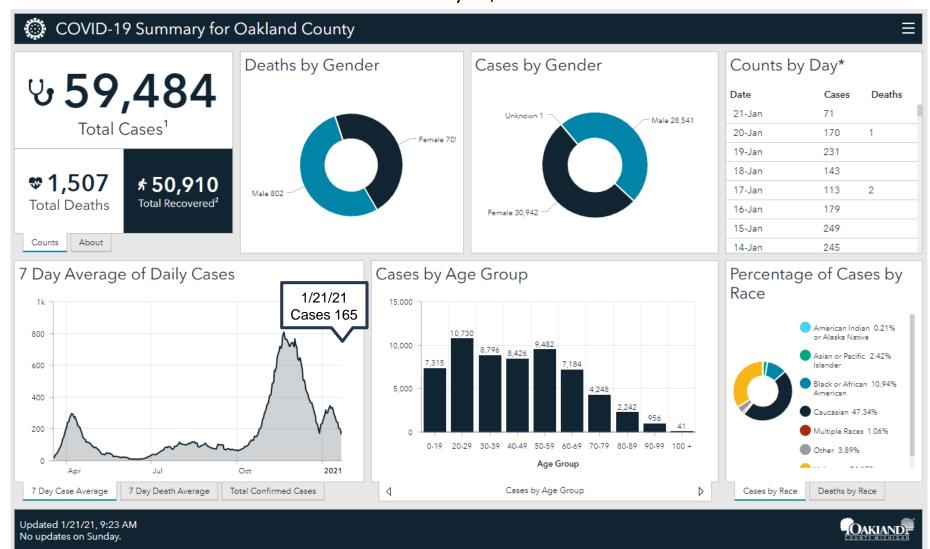






COVID-19 Summary for Oakland County (from MDHHS)

January 21,2021





COVID-19 Oakland County Schools Weekly Report

Reporting Period: Jan. 6 – Jan. 20, 2021

Reporting period: January 6 – January 19				
METRIC	RESULT	Trend	DEFINITION	
Total "Confirmed and Probable" COVID-19 Cases Reported in Oakland County	3473		"Confirmed": laboratory-confirmed positive molecular viral test "Probable": rapid-antigen positive viral test	
Cases/Day per Million Population 7-Day Average 14-Day Average	159 206		Average number of cases per day per million population over the given timeframe	
14-Day Average Daily Case Counts	248		The average number of cases per day reported over the last 14 days of the reporting period	
14-Day Average Daily Death Counts	1.2		The average number of deaths per day reported over the last 14 days of the reporting period	
14-Day Average Tests Per Day	4422		The average number of diagnostic tests administered to Oakland residents over the last 14 days of the reporting period	
Percentage of Cases Hospitalized in the Last 14 Days	1.87%		The percentage of cases (confirmed and probable) that reported being hospitalized over the last 14 days of the reporting period	
Percent Positivity (7 days)	6.54%		Percentage of reported positive tests over the last 7 days (January 12 – January 18)	
Percent Positivity (28 days)	7.91%		Percentage of reported positive tests over the last 28 days (December 22 – January 18)	
Healthcare Capacity Strength	STABLE		Assessment of bed availability and hospital capacity	
Testing, Tracing, Containment Infrastructure	STRONG		Assessment of testing availability and OCHD contact tracing capability	

Weekly COVID-19 Report CAKIAND COUNTY MICHIGAN HEALTH DIVISION DAVID COUNTY EXECUTIVE CONTROLLER CO

Total Oakland County Cases Reported by Age Group					
Age Group	Total Cases	Trend	Age Group	Total Cases	Trend
0-4	60		50-59	519	<u> </u>
5-9	80		60-69	330	
10-13	106	→	70-79	192	
14-18	259	<u> </u>	80-89	99	×
19-29	751	×.	90+	59	→
30-39	517		Unknown	11	
40-49	490				

The number of reported cases decreased by 544 cases. The average number of tests per day remained stable, with a small decrease being reported this week. Percent positivity decreased about a half of a percent over the last 28 days and about 1.5% over the last 7 days. The percentage of cases hospitalized remained stable. Healthcare capacity remained stable.



MDHHS and OCHD School Guidance at a Glance

MDHHS Guidance

- MDHHS Return to Learn Roadmap, Received June 30, 2020
 This learning plan was created and presented during July 27, 2020 work session.
- MDHHS / OCHD (Matrix) Guidance for In-person Instruction, Revised Sept. 24, 2020
 Updated learning plan and presented during Sept. 28, 2020 work session and referenced at every board meeting since.
- MDHHS Guidelines for Operating Schools Safely, Released Jan. 8, 2021
 Updated learning plan and presented during Jan. 25, 2021 work session.

RCS Plans

- RCS COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan, Revised Jan. 20, 2021
- RCS COVID-19 Extended Learning Plan, BOE approved each month



MDHHS and **OCHD** Guidance at a Glance

	PURPOSE	KEY POINTS	COMMENTS
MDHHS Return to Learn Roadmap, Received 6-30-20	Provides required and strongly recommended safety protocols for school communities.	 Emphasizes requirements related to cleaning/ disinfecting surfaces. Does not require seated distance in instructional spaces. 	 This document was released prior to policy changes that allowed schools flexibility around seat time and pupil accounting. It was adapted as updated orders were issued related to face coverings.
MDHHS / OCHD (Matrix) Guidance for In-person Instruction, Revised 9-24-20	Provides guidance to schools for in-person learning when considering county risk levels and school building spread indicators.	 Focuses on student density when a district should change learning environments to reduce transmissions in schools. Bases guidance on two local health metrics: Cases per million and percent positive cases. Is used in conjunction with ongoing and established risk mitigation factors. 	 Density levels change with hybrid learning models. In a Nov. 10 publication when the county was in risk level E (highest risk level), Dr. Richard Faust, OCHD health director, stated, "The bottom line is, there is little to no transmission within schools and no evidence of ongoing transmission." Dr. Russell Faust, Oakland County medical director, said, "Schools are the safest place for our kids right now The data refutes the notion that children are super spreaders in school. It is clear they are not."
MDHHS Guidelines for Operating Schools Safely, Released 1-8-21	Encourages schools to safely offer in-person learning options (at least 50% of time), with a goal set for March 1.	 Encourages schools to provide as much in-person learning as is feasible, especially for young learners (PreK-5), economically disadvantaged learners, special education populations, and English language learners. Schools that pursue a full face-to-face option should maintain a minimum seat distance of 3 feet. 	 This guidance is intended to update the MI Return to Learn Roadmap from 6-30-20. Over the last nine months, epidemiologists and other medical experts have closely followed the data and determined schools can ensure a low risk of transmission by adopting strict mitigation measures. Previous guidance (based on state reopening phases or local case-rate targets) appear obsolete at this time.



MDHHS and **OCHD** Guidance at a Glance

	PURPOSE	KEY POINTS	COMMENTS
RCS COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan, Revised 1-20-21	State requirement to identify safe workplace practices and measures to mitigate COVID-19 spread.	Guidance covers: • Mitigation and safety measures • Responsibilities in the workplace • Remote work procedures • Self-reporting procedures • Exposure-risk classification	 Employee training includes: Workplace infection control practices Proper use of PPE Employees notification processes Reporting unsafe work conditions Cleaning protocols
RCS COVID-19 Extended Learning Plan, BOE approved each month	In order to receive state aid for 2020-21, districts must provide a plan for instruction that is approved by the governing board.	 Provides educational goals for all students and all subgroups. RCS originally adopted the framework contained in the Opportunity Labs initiative, "Return to School Roadmap," in preparation for a possible need to deliver instruction in a remote learning environment due to the COVID-19 pandemic. 	 This plan does not replace the RCS COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan. It was developed in conjunction with guidance from: OCHD, CDC, Oakland County Return to School Taskforce, Governor Gretchen Whitmer's Return to School Advisory Council, the COVID-19 Task Force on Education, our district school nurse and community health partners.



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Return to In-person Learning

MDHHS Guidelines for Operating Schools Safely, dated Jan. 8, 2021



Michigan Guidelines for Operating School Safely

- MDHHS Guidelines for Operating Schools Safely, dated Jan. 8, 2021, is intended to update the June 30, 2020 MI Safe Schools Roadmap.
- The state of Michigan has set a goal that all school districts offer an in-person learning option for students as soon as possible, and no later than March 1.
- Schools are strongly encouraged to provide as much in-person learning as is feasible.
- Over the last nine months, epidemiologists and other medical experts have closely followed the data and determined schools can ensure a low risk of transmission by adopting strict mitigation practices.
- Prior guidance (MDHHS / OCHD Guidance for In-person Instruction matrix) provided a letter grade for the risk-level determinations. This now appears to be obsolete.



Safety Protocols

Many of the identified safety protocols and mitigation strategies have already been established within our district, including:

- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as face coverings
- Hygiene, such as proper hand washing
- Spacing, movement, and access
- Enhanced cleaning protocols
- Improved ventilation practices
- Improved water management processes



Updated MDHHS Guidance – Spacing, Movement, Lunch

Spacing for instructional settings guidance: When pursuing five days a week in-person instruction, if six feet of seated distance in instructional areas is not feasible, then schools should consider a minimum seated distance of three feet in instructional areas.

RCS response: RCS is exploring all opportunities to utilize spaces in a creative manner.

Movement guidance: Limit mixing between groups and classes.

RCS response: RCS elementary classrooms function as a cohort. Secondary education utilizes block scheduling to limit movement. Guests will have limited access to the school buildings.

Lunch guidance: When students eat lunch, provide six feet of distance to the extent feasible.

RCS response: Schools will add additional tables and continue to keep students in cohorts. All grade levels may utilize additional spaces and stagger lunch times. All eating areas will be thoroughly cleaned between groups and classes.



Updated MDHHS Guidance - Cleaning

Cleaning guidance: Frequently touched surfaces, including light switches, doors, benches, bathrooms, should be cleaned at least twice daily.

RCS response: Surfaces must be cleaned with either an EPA-approved disinfectant or diluted bleach solution.

- Frequently touched surfaces, including light switches, doors, benches, and bathrooms, will be cleaned twice daily.
- After every class period, media centers, computer labs, arts, other hands-on classrooms, and student desks will be wiped down.



Updated MDHHS Guidance - Quarantine 10 versus 14 days

In December 2020, the MDHHS and OCHD endorsed recommendations for new quarantine guidelines, which stated that quarantine may end on day 10 if NO symptoms, but the individual should continue monitoring for symptoms through day 14.

Updated quarantine guidance and RCS response:

- RCS Caring Steps Children's Center is not eligible for the 10-day option. All exposures are mandated by OCHD to quarantine for 14 days.
- All school classrooms, activities, and programs where masking is not possible must quarantine for 14 days.
 They are not eligible for the 10-day quarantine option.
- These exposures also have to quarantine for 14 days:
 - Some special education classrooms.
 - Individuals that submit a mask exemption from a qualified medical provider.
 - Any other scenarios that may arise related to inability to wear a mask/face covering.
 - Swimming and diving. If asymptomatic, a swimmer can attend class after 10 days; however, he/she cannot swim until after 14 days.

(Note: Quarantine guidelines apply to individuals identified as a close contact/exposed to COVID-19.)



MI Safe Schools: Rationale



CONCLUSION

- The state of Michigan is committed to supporting schools so they can operate safely.
- Schools are essential. Benefits of in-person learning are vast.
- Risks associated with face-to-face learning can be reduced by implementing proper protocols to curb the transmission of COVID-19.
- Schools can be safe learning environments and safe workplaces.
- Transparency and collaboration among all school stakeholders is critical to success.
- We owe it to our children, teachers, administrators and staff to follow the rules mask up, limit gatherings, social distance. It's our collective responsibility as a society to do what it takes to reopen schools for the remainder of this school year.



Evolution of State and County Guidance

- Frequency of disinfecting surfaces
- Minimum seated distance
- Guidelines for close contact quarantines
- Matrix is now obsolete

Our commitment to following the guidance of our public health experts remains steadfast. We continue to remain flexible to adapt to new recommendations in this ever-changing environment.



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Additional Updates and COVID-19 Resources



Athletics Update

- The Jan. 22, 2021 MDHHS order continues to temporarily pause indoor contact sports, which includes basketball, competitive cheer, ice hockey and wrestling, and other activities that require close physical contact and mask removal. This order will remain in effect through at least Feb. 21, 2021.
- The previous emergency order was set to expire at the end of January and would have allowed those sports to begin contact activities Feb. 1.
- A six-foot distance between all persons at all times will be maintained during indoor conditioning/practice.
- Masks are required for all participants, except when actively participating in swimming and diving. Screening questions and temperature checks will continue for all sports as they restart.



Antigen Testing – COVID-19 Testing in Pilot Schools

- The focus of this pilot was to assess a testing protocol that can be used to reopen K-12 schools.
- In partnership with the MHSAA, this program was used to wrap up finals, play-offs, or state meet competitions for fall 2020 sports, which may have included boys football, girls volleyball, girls swimming and diving.
- It offered student athletes the opportunity to participate in a school testing pilot program that allowed them to compete, despite state epidemic orders to suspend indoor and contact sports.
- Once in the pilot, students were tested three times a week, on non-consecutive days; adhered to strict
 processes if symptomatic or testing positive; wore face masks during practice and play (except for
 swimming and diving); and followed detailed guidance for infection.
- MHSAA provided test supplies to schools at no cost, as well as limited amounts of masks as needed.
- Trained school personnel administered the tests on-site at school.
- Why now? Until recently, Michigan did not have sufficient testing supplies available to make this possible. In light of vaccination beginning (which will reduce the need for testing in long-term care facilities) and expanding test supply access, MDHHS is now in a position to explore options to use testing more widely to open up athletics, as well as K-12 schools.



RCS Building Resources

Each district building has a COVID-19 Resource Binder with a collection of support and informational documents.

The OCHD has made some changes and updates to school case reporting and identifying close contacts (contact tracing):

- 1. The School Initiative has been extended through the 2020-2021 school year. Our two assigned public health school nurses will take an active role in the contact tracing and investigation process, at the county level. These actions may reduce delays in closing cases.
- 2. OCHD adopted a standard reporting process for all close contacts who need to quarantine. OCHD will now manage all positive cases per verbal report and not wait for laboratory results.
- 3. Schools will continue to report every case, identify close contacts, collect data, communicate to those that need to know, provide families with instructions, emotional support, isolation and quarantine dates, and report school-associated cases to school databases.

The informational binders support the RCS COVID-19 Safety Team and empower buildings to move towards decision-making regarding COVID-19 case management.

The RCS COVID-19 Safety Team continues to create, maintain and evaluate a COVID-19 Case Management System that is sustainable and ensures the health, safety and wellness of all RCS employees, students, visitors and contractors.



OCHD COVID-19 Drive Through Testing Sites

Available for anyone 18 years or older and children 4-17 years old. Child must have COVID-19 symptoms and be a resident of or attend school in Oakland County.

NO-COST TESTING

- Appointment required
- No physician prescription needed
- Contact Nurse on Call at 1-800-848-5533 or noc@oakgov.com.

Monday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Old Holly Fire Station 313 S. Broad St, Holly, MI

Tuesday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Rochester Fire Station 277 E. Second St, Rochester, MI

Wednesday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Southfield City Hall Employee Parking Deck 26000 Evergreen Rd, Southfield, MI

Thursday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Pontiac Fire Station 348 South Blvd., Pontiac, MI

For more information, go to: WWW.OAKGOV.COM/COVID



Available for anyone 18 years or older and children 4 - 17 years old. Child must have COVID-19 symptoms and be a resident of or attend school in Oakland County.











COVID-19 Vaccine Goal and Approval Process







Phase 1a:	Health care professionals and Long-term Care Facility (LTCF) residents to include Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, and Speech Therapists		
Phase 1b:	Essential workers such as education sector , food and agriculture, utilities, police, firefighters, correction officers, and transportation		
Phase 1c:	Adults with high-risk medical conditions		
Phase 2:	Others		



OCHD "Save Your Spot"



Oakland County Vaccine Hub

Information and resources on the COVID-19 Vaccine

- If interested in receiving the COVID-19 vaccine, individuals can visit the Oakland County website at https://oaklandcountyvaccine.com/ to "Save Your Spot."
- By registering, officials can identify individuals who are eligible and interested in receiving the COVID-19 vaccine.
- For anyone unable to complete the form, the upgraded health hotline is available by calling (800) 848-5533.

NOTE: If an individual receives the vaccine and is exposed to COVID-19, he/she is still required to quarantine.



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Next Steps to Full-Time, Five-Day In-person Learning



Recommended Timeline

- Continue with hybrid learning timelines as we phase into five full days of in-person instruction
 - Jan. 25 Elementary and ECSE, ASD, CI, SXI, and ATPS students return to in-person learning by cohorts using a hybrid approach.
 - Feb. 1 Middle school students return to in-person learning by cohorts using a hybrid approach.
 - Feb. 8 High school students return to in-person learning by cohorts using a hybrid approach.

Tentative full-time, five-day in-person learning return dates:

February 22 - Elementary and special programs

March 1 – Secondary



Full-day, In-person Return to Learn Committee

Challenges to consider for a full return to in-person instruction include:

- Maintaining 3 feet between students inside the classroom. (Room dimensions vary throughout the district.)
- Providing strategies for teachers to permit group work and other student interactions in the classroom, while preserving 3 feet separation. (Including small group learning, conferring, elementary morning meetings, etc.)
- Modifying cleaning procedures during classroom transition times.
- Maintaining 6 feet of separation when feasible between students in the lunchroom.
- Maintaining integrity of contact tracing including student interactions during bus transportation, recess, off-campus lunch, high-school courses at OSTC campuses and transitions from school to home.



Full-day, In-person Return to Learn Committee

Additional challenges include:

- Preparing procedures and cleaning products for commonly used items in specials classes, art, music, physical education, media center instruction, science labs, foods kitchens, etc.
- Adjusting the secondary schedule to push back the start of lunch periods and reduce contact between students, while allowing for more teacher/student interaction.
- Secondary and elementary schedules must have congruency to coordinate busing throughout the district.
- Preparing food services to meet the demands of full student attendance in a full-time,
 5-day model.



Remote Learning Update - Assessments

- All elementary students will participate in benchmark assessment no matter the learning environment.
- Benchmark reading assessments can be done using Literacy Footprints digital reader assessment tools, or with Fountas & Pinnell kit and a document camera.
- iReady diagnostic is used as one piece of data to drive instructional decisions and also provide data on students' progress toward growth goals. On Dec. 14, elementary students received access to the math learning platform with support links.
- Formative assessments guide instruction: Best practice is for teachers to do frequent, ongoing formative assessment. Literacy Footprints digital reader and Epic are two resources teachers use for collecting data through informal running records or by observing reading behaviors in a one-to-one conference or small-group setting. Teachers choose the platform that best meets their goals for digging deeper into a particular student or student group's needs.
- At the secondary level, we continue to work with MDE to collaborate and update processes. iReady assessments will be added at middle-school level. MSTEP will be provided to 6th and 7th graders; the PSAT will be provided to 8th, 9th, and 10th graders; and the SAT will be given to 11th graders. All tests will be taken in April/May timeframe. Formative assessments are used continually to address student needs.



Scholarly Distinctions

- Over the years, we have set the bar high for the senior scholarly distinctions, and we are pleased that so many of our students have continued to rise to the challenge.
- Although 77% of RCS seniors (Class of 2021) took the SAT when offered in the district in October, the COVID-19 pandemic made it difficult for all students to equitably access SAT or ACT testing. It is for this reason that our district grading committee made a slight modification to the criteria for the Class of 2021.
- The SAT/ACT score component has been eliminated, and the academic honor will be based on the remaining criteria: GPA and number of AP courses completed. We do not anticipate a major difference in the number of scholarly designations, even with the new criteria.
- Since the previous semester (which is the final semester to be included in the criteria) just ended on Jan. 15, we are still determining the number of students who will qualify.



Additional Information

- Plan for inclement weather events.
- There are no changes to scheduled breaks in the school calendar.
- The new RCS website goes live on Feb. 1. This important communication tool is mobile-friendly, easy to use, secure, quick to load, American Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant, and visually engaging. The web address remains the same: www.rochester.k12.mi.us.



Summary of Recommended Timeline

Jan. 25

Hybrid in-person learning for elementary and special programs

Feb. 1

Hybrid in-person learning for middle school

Feb. 8

Hybrid in-person learning for high school

Feb. 22

Full-time in-person learning for elementary and special programs

March 1

Full-time in-person learning for grades 6-12



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Thank you to the RCS Board of Education!

Questions?