



**Litchfield Elementary School District
School Reopening: Frequently Asked Questions**

Updated: 2-12-2021

(Items in burgundy were recently added/updated.)

When will we resume In-person Learning?

Below are the dates to resume In-person Learning. The dates apply to students who have chosen the Hybrid and In-person Learning models. Your child’s school has more details about your child’s specific schedule. Students in the LESD Digital Learning Academy will remain online for the duration of the school year.

Dates to Resume In-Person Learning In-Person Learning (5-day in classrooms) and Hybrid Learning (A/B schedule) Free meals for all children will be available daily at every school. Laptops on loan need to be returned when students resume to In-person Learning (5-day in classrooms). Transportation options will be communicated to bus riders.	
Monday, February 22	Kindergarten - Grade 2
Monday, March 1	Grades 3 - 5
Monday, March 1	Grades 6 - 8 in Hybrid format (A/B Schedule) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Applies to students who chose In-person Learning and Hybrid Learning at L. Thomas Heck, Verrado, Western Sky and Wigwam Creek Middle Schools. ● Grades 6 - 8 at Belen Soto and Verrado Heritage Elementary Schools remain in distance learning until March 15.
March 8 - 12	Spring Break - No School

Monday, March 15	Grades 6 - 8 at K-8 schools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Applies to Belen Soto and Verrado Heritage Elementary Schools and White Tanks Learning Center.
Monday, March 15	Grades 6 - 8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In-person (5-day in classrooms) and Hybrid Learning schedules resume at all middle schools and K-8 schools: L. Thomas Heck, Verrado, Western Sky, and Wigwam Creek Middle Schools and Belen Soto and Verrado Heritage Elementary Schools.

Do I need to return the laptop that my child borrowed from Litchfield Elementary School District?

Yes. Laptops on loan need to be returned to the front office at your child’s school when your child returns to in-person learning (5-day in classrooms). Per the Student Laptop Checkout Agreement, parents/guardians are financially responsible for equipment that is lost, stolen, or damaged.

Will you still adhere to health and safety protocols now that most of your staff members are vaccinated?

Yes, we remain committed to our rigorous mitigation plan that is Healthy Verify certified. You can help keep students in classrooms by limiting your outings and gatherings, wearing face coverings, washing hands frequently, and staying home when feeling sick.

I’m not ready to send my child to a classroom. May we transfer to the Digital Learning Academy?

Please contact your child’s principal to learn about your options.

Has my child’s teacher been vaccinated?

Our state has prioritized educators in getting vaccinated with group 1B. The private health decisions of staff are protected by HIPAA regulations.

Will you offer online education next year?

Yes. On December 8, 2020 the LESD Governing Board approved the establishment of DLA as LESD’s 17th school under the current name Litchfield Digital Learning Academy. Please contact the registrar at your child’s school if you would like your child to attend DLA next year. We are also accepting Open Enrollment applications beginning for DLA which allows children from outside of our district boundaries to apply for this virtual learning opportunity in our “A” rated district.

Are you still providing free meals during Distance Learning?

Yes, we will provide free meals to all children age 18 and under until the end of the school year. Meals during Distance Learning are available daily. An especially convenient option is ordering a week's worth of food online to pick up from your child's school every Friday. [Visit our Food Services web page for details.](#)

Who is eligible for the free meals?

All children age 18 and under are eligible for our free meals. They do not have to be enrolled in LESD. They do not have to be an Arizona resident. They can be from homes of any income level. This program is fully funded by the USDA and your support helps us attract federal funding.

How does my child's school benefit when I get free meals for my child?

LESD receives federal funding based on the number of children we feed. Accessing free meals for your child helps pay for support staff, computers and technology, and kitchen equipment. Your support also helps us buy healthy food at discounted rates.

Do you offer mental health services to support my child?

We partner with [Touchstone Behavioral Health Services](#) to help children get the support they need to thrive. Please talk with your child's teacher about this opportunity or contact Touchstone directly.

Are you hiring?

Yes, COVID is causing a staffing challenge. We have an especially high demand for guest teachers and student transporters. [Visit our website](#) to learn more about our competitive salaries, excellent benefits, and available positions.

Will I be notified if there is a positive COVID case in my child's classroom or on the school bus?

Yes. Schools have two notification letters, dependent on the type of exposure. Sample letters are available in the COVID section of our website.

1) Close Contact Notification

Defined as being within 6 feet for 15 minutes or longer. Requires 10 day quarantine.

2) Indirect Contact Notification

Defined as being more than 6 feet away from the person who has COVID-19.

How is an outbreak confirmed?

The Maricopa County Department of Public Health (MCDPH) confirms outbreaks of communicable diseases. LESD does not confirm outbreaks of communicable diseases. To confirm an outbreak, MCDPH will conduct case investigations and assist the school with contact tracing efforts to identify and notify any students or staff who are determined to be close contacts. MCDPH also will work with the school to provide appropriate disease prevention and control guidance.

When would you quarantine students at a school?

LESD and MCDPH discuss the level of exposure depending on the scenario. If it is determined a quarantine is necessary, we will notify families that they must refrain from school and activities for 10 days.

What happens after a case is reported to prevent spread on the campus?

Once we are notified, our health staff immediately gather information such as the last time the individual was on campus, what activities they are involved in, and other relevant details to better understand the impact the case has on our community.

Are there any COVID cases at my child's school?

Please visit the [LES D COVID-19 Dashboard](#) in the COVID section of our website for a transparent summary of school-specific data.

Will I be notified if there is a confirmed outbreak at my school?

Yes. You can count on us to notify you if MCDPH confirms an outbreak at your child's school.

Will COVID absences be counted against my child?

No.

Should I report people who are not wearing face coverings or who come to school sick?

We all have an important role in the health and safety of our school family. You are welcome to report any specific concerns to your child's teacher or principal. Please join us in promoting a positive school climate. Be mindful of student and staff privacy.

Are school offices open?

Yes. Please call or email, when possible. Physical distancing and face coverings are required. We will disinfect shared surface areas routinely throughout the day. Hand sanitizer will be available to visitors after using shared pens and/or paperwork.

Are you accepting new students?

Yes, kindergarten and new student registration is available at our District Office. Please visit the [Student Registration Department](#) on our website for more information.

Are you accepting volunteers?

No, not at this time. Please contact the parent organization at your child's school to learn about volunteer opportunities.

