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**Mt. Lebanon School District  
Education Plan  
2021-22**

## Introduction and Overview of Plan Development

Following the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic since the end of the 2019-20 school year and the District's subsequent response to reopen schools for the 2021-22 school year, this plan serves to explain current education options and those that may be necessary given future conditions. The District fully intends to reopen schools to full in-person instruction on August 23, 2021; however, we recognize that other instructional models may become necessary to ensure the safety and wellbeing of students, faculty, staff, and our community. This plan outlines the possible options to allow the community to plan.

### Guidance

The District's **Health & Safety Plan** is informed by previous and current guidance from the Allegheny County Health Department, the Pennsylvania Departments of Health and Education, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The Health & Safety Plan was approved by the Board of School Directors on July 14, 2021, and subsequently submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

The District will continue to use guidance from the Pennsylvania Departments of Education and Health, as well as the Allegheny County Health Department, to determine if and when it is appropriate to change educational models.

### 2021-2022 Educational Models

#### K-12 In-Person Instruction

**In-Person Instruction** is the educational option that is most like what students traditionally experienced in schools prior to March 2020. However, it is important to note that there will be differences between "traditional" schooling and the 2021-22 version of **5-day, In-Person Instruction**. These differences are due to ensuring adherence to the District's **Health & Safety Plan**. While students and teachers will report daily to their assigned school buildings, these changes will be in effect:

- Safety, physical distancing, and hygiene protocols.
- On June 17, 2021, the CDC released guidance indicating that [fully vaccinated people](#) can resume pre-pandemic activities without wearing a mask or physically distancing themselves, except where required by law, rule or regulation. The CDC continues to recommend that people age 2 and over who are not vaccinated should wear masks in public.
- The District will not require that masks be worn in its buildings unless directed to do so by applicable authorities, but encourages the entire school community to follow the CDC guidance.

- In accordance with [CDC travel guidance](#), vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals will be required to wear a mask on public transportation which includes school buses.
- In accordance with CDC guidance, students and employees should maintain physical distance to the greatest extent possible.
- Staggered arrival and dismissal times may be employed.
- Additional safety precautions in classrooms with students with complex medical or educational needs.
- Instruction supplemented with online tools to allow for changes in delivery and to support students who may be absent from class for extended periods due to illness or quarantine.

For the 2021-2022 school year, we will return to our historical procedures for student absences. This means that there will not be an option to attend remotely (present virtual) or “live stream” when students are absent for reasons as defined in Policy JED as excused, with the exception of (4) quarantine. We will develop guidelines for synchronous, online learning opportunities for cases of quarantine due to exposure to COVID. These guidelines will be available before the start of school.

## **K-12 Asynchronous Instruction**

In partnership with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit’s Waterfront Learning, the Mt. Lebanon School District is pleased to offer our new **K-12 Asynchronous Instruction** option. It has been designed for students and families with safety or health needs or who feel that the In-Person model will not adequately meet their needs.

The K-12 Asynchronous Instruction option will be overseen by a Mt. Lebanon School District educator. Pennsylvania certified teachers will deliver a Pennsylvania Department of Education standards-aligned curriculum using various online tools and delivery platforms, including live on-demand support for students. Elementary students will follow a grade-level curriculum that includes encore options and specific courses for students identified as gifted. Students who wish to take an instrumental music course may do so in person. Secondary students will select up to seven asynchronous courses to study from the asynchronous catalog. If desired, students may substitute an asynchronous course or two at a secondary school with an in-person course(s) as a transition back into the building.

Students enrolled in the **K-12 Asynchronous Instruction** can participate in after-school activities, programs, and athletics. Courses taken through the **K-12 Asynchronous Instruction** option will apply to a Mt. Lebanon diploma.

We expect that some families may wish to move from the K-12 Asynchronous to the K-12 In-Person option. Students and their families who wish to participate in the K-12 Asynchronous must inform the District of their choice by deadlines as advertised. These changes will best occur at the nine-week quarter breaks. The District will provide notification prior to each quarter

change to allow for these changes. If you wish to change options at these times, please use the form provided by the District according to the timeline below.

First	Second	Third	Fourth
August 1, 2021	October 15, 2021	January 3, 2022	March 4, 2022

## 2021-2022 Alternative Educational Models Implemented As Needed

### K-12 Remote Instruction

When circumstances warrant **Remote Instruction**, all students will be learning from home. Remote Instruction will include the use of the District's online platforms to facilitate teaching and learning, as well as synchronous and asynchronous instruction. In **Remote Instruction**, students will remain with their assigned teacher(s) and follow a schedule similar to their in-person instruction schedule.

During **Remote Instruction**, students are required to attend all synchronous sessions and to use their camera as directed by the teacher. If students do not attend these sessions, they will be considered absent from the class unless prior arrangements have been made with the teacher. Additionally, students will be expected to complete and submit the asynchronous instruction provided by their teachers as directed.

### K-12 Hybrid Instruction

**Hybrid Instruction** consists of both in-person and online learning and allows smaller cohorts of students to be in the school building at one time. This model may be utilized under conditions where it would be beneficial to reduce the number of students for health and safety reasons. Students would be divided into the cohorts by family name to allow families to follow the same schedule. Exceptions to this may be made by request to the building principals.

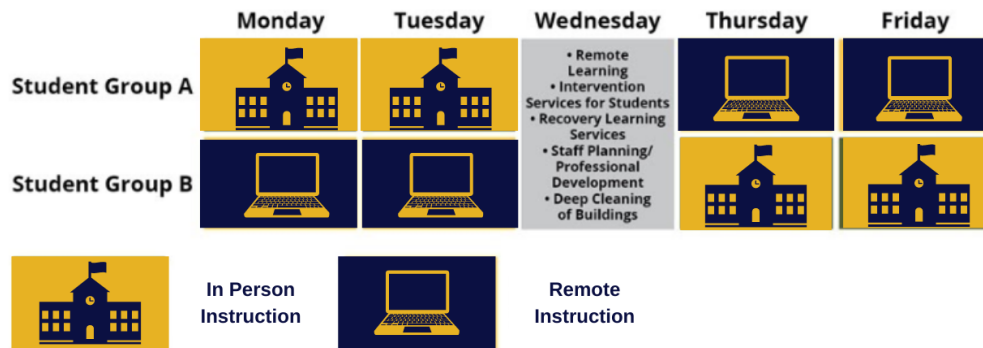
The **Hybrid Instruction** model varies for Elementary and Secondary. The Elementary model includes 5 half-days per week (AM and PM) for grades 1 through 5. Kindergarten and Secondary include two days per week (half-days for K) of in-person and three days of online instruction, subject to adjustments as conditions warrant. During online instruction, both asynchronous and synchronous teaching and learning will occur. District-approved platforms and tools will be utilized to facilitate the online instruction. Elements of the Health & Safety Plan that apply during this model include as noted above.

During **Hybrid Instruction**, students are required to attend the synchronous sessions. If students do not attend these sessions, they will be considered absent from the class unless prior arrangements have been made with the teacher. This included the use of the student camera as directed by the teacher. Additionally, students will be expected to complete the asynchronous instruction provided by their teacher and complete/submit their assigned work as directed.

Kindergarten Weekly Schedule						
Time	Cohort	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:30-11:15 AM	AM-A	In Person		Remote (all)	Remote	
	AM-B	Remote			In Person	
12:45-3:30 PM	PM-A	In Person		Remote (all)	Remote	
	PM-B	Remote			In Person	

Grades 1-5 Daily Schedule					
Times	Cohort A	OR	Times	Cohort B	
8:30-11:15 AM	In Person		8:30-11:45 AM	Remote	
11:15 AM-12:15 PM	Lunch		11:45 AM-12:45 PM	Lunch	
12:15-3:30 PM	Remote		12:45-3:30 PM	In Person	

### Secondary Hybrid Instruction



# **Student Support for Asynchronous, Remote, & Hybrid Instruction**

## Special Education

We recognize the unique challenges our students with special needs are experiencing due to the pandemic. There are a specialized set of needs for each of these students. Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) will be implemented during asynchronous, remote, and/or hybrid instruction. IEP teams will meet as appropriate to plan for the transition between instructional models. Any revisions to the IEP that are necessary due to the change in instructional environment will be agreed upon by all members of the IEP team. The provision of related services, such as speech-language therapy, occupational therapy, and physical therapy, during asynchronous, hybrid, and remote instruction will be determined by the IEP team. Related services that will be provided remotely can be synchronous if the IEP team determines that synchronous service delivery is most appropriate for the student.

## 504 Service Plans

Accommodations and support will continue to be provided through Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 for all eligible students. If the District or student transitions between instructional models, building administrators will reach out to families as appropriate to address individual student needs based on the changes to the instructional delivery.

## English Learners

English learners will receive programming and supports in all learning environments. English as a Second Language (ESL) teachers will work with families to assist with any transition if the District or student moves between options of instruction.

## Gifted Support

Gifted learners will continue to receive enrichment and appropriate educational opportunities commensurate with their capabilities in all learning environments. Gifted coordinators will consult with teachers, students, families, and administrators as appropriate regarding differentiated assignments, alternative learning projects, independent study, and overall implementation of the GIEP.